

**Senate Steering Committee Minutes**

**January 12, 2023**

**3 p.m.**

**Tigert 226 (President's Conference Room)**, or if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94249707484?pwd=aFRjdFBBaHNkNFF1WjU4dXVoM2NRUT09>

Meeting ID: 942 4970 7484 Passcode: 679825 Dial in: +1 646 558 8656

---

**Present:** Amanda Phalin, Angela Lindner, Joe Glover, Catherine Striley, Laurie Bialosky, Taylor Rose, Juan Nino, Charlene Luke, Danaya Wright, Tom Kelleher, Richard Scholtz, Rick Stepp, Angela Bacsik, Keith Rambo, and H  l  ne Huet.

**Call to Order**

**Amanda Phalin, Chair**

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

**Approve [November 29, 2022 Minutes](#)**

**Amanda Phalin, Chair**

- The minutes were approved.

**Reports**

• **Chair's Report**

**Amanda Phalin, Chair**

- Chair Phalin reported:

-- President Fuchs was thanked for his contributions to and work with the Faculty Senate during his tenure. He is away on January 19 and cannot attend the Senate meeting.

-- An invitation has been extended to Dr. Sasse to attend the February Senate meeting.

-- Nominations are open for Honorary Degrees. Closes March 1. Details are viewable @: [senate.ufl.edu](http://senate.ufl.edu) in the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee tab:

(<http://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Committees/Honorary-Degrees-and-Distinguished-Awards-Committee>)

-- The Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) held an emergency Zoom meeting on Tuesday to discuss the DEI records request by Governor DeSantis and concerns he has raised regarding [New College of Florida](#). Chancellor Rodrigues met yesterday with ACFS Chair Deanna Michael and they discussed the BOG post-tenure review regulation.

-- Next month, Chair Phalin will provide Faculty Senate with a summary update of the January 24-25 Board of Governors (BOG) meeting.

-- The University Committees and Councils Virtual Open House will be held the week of January 23 and details will be announced soon. University committee chairs will help answer questions about the [shared governance opportunities and the nomination process](#). The Zoom information is available on the Faculty Senate website ([Master Calendar page](#)). Nominations for University Committees and Councils close January 31.

-- The first 2022-23 Distinguished Professor lecture takes place next month and details are viewable @: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/Faculty-Senate/DistinguishedProfessorLectureSeries>.

• **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs, President**

- President Fuchs remarked on his perceptions of the next two years at the state, BOG, and national levels. The Florida legislature increasingly views faculty as activists and in opposition to the Governor and state agendas, resulting in increasing state responses via memos and laws, and this trend is likely to increase. This is taking place in the context of Governor

DeSantis' potential run for U.S. President and a primary challenge from Donald Trump and constituents who are very highly responsive to conservative-centered issues. Governor DeSantis stated in his inauguration this month that he will focus on higher education this term. Dr. Fuchs urges the faculty to avoid interacting with the media in ways which further such engagement and instead focus on telling the positive stories of the university's teaching, research, and educational excellence. Given the organizational structure, funding, administrative, and legislative relationship between the State University Systems (SUS) schools and the Florida legislature, President Fuchs advises faculty caution and restraint in this political environment to ensure positivity and that no long-term harm is done to the university and its faculty, staff, and students.

- **Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover, Provost**

- Dr. Glover has been working to assist with the collection of university DEI data requested by the Governor. All SUS schools have responded and provided extensive spread sheets to the BOG. Because the Governor's request yielded widely-varied replies, yesterday the State University System (SUS) institutions met again to revise for a consistent submission; a second update was done for further clarification.
- The BOG has received several public records requests but will not respond until the data has been received by Governor DeSantis.
- UF reported ten general education courses related to DEI and critical race theory. The BOG staff is now collating all the SUS submissions.
- The agenda for the upcoming (January 24-25) BOG meeting at Florida International University (FIU) may not contain a consideration of a post tenure review regulation. It may not be reviewed due to a lawsuit and a stay ruling, and it is unclear if this regulation will be reviewed this month.
- Following inquiries, Provost Glover clarified:
  - that the list provided to the Governor contains no instructors' names (just the course names) and they have not been notified; many courses have multiple sections and instructors. CLAS Dean Dr. David Richardson is aware of the list content. Addressing concerns about individual faculty being singled out, instead the position, program, and funding would likely be examined by the legislature or Governor.
  - The Provost also clarified that other courses can be used to satisfy the requirements of the 'D' ('diversity') general education category to satisfy a diversity course requirement.

