

**Senate Steering Committee Minutes**

**January 16, 2020**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Tigert 226**

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**Present:** Katie Vogel Anderson, Richard Scholtz, Rick Stepp, Ana Spiguel, Ray Thomas, Hans Van Oostrom, Hannah Norton, Sylvain Doré, Kent Fuchs, Laurie Bialosky, Angela Lindner, Keith Diem, Suzanne Stapleton, Perry Collins, Joe Glover, and Padraic Levings.

**Call to Order**

**Ray G. Thomas, Chair**

-The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Approve [December 5, 2019 Minutes](#)**

**Ray G. Thomas, Chair**

-The minutes were approved as amended.

**Reports**

• **Chair's Report**

**Ray G. Thomas, Chair**

-Our first 2019 – 2020 Distinguished Professor Lecture will take place at 5:00pm on January 30 after the Senate meeting. Dr. Raymond Issa will present a lecture entitled “Modular off-site Construction and Building Information Modeling: Case studies”.

-Nominations for Committees and Councils are due January 31. Dr. Southwick's term on the Steering Committee ends this year, and we will be seeking a nominee.

-Nominations for Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards are due March 1.

-As part of the Chair's continuing effort to strengthen shared governance at UF, he has been attending college council and assembly meetings. Earlier this month he attended the meeting of the College of Veterinary Medicine (VetMed) Council and was able to sit in on the council's presentation to the college's new Interim Dean, Dr. Dana Zimmel. Faculty issues being discussed included: faculty pay and equity/gender; salary compression; multi-year contracts for mission track faculty; growing the class size; and requested support in the areas of financial services, facilities/animal space, and physiological sciences space. Council members also expressed concerns about mandated salary increases for techs and research staff funded by research grants.

-The Chair also attended the College of the Arts (COTA) Faculty Council meeting where survey results and plans for resource cultivation and allocation were discussed. A concerning survey result was 83% of the faculty do not feel that the facilities are on par with peer institutions. The Senate Welfare Council received concerns from faculty regarding the music building facility and conditions at its November 1, 2015 meeting, and a draft resolution describing the current conditions and need for a new music building was sent to the Steering Committee. The building conditions were well documented in a consultant's report commissioned by the Physical Plant Division (now Facilities Services) in 2011 and work is currently underway to mitigate some building issues. The COTA Budget Committee is working on budget models to support faculty professional development and provide funding for faculty that want to go into administrative and leadership positions, and develop “soft skills”. There was also a suggestion that there should be a searchable calendar of events and available lectures to help inform faculty of campus happenings.

-It was noted by the Provost that [The Faculty Update](#) newsletter, which is distributed to all faculty every Wednesday, is a good resource to advertise lectures and academic events on campus.

Submission guidelines are at: <http://aa.ufl.edu/resources/resources-for-faculty/faculty-update/submission-guidelines/>.

-Next week, the Chair will attend the IFAS Faculty Assembly meeting.

-Promotion will continue for [Kognito](#), an online training simulation course that teaches effective referral techniques, and is designed to: help faculty notice when students show signs of stress; learn how to talk about these signs; how to practice sharing your concerns; and how to motivate individuals to seek help. The UF Counseling and Wellness Center facilitates this training. In an effort to enhance mental health literacy, the Board of Governors (BOG) Drugs, Alcohol, and Mental Health Task Force has been recommending system-wide implementation of Kognito training, and now the BOG expects each university to mandate Kognito training. In the near future, UF Human Resources will be sending out a notification to the faculty of this training requirement.

-The new electronic system for the disclosure of outside activities and interests was discussed, including that this seems to be a necessary culture change for the UF community. The Florida House of Representatives formed a select committee to probe foreign involvement in taxpayer-funded research. Recent events in the news, relating to problematic academic and research ties to China and other foreign entities and governments, were discussed. While this has resulted in some faculty and administrative resignations across the state, there are some faculty concerns about the potential impacts on academic freedom.

- **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs**, President

-President Fuchs expressed gratitude to the [UF online programs, which are ranked at the top of the nation](#).

-Dr. Fuchs reviewed items being broadly considered in Tallahassee including: collegiate gambling; payment of college athletes for the use of their name, image, and likeness; guns on campus (which is opposed by all university presidents in the state of Florida); healthcare costs; the continuation of reduction of UF's student-faculty ratio and encouragement of faculty growth; BOG allocation of performance funding and investment into the university; and state legislative investment in UF. Priority items include investment in P.K. Young and the Data Science Technology Building. Discussion also continues regarding avoidance of foreign influence; UF maintains legislative engagement on this topic and has been actively doing so in the past, with the hopes that Tallahassee can use UF as an example of best practices in dealing effectively with this ongoing national issue.

-UF is doing well in philanthropy fundraising and hopes to reach a goal of 3 billion dollars in one year.

-An inquiry was made about the new federal statement of ethnic discrimination and how it affects UF; there is no new information at this point but it does raise complex issues of freedom of speech and discrimination. UF has historically had a broad range of political speakers on campus and the Chief Diversity Officer is scheduled to meet with several past Faculty Senate Chairs to further discuss this issue.

