

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

May 2, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Tigert 226

Present: Ana Spiguel, Joe Glover, Kent Fuchs, Paul Duncan, Katie Vogel Anderson, Ray G. Thomas, Rick Stepp, Angela Lindner, Scott Washburn, Chris Hass, Sobha Jaishankar, Monica Webb, Darcie Burde, Heidi Radunovich, Megan Lahman, Suzan Alteri, Sylvain Doré, Laurie Bialosky, Bernard Hauser, and Patricia Sohn.

Call to Order

Katie Vogel Anderson, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Katie Vogel Anderson at 3:03 p.m.

Approve [April 4, 2019 Minutes](#)

Katie Vogel Anderson, Chair

The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Katie Vogel Anderson, Chair

- Assembly for Action is recruiting Action Scholar Mentors to assist Action Scholars during the 2019 conference. Faculty with an interest in guiding students in their non-profit partnerships and grant applications and who are passionate about helping the Gainesville community are invited to participate. If interested, please complete: <https://assemblyforaction.org/for-student-staff> and view details below:

Assembly for Action, a collaborative initiative among UF students, faculty, and departments to foster partnerships between students and Gainesville non-profits, is recruiting Action Scholar Mentors for the 2019 conference. In this role, a faculty member would assist students in developing a grant application for a partnership with a non-profit and would guide students through their project. After a successful first year, Assembly for Action is now an award-winning program, having won the Champions for Change award from the Office of Sustainability. Last year, \$10,000 was raised and funded four successful community service projects via program grants. Another \$10,000 has been successfully raised for 2019, increasing both the number of Action Scholars and grants.

-The final distinguished professor lecture will be held immediately after the next senate meeting. Dr. William Hager will present "Making things invisible with coating." Faculty Senate will host a reception with light refreshments during this lecture.

-Council chairs are asked to please submit their council reports to Laurie by June 1.

-The ballots for councils and committees close in one week, so please be sure to vote. Ballots are due 5/9 and results will be posted 5/10.

-The chair thanked all members for their efforts and service.

- Ana Spiguel, Senior University Counsel for Academic Affairs and Business, Research and Academic Transactions, provided a brief update on a new proposed BOT regulation, which will be formally presented to Senate next week by the University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) Chair Richard Scholtz. The proposed [Regulation number 1.016 Admissions](#) amendment updates the Admissions regulation to reference the undergraduate and graduate catalogues for admission requirements to the University. Paul Duncan will be available at the Senate meeting to assist with any inquiries pertaining to this regulation. In addition to the two lighted and discussed at the last Senate meeting, this regulation will be considered at the June BOT meeting.

- The draft [resolution](#) supporting international scholars, faculty, students, and staff was discussed and approved. It was agreed that the resolution will move forward for presentation at Faculty Senate next week and will be presented by Welfare Council Chair Suzan Alteri.

• **President's Report**

Kent Fuchs, President

-Dr. Fuchs discussed the university budget and legislative updates.

-The Sr. VP of Health Affairs and President of UF Health search has concluded and David R. Nelson has accepted this appointment.

-The academic year concludes with several outdoor events, including this evening's 'Senior Sendoff' by the graduating class. The inaugural 'Gator walk to the stadium' is 5-8 p.m. On Saturday, a university-wide commencement will be held with an address from author James Patterson and student speaker Paige Fitzpatrick. Nominated by the College of Law, George Starke Jr., UF's first African American student, will receive an honorary degree tomorrow. On Sunday, CLAS will hold an outdoor ceremony.

-The Chair was thanked for her contributions to the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees.

-Faculty Senate may be interested in receiving [UF Strategic Master Plan](#) updates in the next academic year.

- **Provost's Report**

Joe Glover, Provost

-The search committees for both the Director of the Center for Latin American Studies and for the University Press of Florida Director have met and agreed upon the finalists.

UF State and Federal Update

Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government & Community Relations

-Due to a schedule conflict, this item has been moved to the fall agenda and the Senate Chair will read a few updates, to be forwarded by VP Kaplan, at Senate next week.

Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) Awards

Chris Hass, Associate Provost Academic and Faculty Affairs

-Awards in the areas of teaching/scholarship, exemplary teaching, advising/mentoring, research/professional development, leadership programs, and SECU travel awards will be presented to Senate.

IFAS – UF Engagement

Heidi Radunovich, Extension Program Director for UF Engagement

-The Extension Program outreach was outlined, including opportunities related to education, research, extension office internships, and collaboration opportunities. This will be presented to Senate in the fall.

[2023-24 Academic Calendar](#)

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

-The 2023-4 AY calendar was reviewed. There is currently no homecoming holiday placeholder as this date will be identified in the fall after follow-up with faculty and the Athletic Association.

Quest

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

-Assoc. Provost Lindner will provide an update to Senate on the status of, a brief history of, and future plans for UF Quest, and will be joined by Andy Wolpert, Assoc. Professor of Classics, and John Krigbaum, Associate Professor of Anthropology. Faculty member Trysh Travis serves as the UF Quest Faculty Liaison. Quest enrollment, course overviews, and paths forward for faculty and student engagement will be discussed at Senate.