**Honorary Namings Committee Update**

**Amy Hass, VP & General Counsel**

- VP Hass chairs the Honorary Namings Task Force with Co-chair Karen Sprague UF Foundation Sr. Associate Vice President/COO, who manages university gifts. A [task force summary](#) of the group's work and the names and titles of its members were provided, and inquiries by the Steering Committee were answered.
- Primary task force goals were discussed: to review and understand the principle and procedures behind establishing the honorary names of which UF has been aware; to complete the ongoing inventory of rooms, benches, facilities, etc. of honor namings; to establish what steps are appropriate to evaluate what qualifies someone for an honorary namings, and then to recommend a process and practice UF should consider moving forward when determining the honorary names.
- The root question of 'should UF continue the practice of honorary namings' was agreed upon by the task force, but not unanimously. One consideration was to establish an honorary naming only for the deceased, which would provide an individual's 'whole life picture' to understand their contributions more wholly.
- There seemed to be no consistent steps followed in the past for namings. Some were

established by the legislature or the Board of Regents (or its administration) before the BOT system was established. Common naming themes were largely UF administrators, athletes, presidents, and legislators.

- CLAS Associate Professor Philosophy [Jaime Ahlberg](#), an ethicist expert, has assisted in guiding the task force's conversations. She also shared articles of interest which VP Hass will share with Chair Phalin.
- Case studies around controversial namings such as Reitz and O'Connell Ctr. and others, were examined by the task force, which also spoke to individuals who were present when the namings occurred for their feedback, experience, and opinion.
- This task force was launched from President Fuchs' antiracism initiatives, and he has been provided a report which will be posted on the [anti-racism website](#). Dr. Fuchs noted the distinctions between namings associated with gifts vs. honorary namings and that he favors moving towards a centralized approval of all namings.

## **BOT Regulations**

**Charlene Luke**, University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) Chair

- UCRC Chair Charlene Luke shared university regulations which will be considered by the Board of Trustees (BOT) this spring.
- The UCRC has adopted a color-coded key for easily informing the Faculty Senate of proposed regulation changes that may affect Senators or their colleagues:
  - **Red** – proposed changes affect the faculty; please review and comment as appropriate.
  - **Yellow** – proposed changes may affect or be of interest to faculty; senators may want to review and comment as appropriate.
  - **Green** – proposed changes likely have minimal effect on faculty and do not necessarily warrant further review by the senators.
- Each [regulation](#) was lit as follows:
  - a. New UF Regulation - 7.050 [Examinations and Assessments](#)** -- **YELLOW**. This regulation requires UF to create assessment/examination policies or procedures to be in compliance. The eventual policy that will be designed by UF may address concerns around modern technological challenges, such as exam-taking security mechanisms, for example. This is just the regulation to design the policies and procedures.
  - b. UF Regulation Amendment - 7.100 [Academic Program Termination and Temporary Suspension of New Enrollments](#)** -- **RED**. This regulation does give more power of programs and the university to terminate and suspend programs, with the BOG approving (not recommending), but does include items such as 5(b) - inability to close a state-funded program and reopen an off-book program that we control.

## **Graduate Council**

**Tom Kelleher**, Graduate School

- [Create MS with a major in Artificial Intelligence Systems](#) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- This approved proposal was submitted by the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering (HWCOE) and is a 30-credit hours on-campus masters program and aligns well with UF academic and AI strategic initiatives and categories.

