

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

November 7, 2019

3 p.m.

Tigert 226

Present: Ray G. Thomas, Charlie Lane, Ana Spiguel, Taylor Rose, Hans van Oostrom, Shirley Baker, Hannah Norton, Joe Glover, Rick Stepp, Simon Phillpot, Katie Vogel Anderson, Fredrick Southwick, Richard Scholtz, Laurie Bialosky, Sylvain Doré, and Angela Lindner.

Call to Order

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

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

Approve [October 3, 2019 Minutes](#)

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

-The minutes were approved.

Reports

Chair's Report

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

The Faculty Senate Chair:

-Thanked all who were able to attend the Board of Governors (BOG) Members Breakfast with the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS). Dr. Shawn Felton, Chair of the ACFS and a member of the BOG, expressed his appreciation for UF hosting the breakfast.

-Welcomed new colleagues at the New Faculty Reception hosted at Powell University House.

-Participated, along with BOT Chair Mori Hosseini and Trustees Murphy, Rosenberg, and Zucker, in the P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School Groundbreaking for their new secondary building. The event's theme was "Constructing the Future for Florida's Secondary Students."

-Shared the Florida Channel video library link: <https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10-29-19-remarks-of-governor-ron-desantis-at-the-2019-florida-board-of-governors-trustee-summit/> of the UF video shown at the Trustee Summit which also captured remarks by Chair Hosseini, BOG Chair Lautenbach and Governor DeSantis.

-Expressed concern about one aspect in particular of the results of the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct survey. UF students (34.4%) perceive that faculty or staff are very or extremely concerned about their well-being. AAU results showed a slightly higher percentage for faculty and staff (37.3%). A much higher percentage of UF faculty are very concerned about the welfare of our students and a better job of messaging that faculty care is needed.

-Participated in the [Green Dot](#) training for faculty and staff. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Division of Student Affairs, presented this training. Green Dot is a bystander education approach that aims to prevent violence with the help of bystanders, and it is based on the idea that culture change happens when each person does one small thing and those small things add up to create one big change.

-Participated in a campus roundtable hosted by Representative David Silvers who visited University of Florida to meet with campus leaders to discuss House Bill 595-Alcohol, or Drug Overdose Prosecutions, and how the bill grants amnesty to people who seek medical help on behalf of someone experiencing an alcohol or drug related overdoes.

-Received messages from concerned faculty regarding the Accent talk by Donald Trump Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle at UF. These comments ranged from "Welcoming Trump Jr. would only serve to legitimize his attacks on truth, evidence, and open and honest public discourse" to "I think the Faculty Senate should do something to educate the administration on principles of free expression."

-Mentioned an Emergency Fund for students called [Aid-a-Gator](#) at the October meeting, and there was a suggestion something similar be proposed for UF Postdocs. While UF HR has been revamping the foreign national hiring process, and there have been reductions in the time between hire and first paycheck, there are still instances where postdocs would greatly benefit from small no-interest bridge loans. There is also a need

for travel support.

-Met with Dr. Patricia Snyder as part of the continuing effort to increase the availability of quality childcare and early learning facilities on campus. Dr. Snyder discussed how UF has served as members of a co-laboratory with community partners to create a small 60 children facility in Southwest Gainesville Area. She also described the motivation for locating a facility in the Innovation Square development area that would also provide access for children from the historic Porters Neighborhood. The plan envisioned a facility for 300 – 400 children from birth to 5 years old, and it would include a clinic for sick children, care for children on the autism spectrum, and provide services and support for families.

-Attended the College of Engineering Faculty Council meeting, where it was discussed that faculty continue to advocate for lectures /non-tenure track faculty job title changes, and a proposed Professor of Teaching title. The topic of faculty titles continues to be discussed in Faculty Senate committees and councils.

-Additionally the Chair reported:

-The UF Health Shands Transportation and Parking team installed a new capacity counter at Garage IX (the Blue decal garage off Archer Road) that shows the number of available parking spaces in that location. The team has been monitoring activity and checking the system to ensure accuracy. In addition, a new mobile app can be downloaded to check the real-time status of available spaces in the garage. It is hoped that the UF Transportation and Parking Services will follow the UF Health Shands Transportation and Parking team's lead and implement a similar system in our existing garages on campus. The new Garage XIV will have some form of capacity counter.

-There is a concern that a standard Google Search with "UF Discovery Suites" cannot find the website. Currently, a google search does not result in landing on the actual Discovery Suites tool. It would be useful to know how many people actually find their way to the UF Discovery Suites tool so that it can be utilized.

-Welfare Council discussed reimbursement for childcare costs when traveling on official business. The Chair has asked the UF Office of Research to identify the UF regulation or policy that prohibit the reimbursement of this expense. The current policy may adversely affect single parents, and cases where both parents are attending the same meeting.

-While many have opted in to two-factor authentication, additional training or required two-factor authentication are considerations to increase campus computer and data security.

-Dr. Zina Evans will be addressing Senate in December on the topics of 'Admissions Policy and Improving the Campus Tour Experience'. Because she is unable to attend the 12/5 Steering Committee meeting due to the BOT conflict, she will forward bullet points outlining her Senate talk for consideration by this committee.

-Because the chair is attending the BOT meeting on December 5, Past Chair Dr. Katie Vogel Anderson will be chair the Steering Committee.

- **Provost's Report**

Joe Glover, Provost

-The Warrington College of Business dean search committee has conducted Zoom interviews with about ten interviewees. The search committee will be narrowing the field of applicants shortly and will then invite members of this select group for individual interviews.

