

**Senate Steering Committee Minutes**

**January 14, 2021**

**3 p.m.**

**Via Zoom:**

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99473441319?pwd=allvT1NNSGZUQjVSUXRZWE9wMWdnZz09>

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**Present:** Sylvain Doré, Linda Stump-Kurnick, Hans van Oostrom, Keith Rambo, David Bloom, Richard Scholtz, Ray G. Thomas, Andy McCollough, Joe Glover, Sarah Lynne, Angela Lindner, Kent Fuchs, Paul Duncan, Juan Nino, Anna McDaniel, Taylor Rose, Casey Griffith, and Rick Stepp.

**Call to Order**

**Sylvain Doré, Chair**

- The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the Faculty Senate Chair.

**Approval of [December 10, 2020 Minutes](#)**

**Sylvain Doré, Chair**

- The minutes were approved.

**Reports**

• **[Chair's Report](#)**

**Sylvain Doré, Chair**

- To view if a student is cleared to attend class, students can log into One. UF and instructors can [verify a student's status](#) in Canvas.
- The Chair requested, and is waiting to receive, a report regarding air quality in classrooms and campus gathering areas.
- Employees within the UF Health enterprise and people over 65 have access to vaccine enrollment. The Chair has been contacted by faculty who are not on this list yet; vaccine roll-out is being done in accordance with the Governor's guidelines.
- UF Health and Sr. VP for Health Affairs, David Nelson, will provide a vaccine and COVID update at next week's Faculty Senate meeting.
- The Chair received a pin from a faculty member, and he suggested it could be distributed when vaccination is received. Although not everyone has access to a vaccine yet, this is a positive way to reflect that one has been vaccinated and it can be an encouragement for others to do so.
- The Chair requested an update on the status of his request pertaining to recycling masks on campus.
- The Chair contacted Academic Technology Mark McCallister for an update on the status of HyFlex implementation on campus. IT has completed standard HyFlex technology installations in 100% of the 214 Registrar rooms, and were informed by the college IT staff across campus that the college-owned learning spaces were in fairly good shape, with the needed equipment or mitigations in place and some continued improvements in the works. IT continues to meet with faculty throughout the day every day to assist them with their in-classroom experiences, get them comfortable with Zoom, including selecting the correct cameras, microphones, and monitors, and to resolve any technical problems they might encounter. If there are any issues, please communicate with Mark.
- There are concerns for safety following the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection at the nation's capitol, particularly in the black and academic communities. Chief Linda Stump-Kurnick was invited today to provide an update on any responses or plans being made by UFPD.
- The Chair noted Provost Glover's announcement of the next Faculty Enhancement Opportunity (FEO) grant cycle which will award funds beginning in the Fall of 2021 and provides opportunity for faculty to receive support for numerous types of faculty enhancement projects or training.

- The 2020-2021 [Distinguished Professor Lecture series](#) was announced.
- Issues surrounding the use of the GatorSafe app for course reporting will be reviewed.
- Following an inquiry, the Chair provided a brief update on the progress on childcare issues, including childcare buildings being considered for occupancy, building maintenance and renovations, and fundraising which could be directed to childcare needs. Ways to fund childcare programs continue to be considered.

- **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs, President**

- The Florida legislature has tabled guns on campus legislation in past years. The university has no updates about its possible consideration in this legislative cycle.
- Proposals regarding university revenue-sharing with student athletes may be considered this legislative cycle. This could include athletics events revenue generated from items such as concessions, ticket sales, etc.
- The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments this spring about stipends for student athletes and if they have a right to be paid in a free market for their services. UF does not support this, as it could be harmful to the NCAA and its ability to continue its tradition of distinguishing between college and professional sports.
- National discussion is taking place about excluding K-12 and college athletes from collegiate betting. About 20 states now have legalized sports betting on collegiate athletics. UF opposes sports gambling on collegiate athletics, which could pressure and adversely impact athletes; considerations should be made at the federal level.
- Approximately 4500 students per day are being tested for COVID. The positivity rate for students ranges from one to three percent, which is lower than much of Florida. Because COVID spikes often occur following holidays, there may be one following the MLK holiday.