-Dr. Fuchs also expressed interest in accompanying the Senate Chair to future college council/assembly meetings.

- **Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover**, Provost

-Dr. Glover provided an update on the search for the new dean of the Warrington College of Business. Two internal candidates were interviewed in December and two external candidates are being interviewed in January.

-The Provost has asked Dr. Cathy Lebo, Director of Institutional Planning & Research, to prepare and disseminate an explanatory paragraph of the Academic Analytics Discovery Suites tool to the faculty. Discussion was held regarding the internal and external versions of the tool and in two days, the internal version will be available for use.

-The Provost is working on a new program of general interest and will soon provide further details.

## **Predatory Publishing**

**Perry Collins**, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Digital Partnerships & Strategies, George Smathers Libraries  
**Suzanne Stapleton**, Agricultural Sciences and Digital Initiatives Librarian  
Marston Science Library

-Perry Collins will present on topics surrounding copyright, publishing, and publications which extract fees from authors. Suzanne Stapleton is a subject specialist librarian and will discuss journals and conferences which are predatory because they engage in fraud. The Senate presentation will not address assessing the quality of publications. There's been an uptick of such questions to University Libraries, which aims to help inform faculty and train students on how to avoid predatory publishing. The presentation to Senate will: identify community resources; provide concrete examples of this issue; explain the criteria libraries use to help scholars with a more systematic approach; and emphasize the importance of scholars doing their own due diligence in recognizing flags and reaching out to mentors. A primary focus will be on ensuring that faculty utilize publications providing transparency and clarity, which can be challenging with the proliferation of conferences, journals and email solicitations, many of which use names very similar to legitimate and popular journals.

-An inquiry about faculty retention of copyrights was made. Because this varies widely, contact University Libraries subject specialists who can share general guidelines and further investigate.

-A suggestion was made to invite University Libraries to again present a general overview of various library resources to Senate.

## **University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) Padraic Levings, Chair** **Report**

University Constitution & Regulations Committee

-The UCRC Information Item report to Senate will outline the Academic Policy Council (APC) proposed charge which is meant to clarify the council's language that their role is not to evaluate merits of academic candidates but rather the policies defining academic requirements for administrative positions.

-The General Education Committee (GEC) proposal is a request to increase the appointed and elected GEC membership. Additional manpower is required, particularly with the recent rollout of Quest.

-Both items were supported at yesterday's Committee on Committees meeting.

-Both items were approved.

## **University Curriculum Committee**

**Angela Lindner**, Associate Provost  
for Undergraduate Affairs

- **Data Science Major**

-This new major was approved by UCC in December. It is a multi-disciplinary, 120 credit hour program housed in the Dept. of Statistics. It addresses the demand for the exponential growth of data-driven fields and professions and can help maximize the use of the new data sciences building being constructed on campus.

-This item was approved.

## **Council Reports**

### **Welfare Council**

**Suzan Alteri**, Chair

-Council did not meet in December due to winter break but will meet in January.

### **Infrastructure Council**

**Richard Scholtz**, Chair

-Council reviewed Sr. VP and COO Dr. Charlie Lane's campus master plan presentation made to Senate to help update all council members.

-The Sustainability Committee reviewed an analysis of campus waste. Business Services will engage food and beverage vendors in new ways to reduce waste on campus.

- The Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee approved greek monuments on the Reitz Union lawn at the request of the National Pan-Hellenic and the Multicultural Greek Council.
- The Parking and Transportation Committee shared their report. The Data Science building construction and the extensive Inner Road underground work was discussed.
- The Council Chair, Faculty Senate Chair, and council member and Parking & Transportation Committee Chair Keith Rambo, previewed the Keene Center, located in Dauer Hall, an area where faculty can interact and access food and beverages. Mobility accessibility is being improved and engagement with benefactor Janet Keene and her family, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (which has overseen the Keene Center), CLAS Assistant Vice President of Development and Alumni Affairs, and the Provost's Office is taking place. President Fuchs has expressed interest in hosting a future opening reception for the Keene Center.

#### **Budget Council**

**Ashley Ghiaseddin, Chair**

- Council did not meet in December due to winter break but will meet in January.

#### **Research and Scholarship Council**

**Hannah Norton, Chair**

- Council hosted Perry Collins to discuss predatory publishing and Dr. Cathy Lebo provided an update on the Discovery Suites tool.
- Questions about reimbursement of childcare, including the possible relevance of the reimbursement funding source (state vs. grant funds) and possible required justifications for reimbursement were discussed and will be followed-up on with council liaisons from the Office of Research.

#### **Academic Policy Council**

**Hans Van Oostrom, Chair**

- Council's December activities were reported at the last Steering Committee meeting.

#### **Approve [January 30, 2020 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)**

**Ray G. Thomas, Chair**

- The agenda was approved as amended to rename the UCC information item to [Data Science Major](#) and to update Suzanne Stapleton's job title and the new Compensation Committee presenter.

#### **Adjournment**

**Ray G. Thomas, Chair**

- The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.