

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

November 1, 2023

11 a.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

Present: Danaya Wright, Velvet L. Yates, Terje Østebø, Sarah Lynne, Amanda Phalin, Scott Angle, Stephanie Bogart, Jorg Peters, Chris Hass, Rick Stepp, Catherine Striley, Jeremiah Blanchard, Laurie Bialosky, Walter O'Dell, Taylor Rose, Angela Lindner, Tom Kelleher, Joe Little, and David Kratzer.

Call to Order

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Faculty Senate Chair Danaya Wright called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Approve [October 5, 2023 Minutes](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Danaya Wright, Chair

- Nominations, including self-nominations, open next week to all faculty for University Committees and Councils. Senators are especially needed to serve on the [five Senate policy councils](#) where much of the Senate's work takes place. Nominations close January 31. The [nomination form](#) is available on the [Faculty Senate website](#) as well as a [list of open seats](#) and a [Committee Service FAQ Sheet](#).

- All are invited to join the 1st Distinguished Professor Lecture (occurring immediately before the Senate meeting) on Nov 16th @ 1:00 in Reitz Chamber. Dr. [Christine Schmidt](#) will present, and additional lecture series details are [posted](#).

- An email should be sent to FacultySenateChair@ufl.edu if you or a *faculty at large* colleague are interested in the following open seats representing the UF Faculty Senate:

--- One for University Press of Florida. [Appointment details here](#).

--- Two [FEO](#) (Faculty Enhancement Opportunity) representatives from the Health Science Ctr. for service *beginning*:

- (1 rep) Spring 2024 and
- (1 rep) Fall 2024

The [FEO](#) typically meets twice per AY; the charge is to review [FEO](#) applications; and the term of service is for three years.

-- Chair Wright attended the [AFTPRS Committee](#) meeting last week, when they held their annual orientation. It was discussed if the Senate should advertise the process and committee more. How to communicate the availability of this process was also discussed.

- A test run with the (20+) designated Offsite Senators will be conducted prior to opening the hybrid meeting option to all Faculty Senators.

- University-wide milestones recognition varies within colleges and Welfare Council will explore this issue, including via the monthly Faculty College Council/Assembly Chairs and Faculty Senate Chair meeting.

- A two question survey on bathroom access to identify if faculty have access to gender neutral bathrooms is available on the [Faculty Senate website](#).

- Chair Wright is reviewing the 130 administrative burdens that have been reported.
- Past Faculty Senate Chair and BOG member Dr. Phalin updated the committee that the General Education at state level have added three (STEM) courses to the state core; the regulation has not yet been released to the BOG.

- **Provost's Report**

Scott Angle, Interim Provost

- The UF processes used and needed to adhere to legislation pertaining to countries identified by the Florida legislature as 'countries of concern' is being examined. Deans have expressed that waiver requirements are adversely impacting some programs.
- Dr. Angle anticipates serving as Interim Provost through this AY.
- There was further discussion regarding the Governor's executive order regarding students for justice in Palestine and free speech issues raised by UF attorneys, so president will address this.
- President Sasse's inauguration is tomorrow.
- Meetings with Dr. Angle and Associate Provosts Chris Hass and Diane Schanzenbach are ongoing with regard to post-tenure review.
- In response to an inquiry about the COM Dean leaving in two months, Dr. Angle clarified that the search will be overseen by UF Health President David Nelson.

Introduction of Sr. VP Kratzer

David Kratzer, Senior VP for Construction, Facilities, and Auxiliary Operations

- VP Kratzer has returned to service at UF after retiring in 2016 as the VP for Student Affairs. His office will oversee the 2.44 billion allotted for campus construction and deferred maintenance issues.
- At Senate, VP Kratzer will discuss his office's priorities and what informs him regarding how to execute upcoming and ongoing projects. A priority list of deferred maintenance items will also be shared at Senate.
- He recently toured campus with the University Architect Cydney McGlothlin and Design, Construction, & Planning (DCP) Professor Margaret Fields and physical security for the Center for Jewish Studies was discussed. Dr. Fields & VP Kratzer are working with the center director and public safety offices to secure entrances and to increase cameras, the visible presence of security on campus, and communications with the parents of students. They have also overseen the installation of bullet proof glass at the center. Meetings were also held with campus religious leaders and UFPD. Strong communications system on campus are a priority and are confirmed.
- VP Kratzer agreed to the Steering Committee's request to add 'gender neutral bathrooms' to his agenda.

