

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

August 15, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Tigert 226

Present: Ray Thomas, Keith Diem, Hannah Norton, Suzan Alteri, Fred Southwick, Kent Fuchs, Joe Glover, Ana Spiguel, Angela Lindner, Sylvain Doré, Bernard Hauser, Laurie Bialosky and Katie Vogel Anderson.

Call to Order

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Chair Ray G. Thomas at 3:00 p.m.

Approve [May 2, 2019 Minutes](#)

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

-The Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards Committee will send out an email the last week of August to solicit nominations. The nomination deadline is October 1, 2019 and, as always, an increase in the diversity of nominees is encouraged.

-The 2019 – 2020 Distinguished Professors have been named and invitations have been sent for lectures, which will take place directly after a Senate meeting, in the Reitz Union Chamber room. This year's Distinguished Professors are:

Ray Issa – College – Design, Construction & Planning – January 30th

Patricia Snyder – College – Education – February 20th

Yuguang "Michael" Fang – College – Engineering – On sabbatical in China

-Campus Security Master Plan:

-UF is developing a safety plan for the campus, elements of which were presented at the June Board of Trustees meeting.

-An invitation will be extended to Vice President for Business Affairs, Curtis Reynolds, to make a presentation to the Infrastructure Council, the Senate Steering Committee, and/or the Senate.

-Mr. Joseph Souza has been named as Director of Physical Security, and was introduced at the March Faculty Senate meeting. He oversees inquiries regarding classroom safety technology and hardware designs, and access control to buildings. He is tasked with upgrading and maintaining video surveillance as well as access control management.

-An initiative to redesign the campus tour experience for UF visitors and prospective students is being led by Dr. Zina Evans, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost at the request of the Board of Trustees. A consultant will visit campus in October. UF's survey data indicate that most prospective students and their parents are very satisfied with the tour experience. VP Evans will be invited to a council meeting to provide an initiative overview and an opportunity for faculty input into the process, including addressing an inquiry to include in the tour CLAS landmarks such as the new Chemistry labs and the plaque dedicated to UF alum and Nobel Prize winner [Robert Grubbs](#), as well as research and faculty achievements highlighting UF's status as one of the nation's top R1 institutions.

-The role of the Academic Policy Board (APB) and individual colleges in the tenure, promotion, and appeals process for current and newly hired faculty was discussed.

-Themes the Chair would like to visit include initiating/reviewing paid parental leave and infrastructure issues such as a Faculty Center, BabyGator, and parking. As part of the university's sustainability efforts, UF is conducting a feasibility study to install about 1.4 MW of solar panels on the new Garage XIV. While some of our SUS peers have as much as 12 MW of renewable energy production on their

campus, UF has only 362 KW, or 0.36 MW of renewable capacity.

-In an effort to strengthen our system of shared governance, the Faculty Senate chair will attend Faculty Senate council and college governance council/assembly meetings throughout this academic year.

-Renovations, which may conclude as early as October, are being made to the Keene Faculty Center, which is currently staffed and supported by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Office of the Dean. Usage is being monitored to shape the facility into one which will be used by faculty university-wide (as opposed to only by CLAS faculty.)

-An inquiry regarding an anticipated sharp increase in the usage of electric vehicles within the next five years, and the need to accommodate this on campus, was discussed.

- **President's Report**

Kent Fuchs, President

-President Fuchs will present the State of the University Address at the opening of the Senate meeting on 8/22. The address will be given within the context of what the university might become in the future and will include items such as: opportunities for state commitments to UF and its investment return, with a focus on past and future five-year changes; a brief preview of what will be seen on campus this fall, such as the grand opening of UF's Institute of Black Culture and Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures, and the Campus Master Plan, which is a 19-year plan for our physical campus, from residence halls to landscaping to parking; and themes of concern regarding: the decline of international graduate students at UF and across the country; the need for transparent investment disclosures; and a \$45 million budgetary investment needed from state resources to secure items such as new faculty hirings and promotions, UF employee minimum-wage raises, and 3 percent raises for faculty & staff.

-Dr. Fuchs suggests Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Charlie Lane, address Faculty Senate this academic year regarding the Campus Master Plan.

-An inquiry regarding student conduct rules, student athletes, and the roles of the Athletic Association and university academic leadership was discussed.

-In response to an inquiry, it was noted that proposed legislation to survey student and faculty political beliefs at public universities is currently not moving forward within the Florida legislature.

University Curriculum Committee

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost
for Undergraduate Affairs

- [Common Prerequisites Notes Modification](#)

-This request is from the Dept. of Biology to add notes to Florida's common prerequisites notes to clarify which courses are required for transfer students seeking admissions to the Biology major.

-This item was approved.

Approve [August 22, 2019 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

The agenda was approved.

Adjournment

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.