

**Senate Steering Committee Minutes**

**February 2, 2023**

**3 p.m.**

**135 Tigert Hall (Student Affairs Conference Room 142),** or if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99846036989?pwd=L0hEeU9FbjEweEJMeiVGVUzhQajZEUT09>

Meeting ID: 998 4603 6989 Passcode: 983832

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**Present:** Amanda Phalin, Joe Glover, David C. Bloom, Ashley Ghiaseddin, Catherine Striley, Taylor Rose, Juan Nino, Heather White, Tom Kelleher, Richard Scholtz, Rick Stepp, Joe Little, Angela Bacsik, Keith Rambo, Laurie Bialosky, Chris Hass, Danaya Wright, and H el ene 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 [January 12, 2023 Minutes](#)**

**Amanda Phalin, Chair**

- The minutes were approved.

**Reports**

• **Chair’s Report**

**Amanda Phalin, Chair**

- Chair Phalin emailed the faculty a summary of the January Board of Governors (BOG) meeting highlights and comments she shared at the meeting pertaining to DEI as a mechanism to create equitable access to ensure that the State University System (SUS) continues to recruit talented students, faculty and staff. SUS Chancellor Ray Rodrigues spoke in support of continuing his past work in supporting first generation and low-income students. Chair Phalin will continue Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) communications and will provide updates to the faculty. Next week, there will be a media focus on Walt Disney’s [Reedy Creek](#) and state tax controversy.

- The Steering Committee discussed [The Boyer 2030 Commission Blueprint Report and Equity Excellence Imperative](#), how to support UF colleagues being targeted in anti-DEI efforts, and how to continue inclusive excellence.

- Faculty Senate Chair-elect Wright discussed the work of the Shared Governance Ad Committee. A survey will be distributed to faculty before spring break and will be followed by shared governance listening sessions with each college. The committee will also review how peers across the SEC, SUS, and peer institutions function, and the resources they have available to conduct shared governance.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> lecture in the 2022-23 Distinguished Professor Lecture Series takes place on February 27, 2023 @ 4 p.m. Distinguished Professor [Wayne L. Nicholson](#), Department of Microbiology and Cell Science, Florida Space Life Sciences Laboratory, Kennedy Space Center, FL, UF/IFAS, will present: *Considerations for Interplanetary Transport of Microbial Life* via [Zoom](#) and in the Microbiology & Cell Science Building 981, 1355 Museum Drive, Seminar Room 1044.

- The second Distinguished Professor Lecture in this year’s series takes place on March 24, 2023 @ 4 p.m. Distinguished Professor [Mo Wang](#), Lanzillotti-McKethan Eminent Scholar Chair, Human Resource Research Center Director, Management Department Chair, and Associate Dean in the Warrington College of Business will present his lecture via Zoom and in Bryan 130. These details and details for the five remaining lectures are posted on the Faculty Senate ‘Distinguished Professor Lectures’ web page @: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Pages/Faculty-Senate/DistinguishedProfessorLectureSeries>.

- Nominations are open for Honorary Degrees and close March 1.

Details @: [senate.ufl.edu](http://senate.ufl.edu) under the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee tab: (<http://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Committees/Honorary-Degrees-and-Distinguished-Awards-Committee>)

- At their monthly meeting with the Faculty Senate Chair, College Faculty Council/Assembly Chairs were reminded of the deadline and the need for diversity in nomination submissions. The faculty is responsible for nominating all candidates.
- Nominations for the next Faculty Senate Chair-Elect are open and close March 31. Email nominations to the Faculty Senate Secretary @: [FacultySenateChair@ufl.edu](mailto:FacultySenateChair@ufl.edu).

- **Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover**, Provost

- Next Tuesday a press conference will be held in Jacksonville to discuss a potential partnership between UF and the city of Jacksonville. An effort is underway to explore a potential analogue of the UF West Palm Beach campus in the city of Jacksonville. The West Palm Beach campus focuses on the areas of Law, Engineering, and Financial Technology (fintech) and health sciences programs would be a focus in Jacksonville. 15 acres of land has been secured in Jacksonville and will require philanthropic support, which the city of Jacksonville has expressed interest in providing. Chair Phalin will attend the media event.
- Following inquiries, Provost Glover clarified that there has been communication about the Jacksonville initiative with the University of North Florida (UNF). Dr. Glover also answered committee members' inquiries about the process of identifying DEI data at the Governor's request, including the General Education courses category related to DEI which were added to the list. Upper division courses were not on the list and all syllabuses are required to be posted on the UF website.

**Introduction of VP for Student Life**

**Heather White**, VP for Student Life

- Dr. White stepped into the VP role on September 1. Her Faculty Senate presentation will provide an overview of her professional background and information gained from listening to and supporting the 'student life experience' within the academic experience. These include elements such as career and life skills development; community building; and wholistic well-being. She will also discuss the progress being made and how faculty can support these three areas of focus.
- Following inquiries, VP White discussed her office's graduate student support and resources, and providing equity to that of the undergraduate students. Dr. White meets monthly with Graduate Student Council President Paul Wassel as well as with an undergraduate and graduate student leadership group. She also works closely with Graduate School Dean and former Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Nicole Stedman on wholistic [CARE](#) for both undergraduates and graduates.

**Introduction of Dean of Public Health & Health Professions (PHHP)**

**Beth Virnig**, PHHP Dean

- Dean Virnig was unable to attend today's meeting due to a schedule conflict and forwarded her Faculty Senate presentation highlights:
  - Dean Virnig will introduce herself to the Faculty Senate
  - She will share the reasons why she chose the University of Florida and the College of Public Health and Health Professions (PHHP)
  - Her presentation will next share an overview of PHHP
  - She will then share her goals and priorities for the future of PHHP

**Council Reports**

**Infrastructure Council**

**Keith Rambo**

- At the January meeting, council received a [CAP](#) update and Mark Helms, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Services Division and Sustainability, discussed the new energy facility.

**Budget Council****Ashley Ghiaseddin**

- UF CFO Chris Cowen visited council in December to provide a budget and campus projects update, including subsidies aligning with President Sasse's priorities. In February, council will hear updates from Matt Williams, Director of the Office of Sustainability and Energy Integration. In the future, council can also discuss new projects and budgetary items in the works at UF, such as the AI initiative, Pre-eminence and Emeritus hiring updates, etc.; how to communicate the new Huron budget model to faculty (via emails, town halls, training etc.); the recent RCM tax increase which has negatively impacted units' operating costs; and increased SUS ORP contributions to retirement (which is a legislative change but may be implemented institutionally at UF; the [March 21, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting agenda](#) which included a [UF Benefits & OPS Update](#) was referenced.)

**Academic Policy Council****Richard Scholtz**

- An updated syllabi policy was discussed and approved, and Library research guides can be added to a course Canvas page.

- Council discussed religious holidays communications with students and needed class or exam excuse documentation.

- Council will invite the Director of the Office of Academic Technology, Mark McCallister, to provide an update on how to best streamline syllabus creation.

**Research and Scholarship Council****Angela Bacsik**

- Council meets tomorrow and will discuss progress being made in the areas of biosafety.

**Welfare Council****Hélène Huet**

- Meets next week.

**Approve [February 16, 2023 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)****Amanda Phalin, Chair**

- The agenda was approved.

**Adjournment****Amanda Phalin, Chair**

- The meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.