

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

March 17, 2021 (Previously *Unscheduled Meeting*)

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93958733438?pwd=a0lqT0RwZzAwRUM3S25OWEdqYSsvUT09>

Present: Sylvain Doré, Juan Nino, Hans van Oostrom, Ray G. Thomas, Richard Scholtz, Rick Stepp, Sarah Lynne, Laurie Bialosky, and Taylor Rose.

Call to Order

Sylvain Doré, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Sylvain Doré.

Discussion of Resolution in Support of the [ACFS Resolution to Support the Free Exchange of Ideas on Campus and Therefore Oppose a Legislative Entitlement to Record Classes and Mandatory Survey](#)

Sylvain Doré, Chair

- Bills are moving forward in Tallahassee, which has a significant impact on how faculty teach. The Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) hosted the State University System (SUS) Chancellor Marshall Criser on Monday, March 8, and Chancellor Criser is confident that such bills will pass.
- On Tuesday, March 9 at noon, the ACFS unanimously voted to support a [resolution](#) that was delivered to the Chancellor.
- The House bill has passed one step, and Senate Appropriations will discuss the other bill at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow.
- If passed, once the bills merge, the legislation's effective date is July 1.
- Steering Committee members discussed the portion of the bill which allows students to record and the portion which discusses the survey (and its consequent matters of intellectual freedom and/or intellectual diversity).
- There were concerns that classroom recordings may be taken out of context for both students and faculty, and teaching in areas, such as Law, could be problematic, especially given that classroom lectures or words are not intended to be consumed by a broad population outside of the classroom.
- The recordings of classes and their distribution are particularly worrisome to the Music faculty.
- Such recordings could be problematic when reviewing homework/home assignments and exams.
- There are also concerns about the design of the intellectual diversity survey.
- Accordingly, the language could be in current syllabi stating that recordings are subject to state and federal provisions, so faculty are not held liable if a student distributes recordings.
- Students should be advised of Federal FERPA regulations and all policies regarding recording in classes.
- Other discussion points included: language-specific to copyright law and the importance of enforcing copyrights; the severe consequences for violating copyright law; and intellectual property subject to state and federal provisions.
- A motion to add this [proposed resolution](#) to the March 25 Senate agenda and also provide an update of the status of the bill in the Florida House and Senate carried unanimously.
- The short timeline for action was discussed. If Senate is favorable, a 2/3 vote is needed to move this item from Information to Action on March 25.
- Chair Doré has shared his position with the UF administration and will share it with the Board of Trustees (BOT) as well.

Adjournment

Sylvain Doré, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.