- **Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover, Provost**

- Provost Glover introduced UFPD Chief Linda Stump-Kurnick to discuss campus and community security concerns following the January 6<sup>th</sup> violence at the U.S. Capitol and next week's Presidential Inauguration. Chief Stump-Kurnick reported that UFPD has been actively involved with, and continues to receive information from, their federal partners, the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and the Northwest Florida Fusion Center. Steering Committee members noted that faculty had expressed concerns about the possible targeting of academic or 'elite' institutions. Chief Stump-Kurnick responded:
  - Social media threats or worries of violent protests are being monitored and assessed, and UFPD is confident its access and contribution to this pipeline of information can continue to keep campus and Gainesville safe during these times of social unrest.
  - K-9 units are readily available for any bomb threats.
  - No active threats towards campus have been received.
  - UFPD remains in close contact with UF Facility Services to keep an eye on any unusual activity in and around campus buildings and property.
  - As part of its increased vigilance, there will be greater visibility of UFPD officers in the coming days.
  - UFPD continues to coordinate with the city and county.
  - Chief Stump-Kurnick was asked and confirmed that no UFPD officers attended the January 6<sup>th</sup> capitol insurrection.
- Provost Glover reported that two new deans arrived this Spring semester: Dean Collen Koch (College of Medicine) and Interim Dean Spiro Kiousis (College of Journalism and Communications). Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Hub Brown, Associate Dean at Syracuse University, will succeed outgoing College of Journalism and Communications Dean Diane McFarlin, who retired at the end of last semester.
- As students return to campus, UF epidemiologist are encouraged by the low average student

positivity rate of 2.5 percent, and this indication that students have protected themselves over break.

- Dr. Glover discussed the Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiative. The machine is entirely delivered, assembled, turned on, and working. A panoramic view of one panel (of the six panels) of the machine was shared. It is anticipated that researchers will be utilizing the machine by the end of the month.

- In response to an inquiry made about an anticipated budgetary deficit in Florida due to the pandemic, the Provost suggested inviting VP for Government and Community Relations, Mark Kaplan, to Faculty Senate in the Spring to provide a better and more specific overview.

- An inquiry was made about the GatorSafe app referenced in the Chair's Report. The app is being used as a mechanism to report a variance between what was advertised and scheduled for classes, and what was actually occurring. While this app has always functioned as a safety app, and as a tool to consult bus schedules, schedule a Campus Cab, contact the Dean of Students Office, etc., it is now also being used in this capacity. Submissions are received and monitored by Student Affairs and the Provost's Office (not UFPD). The app has facilitated faster response times than the usual grievance process. Associate Provost Lindner indicated that submissions received through the GatorSafe app thus far have been resolved. Discussion was held regarding the standard conflict resolution process and faculty and student classroom expectations. Faculty can change the modality of a class by obtaining Department Chair approval. APC will further discuss this item tomorrow and may consider an alternative / option, such as placing contact information on the syllabus for students needing to reach out to resolve such issues. Regarding the status of the pandemic, Provost Glover noted that, based on current knowledge, UF Health epidemiologists anticipate a 'return to normal' environment and operations by Summer B.

### **Online Learning Assessment & Academic Integrity**

**Andy McCollough**, Associate Provost  
for Teaching and Technology

- Feedback was received last fall that online enrollment classes were at times being compromised by various forms of cheating. An Online Learning Assessment & Academic Integrity group assembled to examine this problem, and academic integrity as a general study. The group is comprised of Associate Deans, students, and faculty to work under the assumption of fundamental values. Academic integrity depends on the attitude of administrators, faculty and students.

- The group has met with the CEO of HonorLock to gain a better understanding of academic integrity breaches and how they occur. The group consulted with the Director of the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office to understand the processes and procedures associated with academic integrity.

- Ten percent fewer breaches were reported in Fall 2020 as opposed to in Fall 2019. Faculty and students were asked to discuss this issue and the relationship between online learning assessment and academic integrity. The group will also examine alternative methods of assessment and the university culture around this topic.

- Steering Committee members discussed the support of and responsibility of faculty during the resolution and reporting of academic dishonesty cases.

