

**Senate Steering Committee Minutes**

**October 6, 2022**

**3 p.m.**

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

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96913429266?pwd=QU0rSctkMFMwVWdXRHFDLzZia3FQQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 969 1342 9266 **Passcode:** 991992 **Dial in:** +1 646 558 8656

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**Present:** Danaya Wright, Joe Little, John Stinneford, Keith Rambo, Juan Nino, Taylor Rose, Rick Stepp, Sarah Lynne, David C. Bloom, Joe Glover, Kent Fuchs, Laurie Bialosky, Catherine Striley, and Angela Bacsik.

**Call to Order**

**Danaya Wright**, Chair-elect

- The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair and Faculty Senate Chair-elect Danaya Wright at 3:01 p.m.

**Approve [September 8, 2022 Minutes](#)**

**Danaya Wright**, Chair-elect

- The minutes were approved.

**Reports**

• **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs**, President

- The CDC is no longer recommending that masking needs to be worn indoors so UF will change its signage to reflect this, and that masks are welcome.
- Hurricane Ian landed east of Alachua County. IFAS teaching research stations on the west and east coasts had a lot of damage and about 2,000 students on both coasts were affected.
- Next weekend, UF will celebrate the conclusion of the Go Greater campaign, and it will announce this weekend the first ever nine figure gift to UF. UF has raised \$4.5 billion, surpassing its \$3 billion goal. UF is in negotiations with two other donors now as well. The last fiscal year was the best ever year in fundraising and this year will surpass that. The university will celebrate being past the COVID pandemic and will send notes on Wednesday to students, faculty, and staff that UF will celebrate them and their contributions.
- The Steering Committee discussed that it may be advantageous for UF to share where the money raised is being tangibly invested/seen. Dr. Fuchs discussed some funding investments such as endowments and facilities.

• **Provost's Report**

**Joe Glover**, Provost

- The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Dean search is underway with one candidate interview being today, two next week, and one the following week. This work is likely to continue through the end of next month. The timeline could also be impacted by the new UF President's priorities.
- Provost Glover provided West Palm Beach updates.
- The proposal which will go before the Board of Governors (BOG) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is being constructed for their review in November. Some matters are pending before the BOG, but because of Hurricane Ian, some assignments have been extended two to three weeks.
- UF intends to have credit-bearing courses begin in fall 2024 in West Palm Beach.
- Funding was discussed, including \$100 million in state funds and the philanthropic pledges of

\$200 million obtained by VP of Advancement Tom Mitchell.

-- COO Charlie Lane continues work on a Campus Master Plan, which is a land donation requirement. Designs for the first academic buildings will then take place.

--Following an inquiry as to how Scripps faculty are being integrated, Provost Glover noted that David Nelson, UF Health President & Sr. VP for Health Affairs, is leading this discussion; Scripps would be its own unit and existing Scripps faculty would likely be eligible for tenure.

### **Graduate Council**

**Tom Kelleher**, Graduate School

#### - [Close M.Ed. with a Major in Mathematics Education](#)

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

- This is a proposal from the College of Education to close the Master of Education with a major in Mathematics Education. There have been no admitted or graduated students from this degree in four years.

#### - [Modify the curriculum for the MS with a major in Medical Sciences & a concentration in Gerontology](#)

- The College of Medicine seeks to modify the curriculum, from 36 to 30 credits, for the Master of Science with a major in Medical Sciences and a concentration in Gerontology.

#### - [Create the Graduate Degree Master of Science in Business Analytics](#)

- This is a proposal from the Warrington College of Business to create the graduate degree Master of Science in Business Analytics, which will be a 36 credit Master degree.

### **Introduction of the Hamilton Center & Director Stinneford**

**John Stinneford**, Hamilton Center Director  
Edward Rood Eminent Scholar Chair  
Professor of Law

- Hamilton Center Director Dr. John Stinneford discussed his plans and vision for the new center. The center was mandated by the Florida legislature which provided a mission to “support teaching and research concerning the ideas, traditions, and texts that form the foundations of western and American civilization.” A multi-discipline civics curriculum and multi-disciplinary faculty are being assembled. The center will provide programs, public debates, symposiums and lectures. Initial speakers invited to discuss topics such as models and values of collegiality are: Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions in the Department of Politics at Princeton University, and Cornel West, distinguished philosopher, political activist, and social critic. The center is also charged with providing programming as requested for K12 Civics Educators. Director Stinneford is working with the Florida Dept. of Education and their current civic initiatives and processes.

