

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

September 7, 2023

3 p.m.

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

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93351231856?pwd=NkthSk41NVhrWnZnY01aZkpBSGpWdz09>

Meeting ID: 933 5123 1856 Passcode: 217185 Dial in: +1 646 558 8656

Attending: Danaya Wright, Scott Angle, Walter O’Dell, Taylor Rose, Catherine Striley, Stephanie Bogart, Tom Kelleher, Amanda Phalin, Nancy Clark, Ja’Net Glover, Rick Stepp, Jeremiah Blanchard, Chris Hass, Laurie Bialosky, and Richard Scholtz.

Call to Order

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Faculty Senate Chair Danaya Wright called the meeting to order at 3:01p.m.

Approve [August 17, 2023 Minutes](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair’s Report**

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Chair Wright received positive comments about the August Senate meeting. The Faculty Senate leadership team met with Dr. Sasse for one hour this morning, and he’ll attend Senate as often as possible and expressed appreciation of faculty and Senate conversations. He provided some updates on university administrative positions and spousal hire concerns. Dr. Angle is working with UFHR to strengthen the program.
- Tenure on hire submissions are being signed-off on by Dr. Sasse.
- The Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting takes place in two weeks so please send Chair Wright any comments to share.
- Four [Distinguished Professor lectures](#) are scheduled, with six other lecture dates pending.
- The Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee Chair Ray Issa requested Senate leadership’s support for a committee to consider guidelines for using generative AI tools.
- Chair Wright has received 19 comments via the [administrative burdens reporting link](#), many of which are about UFGO but included such topics as: library reserves; on campus food ordering; risk assessment in research office; and EH& S compliance. Provost Angle has agreed to work on these items. It was suggested Chair Wright re-send the administrative burdens reporting link to faculty.
- Chair Wright met with the College of Medicine Faculty Council. SB 266 was discussed.
- Chair Wright has been contacted by the Center for Teaching Excellence about sending an academic integrity faculty survey in the next few weeks. A student survey was sent earlier.
- Chair Wright requested feedback on how to streamline matters needing Senate attention.
- Past Faculty Senate Chair and Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) Chair/Board of Governors (BOG) member Dr. Amanda Phalin reported that the BOG meets tomorrow and some items which will be discussed include: tenure review regulation and New College’s student success plan; and a request for the Florida Attorney General to weigh in on whether the Sunshine Law was properly followed during the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) presidential search.
- The Steering Committee discussed the demand for teaching resource services, such as those

offered by Center for Teaching Excellence. APC has previously discussed this topic and can review again the best practices and peer evaluations use during faculty/teaching assessments.

- Post tenure review and SB 266 updates were provided by Associate Provost Hass. Stakeholders, including the Provost's Office, Student Life, the CDO, Associate Deans, and others, met on Monday to discuss SB 266. A meeting with Campus diversity liaisons will take place next Friday when the colleges, search committee chairs and others will also discuss the topic. Post tenure review planning meetings also take place tomorrow and Monday.
- Given the amount of incoming higher education legislation, Chair Wright would like to provide legislative updates at every Senate meeting.
- Diane Schanzenbach, Senior Advisor to the President for Academic Excellence and Associate Provost, is working on faculty recruitment and retention and has been invited to speak at Senate.
- Chair Wright is forwarding an inquiry about GatorEvals to Associate Provost Hass.
- Hybrid technology was discussed. The Senate voted in May to move toward hybrid meeting options. Chair Wright provided an overview of the needed equipment and logistics required for the two separate technologies required for streaming for the public and Zooming for off-site voting senators.

- **President's Report**

Ben Sasse, President

- President Sasse was not present. He met with the Faculty Senate leadership team (Chair Wright, Chair-elect Lynne and Past Chair Phalin) this morning.

- **Provost's Report**

Scott Angle, Interim Provost

- Interim Provost Angle shared that:
 - Several Provost candidates have been interviewed and comments returned to the search committee.
 - His Interim Provost role may extend until May 2024.
 - Clarified Dr. Sasse's State of the University Address comments pertaining to funded research and unfunded research values as well as service values.
 - Information pertaining to UF's ranking of number one for public universities (and #19 of all universities) in The Wall Street Journal is not completely clear, but it included such assessment factors as student return on investment (ROI), diversity, faculty quality, and student experiences. The U.S. News & World Report rankings will be issued soon.
 - The Provost's Office review aims to help the incoming Provost as a tool for orientation and decision making.
 - The formation of the Whitney Labs Director search committee is almost complete.
 - The Dean search for the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering is ongoing and the College of the Arts and Levin College of Law searches have not begun.

Updates: State Laws, Post-tenure Review, and Faculty Recruitment

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Chair Wright would like to provide Senate with the latest updates.

University Career Services Initiatives

Ja'Net Glover, Sr. Director, UF Career Services & Career Connections Center

- Director Glover will discuss how her office can support student's career development and will share available faculty resources in their curricular experiences.

Shared Governance Resolution

Danaya Wright, Chair

- This resolution was a recommendation from the Shared Governance task force which met last year. The [Report of the Ad hoc Task Force on Shared Governance](#) noted that many faculty said there was room for improvement, and this aims to identify those points.
- The last Faculty Senate shared governance resolution was approved 20 years ago, so it was agreed that it is pertinent to now move forward.
- Discussed the merits of using 'shared governance' versus 'c-cubed' language and shared governance as embodied by 'c-cubed' (which stands for collaboration, community, and cohesiveness).
- There is no uniform definition of shared governance but the constitution contains a version.
- Discussed wordsmithing and moving the action items outlined in number three into item number two for clarity.
- Chair Wright would like Welfare Council feedback at their September meeting so that Welfare Council Chair Bogart can relay it at the October Steering Committee meeting.

Free Inquiry & Expression Resolution

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Chair Wright would like faculty and Steering Committee feedback about crafting a statement indicating the university's valuing of civil discourse but also (indirectly) addressing the request by the BOG to approve the [BOG Freedom of Expression Statement](#). The ACFS discussed this request last year as well.
- Further work remains on this issue.

Council Reports

Academic Policy Council

Nancy Clark, Chair

Budget Council

Jorg Peters, Chair

Infrastructure Council

Walter O'Dell, Chair

Research and Scholarship Council

Ashley Ghiaseddin, Chair

Welfare Council

Stephanie Bogart, Chair

- Council meetings have been established and will begin in September. Council chairs should please identify a minute-taker at the first, or prior to the first, council meeting. The Faculty Senate Office will provide a draft minutes template for each minute-taker each month.
- A .5 FTE employee is being added to assist in the Faculty Senate Office.
- The [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#) presentation to the Senate is being pushed back to later in the AY.
- Infrastructure Council will review updates on the thermal energy plant, the UF Watershed Management Plan (WMP), and the McCarthy Woods preservation.
- The [Shared Governance Resolution](#) will be reviewed by the Welfare Council prior to returning to the Steering Committee and going to the Senate floor.

Approve [September 28, 2023 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The agenda was approved as amended by removing the [Shared Governance Resolution](#) and the Free Inquiry & Expression Resolution Information Items, and adding two Information Items:

--Legislation Updates

Danaya Wright, Chair

Amy Hass, Vice President & General Counsel

(pending confirmation of VP Hass' participation)

and

--International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI) Survey

John Jordi, Instructional Assessment

Coordinator, Center for Teaching Excellence

Adjournment

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.