### **Successful College Collaborations Series**

**Anna M. McDaniel**, Dean  
College of Nursing

**Dana N. Zimmel**, Dean  
College of Veterinary Medicine

- Dean Zimmel provided notice that she will share her college collaboration slides at next week's Faculty Senate. Dean McDaniel shared [slides](#) outlining her college's impact goals, and its relation to UF collaborations.

## **Graduate Council**

### [Information Systems & Operations Management MS Credit Modification](#)

- The Warrington College of Business seeks to increase the maximum amount of credit for the Master of Science in Information Systems and Operations Management (M.S.I.S.O.M.) Degree. The M.S.I.S.O.M. program is a STEM accredited and provides computing, analytic, and data skills appropriate for a business setting.

**Paul Duncan**, Sr. Associate Dean  
Graduate School

## **University Curriculum Committee**

- [Telecommunication Degree Name Change to Media Production, Management, and Technology](#)
- [Telecommunication Major Name Change to Media Production, Management, and Technology](#)
- [Terminate BA/MA Religion Combination Degree](#)

- To more accurately define the program, the College of Journalism and Communications requests a degree and major name change from Telecommunication to Media Production, Management, and Technology.

- The termination of the BA/MA Religion Combination Degree is requested. There have been no enrollees for ten years, so no students will currently be impacted by this degree termination.

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

## [2025-2026 Academic Calendar](#)

- The academic calendar was reviewed and will be presented to Faculty Senate.

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

## **Diversity Series**

- Cecilia Suarez will present "Striving for Non-normal After the Pandemic: Racism, Resetting, and Equity Within the Academy" at Faculty Senate.

**Cecilia Suarez**, Co-President  
Latinx Staff/Faculty Association

## **Council Reports**

### **Budget Council**

- Council hosted Andrew Winden, UF Associate Professor of Law, at its December meeting.
- Professor Winden shared [slides](#) with council and forwarded a [summary document](#). He spoke to council regarding company environmental disclosures, sustainable issues, and how to apply this information to investments.
- He discussed Environmental Social Governance (ESG) investing and its primary components.
- Investing sustainably is possible while still generating a respectable return.
- Council plans to develop a 'statement or pledge' to present to the Steering Committee and Faculty Senate. It will propose that future UF investments, at the very least, consider the company's involvement with sustainable initiatives and consider reviewing ESG data on the company when available. This will be drafted after hearing from the January council speaker, Executive Chief of Staff, Dr. Win Phillips.

**Ashley Ghiaseddin**

### **Infrastructure Council**

- Council met today and hosted Bill O'Dell and Anne Ray, from the [Shimberg Center for Housing Studies](#) in the College of Design, Construction & Planning, to give input into solutions to graduate student housing issues in University Village South (UVS) and Maguire Village. There is about a 7,000 unit housing gap for low-income residents in Gainesville. Graduate students are considered to be part of this group which would benefit from affordable community housing options. There is

**Richard Scholtz**

concern that the loss of on-campus graduate student housing in the Campus Master Plan will exacerbate this situation. While discussion by the Board of Trustees is sought, the Infrastructure Council is considering a Senate resolution of support or actionable items to propose for graduate housing.

- Council is requesting an update on the campus security master plan next month.

**Academic Policy Council**

**Hans Van Oostrom**

- Council has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting and meets tomorrow.

**Welfare Council**

**Sarah Lynne**

- Council is networking with faculty across campus and is compiling a list of recommendations on how to assist black faculty. Council also wants to take an intersectional look at pay equity by gender and race.

- Council is collaborating on the peer evaluation process with the APC.

**Research and Scholarship Council**

**Keith Rambo**

- Council has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting and meets again during the first week of February.

**Approve [January 21, 2021 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)**

**Sylvain Doré, Chair**

- The agenda was approved with the three amendments of: 'Modification' in place of 'Reduction' for the Graduate Council item; Cecilia Suarez's presentation title is updated to: "Striving for non-normal after the pandemic: Racism, resetting, and equity within the academy"; and 'Online Learning Assessment & Academic Integrity' will be changed to 'Academic Integrity'.

**Adjournment**

**Sylvain Doré, Chair**

- The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.