-The Provost will attend the Nov. 16 and 17 ribbon-cutting ceremonies for both the Institute for Black Culture and the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Culture. The new VP of Student Affairs, D'Andra Mull, will also be in attendance.

-The [2020 Provost's Gathering](#) will be held January 10th and will focus on how to build trust in research, scholarship, and education. All session proposals are due this month.

-An internal search for the Director of Student Experience is underway. This position will oversee student interface with university service items which are largely non-academic, such as housing, dining, admissions, parking, advising, and other student services.

-On November 12th the inaugural [Student Success Summit](#), spear-headed by Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs Angela Lindner, takes place and Provost Glover will address attendees.

-Provost Glover will attend the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' ([APLU](#)) [2019 Annual Meeting](#) in San Diego next week. An array of university leaders, including Presidents, Provosts, General Counsels, Deans, Vice-Presidents, etc. with active agendas similar to UF's will gather to information share.

Honorary Degrees

Simon Phillpot, Member, Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee

-On behalf of the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Rick Yost (who is traveling), committee member Dr. Simon Phillpot presented the Honorary Degree candidates. They were approved and will move forward for a Senate vote this month.

Campus Master Plan

Charlie Lane, Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

-Dr. Lane shared a trifold brochure of the [University of Florida Framework Plan](#) which has been developed over the last several years. Consultants have assisted with the strategic development plan which aims to help promote good neighborhoods and sustainability. The framework plan focuses on the five areas of: open space and infrastructure; interdisciplinary research; the future of learning; the student experience; and academic regeneration. Dr. Lane also answered inquiries regarding the new routes of and usage of the new Campus Connector and the Haile Plantation shuttles. Usage is above what was anticipated, with the latter having approximately 150 passengers/day.

University Curriculum Committee

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

- [CALS Marine Sciences](#)
- [CLAS Marine Sciences](#)

-Dr. Lindner presented this item and Dr. Shirley Baker Associate Professor, in the School of Forest Resources, also spoke to this agenda item. The CLAS and CALS Marine Sciences proposal are intertwined; they diverge in electives but are similar in critical tracking. The proposal aims to change from an interdisciplinary program to a degree program. Dr. Baker explained the primary differences between the CALS and CLAS components. This item was approved.

Council Reports

Infrastructure Council

Richard Scholtz, Chair

-Contributing Chairs to council reported:

-Sustainability Committee: The Shands Department of Facilities has won an Energy Star award for their work on reducing energy use within the Cancer Hospital. UF received a Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) gold certification for the Whitney Labs construction which included solar installation.

-University IT Committee: The committee suggests Joseph Souza, Director of Security and Technology present the topics of: classroom safety technology and hardware designs, and access control to buildings (particularly as it pertains to active shooter situations) to Faculty Senate.

Research and Scholarship Council

Hannah Norton, Chair

-The Welfare Council Chair, Suzan Alteri, provided council with an overview of faculty mentoring discussions held by the Welfare Council. The Research and Scholarship Council provided input about the more specific needs of research-focused student and faculty mentorship and it was agreed that this issue is best handled in the Welfare Council.

-Council discussed the need to help educate faculty about how to avoid participation in predatory conferences and journals and the resulting adverse effects on promotion and tenure opportunities. Strong mentorship would help junior faculty understand and discern these differences.

-The University Libraries provided council with an update on the open access publishing fund status and its continuation. Following tweaks to the submission guidelines, funding was available through November. Council also discussed copyright options when using open access. An open access policy is also being crafted by University Libraries.

-The Steering Committee also discussed new research publications scams which result in copyright violations and theft.

Academic Policy Council

Hans Van Oostrom, Chair

- Council approved syllabus policy changes related to the implementation of the new GatorEvals to help encourage professional feedback and outline evaluation specifics to students.
- A draft Disability Resource Center (DRC) course accessibility statement was approved for incorporation into all course syllabi.
- An office hour memo which sets minimum office hours was discussed and is being tweaked. The memo addresses the need for faculty to be consistently available and was crafted in an effort to remind faculty of the importance of [Florida Statute 1012.945](#) which requires 12 classroom contact hours per week.
- Council also held discussion on earning UF credits in non-degree status and coming up with a formal policy which requires further discussion.
- Council re-visited the charge of the APC which was approved by the UCRC. Some council members are concerned the charge defining merits of candidates still lacks clarity and would like to further discuss this before forwarding it for consideration for any action. The UCRC noted the APC's opinion in its meeting earlier this week and agrees the item will not move forward until council is satisfied with the charge wording.
- Council reviewed a number of faculty titles, unraveled some outdated titles, and will discuss this topic again.

Approve [November 21, 2019 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

- A motion was made to refer the Compensation Committee action item on the Senate agenda to the University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) following concern from the past UCRC Chair that the charge wording is inconsistent with the university constitution. As mentioned by Senator and past UCRC member Maureen Long at the last Senate meeting during discussion of this Senate 'information item', the proposed Compensation Committee charge wording (in reference to the Compensation Committee reporting to the Welfare Council) appears inconsistent with the constitutional wording for other committees' and councils' reporting mechanisms. The motion passed.
- The agenda was approved as amended to:
 - remove the Compensation Committee action item
 - remove the Provost's Report (as he will be travelling) and
 - replace Angela Lindner's name with University Curriculum (UCC) Co-chair Youssef Haddad as the Senate presenter for the UCC item (due to a schedule conflict for Dr. Lindner).

Adjournment

Ray G. Thomas, Chair

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.