Honorary Degrees

Ruth Steiner, Chair, Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee

- Dr. Steiner requested the steering identify a process to vet HD and distinguished awards candidates prior to the HD Committee members receiving their packets. The committee is discussing at what point in the process should a background check occur, and what is the best process to use to judge the credibility of allegations or if 'ongoing litigation' should be considered. How should the committee handle conflicting information? HR procedures in hiring were referenced, as well as criminal background check processes.
- Drs. Steiner and Wright will further discuss these issues.
- Although changes would not be implemented in the Faculty Senate Bylaws or the UF Constitution, the protocol for packet submissions is published online (and in the application and application notices).

University Curriculum Committee

Angela Lindner, Associate Provost for

- [Termination of BS in Horticultural Science](#)

Undergraduate Affairs

- This is a request by CALS to terminate the BS in Horticultural Science and has been approved by the UCC.

Graduate Council

Tom Kelleher, Graduate School

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

- [Close the Master of Arts with a Major in Religion](#)

- [Close the Master of Arts with a Major in Classical Studies](#)

- The faculty and Graduate Council request closure of these programs due to low enrollment programs and low demand.

- There were inquiries about potential Hamilton Center overlap. Although CLAS and Associate Dean Kelleher have discussed this, a representative will be invited to attend the Senate meeting to help answer inquiries.

[Posthumous Recognition of Faculty Resolution](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- CLAS Dean Richardson approached Chair Wright to ask if Faculty Senate would support a flexible policy to provide posthumous recognition to a faculty member who has passed away and if it would support making such a recommendation to the Provost's Office. Past APC discussions were referenced (https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//72///2021-2022//APC_OCT.Minutes_10-28-2021.pdf and <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//72///2021-2022//APC.DECEMBER.Minutes12.09.21.pdf>).

- Regulations and the potential need to bargain a proposal related to posthumous promotions/P&T were discussed, as well as the need for 80 percent of a degree be completed for a student to receive a posthumous degree.

- Dr. Angle suggests letting each dean handle a request on a case-by-case basis and they would then make a recommendation to the Provost regarding any promotion or recognition. The Steering Committee members agreed that the resolution did not need to move forward to the Senate.

Council Reports

Infrastructure Council

Walter O'Dell, Chair

- Dr. O'Dell disused the council's inquiries at their last meeting pertaining to increasing Gator One access to buildings and interior rooms, and extending Gator One features so that the reader could be used for such things as establishing classroom attendance and using a QR code scan.

Welfare Council

Stephanie Bogart, Chair

- At its last meeting, council discussed: post-tenure review; Baby Gator issues; establishing consistent milestone recognition for faculty; and increasing faculty cross-campus collaborations. Associate Provost Hass will present Keene Faculty Center information at the next council meeting. Council will discuss, and potentially create a resolution advocating for faculty center alternatives, such as having pop-up meeting places around campus.

Academic Policy Council

Nancy Clark, Chair

- Dr. Clark is traveling and submitted this [APC report](#).

Budget Council

Jorg Peters, Chair

- Council continues to drill into the transparency portal, including the overall layout of support units and colleges to be seen in real time. Council also discussed out of state tuition allocation to colleges. COM shortfalls are currently not visible in UF's budget; data is not yet available.

- The committee requested that council review the 130 million dollar strategic project announced by President Sasse and Dr. Peters noted that the block grants (awarded based on funded research dollars and degrees granted) data reflects that pay raises are co-mingled with this project, so a clear picture is not visible.

- The committee also inquired that council review how we are doing on staff support now vs. pre-pandemic.

Approve [November 16, 2023 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The agenda was approved as amended to remove 'Honorary Degrees' and the [Posthumous Recognition of Faculty Resolution](#) Information Items.

Adjournment

Danaya Wright, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.