- This is a university-wide center and is not placed within any specific college. It will not offer its own courses, so Director Stinneford will work with multiple departments, such as Economics, to offer appropriate courses through them and to examine funding for research proposals.

- Following an inquiry, Director Stinneford discussed ways in which UF departments can partner with the center and resource share towards common goals.

- The Steering Committee discussed the opportunity which exists to make this center a broadly diverse academic center despite some faculty reservations.

- Director Stinneford also discussed plans to serve the students.

### **Council Reports**

#### **Infrastructure Council**

**Keith Rambo**

- The Sustainability Committee and the Office of Sustainability and Energy Integration reported that a final internal draft is completed of [Cap2](#).

- Council discussed questions related to solar energy limits and is seeking clarity about any limitations of megawatts renewable energy production per meter. All new buildings are designed to be “solar ready” and 22% of UF electricity is sourced from solar via the Crystal River solar farm.

- The Lakes Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee considered eight projects over the summer and

visited 12 conservation areas around campus.

- New Parking & Transportation Committee Chair Scott Washburn discussed the new UF universal digital parking permit system launch and the tracking of e-scooters' usage and travel paths.
- Powell University House plan inquiries were addressed and the university architect confirmed that there is no specific construction timeline. A Faculty Senate ad hoc committee could be established if this is a priority.
- The Lee Property Development plans discussion was tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints.
- Following an inquiry, it was clarified that issues pertaining to Maguire Village and graduate housing best fit in the Infrastructure Council, as opposed to the Research & Scholarship Council. Professor Rambo provided an overview of steps taken by him/this council and Past Chair David Bloom, both of whom toured and spent a lot of time reviewing the current property. There are multiple major issues, including that the water and sewage needs replacement, and some old spaces would cause health issues due to mold growth where there is no insulation between outer walls and inside space, etc. A majority of the units are vacated now. UF Housing is doing what it can to move students to facilities which are available now. Faculty Senate will continue to advocate for increased graduate student/assistant stipends and wages. Market monthly rental costs are high and ensuring these students have adequate housing is a priority. While current housing is subsidized, the Gainesville housing market cannot match the current \$500 monthly housing rentals being paid by students.
- Following an inquiry, the Provost briefly discussed the limits of bond capacity for dorms and the honors residence hall. He suggested VP of Business Affairs Curtis Reynolds or Senior Director of Housing and Residence Life Tina Horvath can provide insight
- It was discussed that this could also be a question for CFO Cowen, who has focused on assisting in reducing the price point.
- A long term housing solution and plan is needed to share with graduate students and messaging is critical. Chair-elect Wright suggests a Senate update on this. Professors Rambo and Ghiaseddin could host a dual-council (Infrastructure and Budget) meeting to further discuss.

#### **Research and Scholarship Council**

**Angela Bacsik**

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

#### **Welfare Council**

**Sarah Lynne**

- Council has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting. CDO Marsha McGriff will be added to council's listserv to stay abreast of relevant issues and attend meetings when possible.

#### **Budget Council**

**Ashley Ghiaseddin**

- Ashely Ghiaseddin forwarded his report that council is inviting Assistant VP of Financial Analysis and Budget, George Kolb to present the UF Budget Model/Huron updates. Later this semester, council will invite CFO Chris Cowen for general budget discussion. Bill Reeser, CEO/Chief Investment Officer at University of Florida Investment Corp. (UFICO CEO), and Matt Williams, Director of Office of Sustainability and Energy Integration, will also be invited to provide an update on UFICO, how Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing is being considered, and if there are more innovative options available. The Council also asked to have an annual update from CEO Reeser.

#### **Approve [October 20, 2022 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)**

**Danaya Wright, Chair-elect**

- The agenda was approved.

#### **Adjournment**

**Danaya Wright, Chair-elect**

- The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.