Office of Research Working Group on Faculty Assistance for Extramural Funding

Sobha Jaishankar, Assistant Vice President & Lecturer, Office of Research

-As part of UF's drive for five initiative, the Office of Research has put together a working group to see what assistance faculty need in submitting competitive grant proposals. These recommendations, which include pinpointing resources, establishing priorities, and helping new faculty, will be shared with Senate.

Green Dot at UF

Darcie Burde, Associate Director Recreation & Health Promotion &

Monica Webb, GatorWell Program Director

-A green dot represents any moment, big or small, that either directly or indirectly helps reduce the prevalence of violence on campus. A Green Dot Gator tool kit for faculty will be provided at Senate and will contain

resources needed to integrate Green Dot topics into course curriculum or lesson plans. Suggested, proactive discussion topics and talking points for student interaction will be shared. Resources to help diffuse violent situations and create a positive campus culture will be presented as well as the program's communication plans.

Honorary Degree Candidates

Rick Yost, Chair

Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards
Committee

-Two honorary degree candidates will be presented for Senate approval. An overview of the committee's role in the awards nomination and selection process and best practices will be provided. Inquiries regarding the diversity of candidates will be addressed and increasing the faculty's nominations of diverse candidates will be encouraged.

Council Reports

Budget Council

Serdar Kirli, Chair

-The chair is traveling today and forwarded a report that council did not meet in April due to a speaker cancellation.

Academic Policy Council

Patricia Sohn, Chair

-The Academic Policy Council discussed UF's syllabus posting requirements and increasing policy compliance. Recommendations included asking each unit or college to charge one individual with the task of tracking his/her unit's posted syllabi, and forwarding a notice to university faculty once per semester reminding all to submit syllabi three days prior to the first day of classes.

-To assist in providing course clarity and accurate descriptions for students selecting courses, council reviewed instances when a "Modify Existing Course" request form should be completed. This includes if there is a change in course platform or contact hours which is inconsistent with what is listed in the course catalog or the Registrar system.

-Associate Provost Hass discussed increasing student accountability in regards to student evaluation of courses. It was recommended that the APC, or the APC in conjunction with the Welfare Council, explore the possibility of putting together a proposal to the Dean of Students to adopt language or a primer encouraging a responsible and professional approach to student evaluations on the part of students. Limiting student evaluations from students who have been found to have engaged in academic dishonesty may also be a consideration.

-Patricia Sohn was re-elected as APC chair.

Welfare Council

Suzan Alteri, Chair

-Representatives from the Counseling and Wellness Center presented [Kognito](#), a tool to help people have conversations about mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, or suicidal thoughts. The program is designed to help faculty build confidence and prepare for difficult conversations with at risk students and focuses primarily on this preparation (as opposed to training to solve individual or specific problems.)

-Council discussed faculty titles and modifiers and if they adequately reflect faculty assignments or work. Suggestions include limiting faculty to three titles: Professor, Associate & Assistant Professor for all outward facing descriptions regardless of more specific, classification titles parsed by Human Resources. Council is interested in examining approaches taken by peer institutions and if this is a more discipline-specific issue amongst UF faculty.

Infrastructure Council

Bernard Hauser, Chair

-Civil engineers and College of Engineering faculty members Drs. Lily Du, Scott Washburn, and Lily Eleftheriadou [presented methods to evaluate real time parking availability](#), including included license plate readers, in-ground sensors, video counters, and data interpretation software.

Their expertise includes the monitoring of semitruck rest-stop parking along the Florida interstate highways. Because of its special events and high usage and capacity, a pilot project utilizing the O'Connell parking lot could demonstrate the analytics and methods employed for such a project. Goals include providing real time

parking information and training to UF civil engineering and graduate students.

-A UF student contingent presented three separate resolutions to council regarding divestment from companies which produce gases which lead to global warming. Executive Chief of Staff Win Philips provided input regarding endowment impact. The proposals which were tabled to allow more time for consideration are:

1. Stop future investment of UF endowment funds into the top 50 fossil fuel companies,
2. Minimize investments into mutual funds that invest in fossil fuel companies, and
3. Report on the endowment annually, with estimates of current investments in fossil fuel companies.

Research and Scholarship Council

Sylvain Doré, Chair

-SCORS continues discussion on establishing the best central location for faculty to access and view successful grant submissions. University Libraries currently place their funded and non-funded grants in an accessible repository.

-Melissa Rethlefsen, HSC Libraries Associate Dean and Fackler Director, led a [rigor & reproducibility discussion](#) which SCORS would like to share with Senate in the fall.

-In May, SCORS will hear presentations on the topics of: Online P&T Annual Faculty Evaluation and Faculty Toolkit 2.0, the latter of which integrates the campus data sources of OPT and Enterprise Reporting; updates from the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs Director, Dr. Lily Lewis, on the onboarding of new faculty and new postdocs; and a postdoctoral benefits update from VP of Human Resources, Jodi Gentry.

Approve [May 9, 2019 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Katie Vogel Anderson, Chair

The agenda was approved as amended.

Adjournment

Katie Vogel Anderson, Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.