## **University Curriculum Committee**

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

- [Close BA in Art Education](#)
- The closure of this program is due to lack of interest and there are currently no students enrolled.

## [2027-2028 Academic Calendar](#)

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

- No Spring Break or Homecoming dates are noted and will be determined closer to the start of the relevant academic year following consultation with Student Life, the University Athletic Association, the Registrar, and the UF Foundation. It was noted that last Fall, the Faculty Senate approved: extending the Thanksgiving holiday to the entire week; a later start to the spring semester; and aligning UF and Alachua County Public School (ACPS) Spring Breaks. This calendar implements each of these elements and the committee expressed gratitude to Dr. Lindner for her dedicated efforts in securing the alignment of the ACPS and UF Spring Breaks, which has been especially helpful to both communities and to the faculty.

## **Council Reports**

### **Budget Council**

**Ashley Ghiaseddin**

- Council didn't meet this month but will hear from Matt Williams Director of UF's Office of Sustainability and Energy Integration, at the February meeting.

### **Research and Scholarship Council**

**Angela Bacsik**

- Council met last week and University Libraries Dean Judith Russell provided an update on the West Library flooding which occurred when pipes burst Christmas weekend. Flooding started on the third floor and water fell down into the floor joists and through the ground floor. At least 6,000 books were destroyed, with a minimum two-million-dollar budget impact. Clean up continues.

- Council administrative liaisons Michael Mahoney, Director of Research Operations and Services, and David Norton, VP of Research are communicating with council in its continued review of human study protocols and a +100 page report shared with council. They have met requests for IACUC and IRB protocols, including bringing in outside reviewers for human vs animal studies, which are handled by different outside reviewers. Many components contained in Past Faculty Senate Chair David Bloom's original resolution ([5/5/22 Information Item](#)) have been covered but an expansive review continues.

- Due to concern about negative impacts on Scripps and STEM initiatives and grant proposals, many of which require funding goals assessments, it was discussed how council can review the DEI assessment being requested by the Governor. Worries about loss of federal funding in many areas were shared.

### **Academic Policy Council**

**Richard Scholtz**

- No updates.

### **Infrastructure Council**

**Keith Rambo**

- Members were reminded of committee nominations due January 31.

- Assistant VP for UF's Facilities Services Division and Sustainability Mark Helms discussed the library damage which occurred when roughly 60,000 gallons were released in a flood and how it occurred. The main unit cooling coil on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor froze and burst. He also discussed thermal production, the new energy plant, and the desire for creativity in the plant's plan.

- The Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Committee and the Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee (LUFPC) discussed the expansion of the Broward Dining Hall. The process is in early stages and there are concerns about it being closed for 6-8 months for renovation and the compounding of travel access due to ensuing road closures and other construction projects in that area. After much discussion, the LUFPC approved the project.

- The Sustainability Committee is awaiting the arrival of new UF President Ben Sasse to determine if [CAP2](#) is approved.

- Senior Associate Dean of Scholarly Resources & Services Patrick Reakes will serve on the council on behalf of Dean Russell. He thanked Asst. VP Helms for the quick action taken by his division during the library flooding. 24-hour library accessibility (for at least some days of the week) was discussed and a spring pilot using Marston Library is anticipated.

### **Welfare Council**

**Hélène Huet**

- Council met last week and provided comments and edits regarding a higher education survey that Chair Phalin tweeted.
- Dr. Huet was elected as the new council chair.
- The Compensation & Equity Committee is currently looking at faculty turnover rates within colleges in 2019-22. Data is still being assessed to sort and clarify the number of terminations, faculty who moved to other universities or to internal positions, etc. The faculty contracts resolution remains in a holding pattern while details are discussed. The committee also discussed work on an initiative to recognize faculty service efforts; the extension of and ongoing construction of Baby Gator; and obtaining 12 paid weeks of family leave.

**Approve [January 19, 2023 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)**

**Amanda Phalin, Chair**

- The agenda was approved.

**Adjournment**

**Amanda Phalin, Chair**

- The meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm.