

**Senate Steering Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

**June 14, 2024**

**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

via Zoom Only:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95229668354?pwd=nSUaabXNXyNM9Om4UYmMPOqmsCJEo2.1>

**Meeting ID:** 952 2966 8354

**Passcode:** 561448

**Dial in:** +1 305 224 1968

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**Attending:** Sarah Lynne, Scott Angle, Amelia Dempere, Chris Hass, Selman Hershfield, Bart Knowles, John Kraft, Amanda Phalin, Taylor Rose, Tobin Shorey, Ruth Steiner, Catherine Striley, Stacy Wallace, Karen Whalen, Laurie Bialosky, Sabrina Bardi, Cheryl Gater, and Danaya Wright.

**Call to Order**

**Sarah Lynne, Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Sarah Lynne.

**Approve [April 25, 2024 Minutes](#)**

**Sarah Lynne, Chair**

- The minutes were approved.

**Reports**

• **Chair's Report**

**Sarah Lynne, Chair**

- Chair Lynne started the meeting by describing the circumstances that led to the special Steering Committee meeting being held. An individual who was unaffiliated with the University of Florida misrepresented their religious/ethnic identity and claimed to be either a UF student or a relative of a UF student in interactions with a UF faculty member in an attempt to get the faculty member to make statements in support of one side of an ongoing international conflict. This situation represents a safety issue for our faculty and students as well as intersecting with our faculty's role in providing support to students in distress. Chair Lynne is calling a special Faculty Senate meeting next week to provide resources to support faculty and to address how faculty can navigate these challenges while fulfilling their core teaching, research and service mission. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to share Board of Trustees (BOT) updates from the June BOT meeting, provide updates on promotion and tenure as well as post-tenure review, and continue ongoing senate business related to action and information items.

- Chair Lynne also discussed that she is charging the University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC) to review implementing a standing summer Faculty Senate meeting in June to strengthen faculty engagement in shared governance. She is also recommending to consider implementing a Zoom only rather than a hybrid platform for a June meeting, but UCRC will discuss.

• **Provost's Report**

**Scott Angle, Interim Provost**

- Interim Provost Angle discussed the post-tenure review process and his confidence in its fairness and thoroughness. Following an inquiry about the timeline of the decision-making process, Interim Provost Angle clarified that there is a dean rating/decision, followed by a Provost rating/decision. If there is a disagreement, both come together to further discuss and render a final decision. The stratified randomization process and which faculty will be excluded from the process was also clarified and discussed.

In the fall, the Provost's Office will share changes they would like to make based on faculty impression of and experience with the current process.

Governor Amanda Phalin requested feedback from the Provost's Office, faculty leadership, and faculty which she will share with the Board of Governors (BOG) related to the post-tenure review process. Associate Provost Chris Hass shared some current faculty responses and feedback on the process, departmental criteria, and how to represent the positive differentiations between "meets" and "exceeds" expectations. Feedback continues to be requested and processed by the Provost's Office. Incentivization and compensation considerations are still being discussed.

- Interim Provost Angle will release to the Deans the new Provost's Office structuring in the near future.
- Interim Provost Angle discussed the response to campus protests prior to and during commencement with President Sasse.

## Graduate Council

**\*Tom Kelleher**, Associate Dean

for Academic Affairs

### - [Genetics and Genomics MS Credit Reduction](#)

- **Master Health Administration (MHA) Credit Reduction** – *The Steering Committee had no objection to the Graduate School's request to postpone consideration of this item so that it can be revised and presented to the Graduate Council prior to presentation to the Steering Committee.*

*\*Stacy Wallace, Associate Director, Academic Support Services, Graduate School, presented on behalf of Dr. Kelleher who was traveling.*

-The College of Medicine requests a reduction from 33 to 30 credits for the Genetics and Genomics MS degree. This better aligns this major with a traditional Master of Sciences 30-credits degree.

- This item was approved.

- Following inquiries, the Interim Provost commented that there has been a decades-long effort by UF to reduce undergraduate degrees to 120 credits, which is consistent with peer institutions, resonates with the BOG, and is highly relevant for both faculty and students teaching and enrolled in industry-focused programs.

--- Toby Shorey, Assistant Provost of Curriculum and Academic Policy, briefly refreshed the Steering committee on upcoming Senate Action Items; In response to faculty inquiries, Chair Lynne plans to clarify to Senators at next week's meeting that the [University Curriculum Committee \(UCC\)](#) is a faculty-represented (and partially elected as a [joint committee](#)) shared governance body and that it is imperative that Faculty Senate consistently treat all curriculum review according to the university shared governance curriculum processes. Toby clarified that the upcoming Senate Action Items from the UCC carried unanimously in the UCC.

-- The Steering Committee discussed parliamentary procedure and unit curriculum representation normally invited and present during Faculty Senate meetings; the shared governance curriculum review process and procedures were expounded.

## University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

**Tobin Shorey**, Assistant Provost,

[Change The Common Prerequisites Manual \(CPM\) Approval Process](#) Curriculum and Academic Policy

- Assistant Provost Shorey requested the addition of [Change The Common Prerequisites Manual \(CPM\) Approval Process](#) as an Information Item to next week's Senate agenda.

- As a follow-up to the last Steering Committee meeting and Chair Wright's request that Faculty Senate institute this change, this is a proposal to remove the 'Faculty Senate approval' vote on common pre-requisite manual additions. The Steering Committee concurred last month that the current practice of adding common prerequisites approvals to Faculty Senate agendas represents a merely ministerial action; such items currently exist to notify the BOT of a program update or change in prerequisites which then goes to the BOG for placement in the manual established by the BOG and there are no substantive changes to any programs. Removing this item from the Senate agenda and

approval process will streamline and encourage departments to bring their program manuals up to date.

- This was approved.

### **Faculty Resources & Guidelines for Navigating Contemporary Challenges**

- **University of Florida Police Department** **Bart Knowles**, Deputy Chief, UFPD  
- Interim Chief Knowles wants to ensure faculty feel comfortable with and know how to reach out to UFPD. Increasing faculty awareness of all the avenues to do so for multiple scenarios is of the highest priority for Interim Chief Knowles and the UFPD, who also stressed the importance of relaying any concerning information to the UFPD threat assessment team. An overview of these priorities, and the resources available to achieve them, will be shared at Faculty Senate along with contact information. Interim Chief Knowles shared his [draft presentation](#) and requested feedback.
- **Counseling & Wellness Center(CWC)** **Ernesto Escoto**, Director, CWC  
- Dr. Escoto has a schedule conflict today. CWC Interim Director Dr. Rosa West will present Counseling & Wellness Center resources at next week's Faculty Senate meeting.

### **Recreational Sports and Faculty Access**

**Laura Hall**, Director, RecSports

- No Recreational Sports representative was present today; Chair Lynne is asking Student Life / UF RecSports to reply to faculty inquiries and concerns regarding their new fee structure, particularly access to and the costs of the Florida Pool and Lake Walburg, as they have generated the most faculty questions and concerns.

Details have been requested regarding monthly and annual memberships and Chair Lynne will address these items in her Chair's Report next week. She emphasized that a space is needed in which faculty can ask questions before any resolution will be considered. To ensure UF common resources can be fully utilized, any resolution must accurately detail the issue(s) at hand and identify specific solutions.

### **Approve [June 21, 2024 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)**

**Sarah Lynne**, Chair

- The agenda was approved as amended to:

-- **Add the confirmed Zoom registration link:**

<https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlOcOChqzsrG9ABEa8syAhQJo85cZxrwJ3d> to the agenda header.

-- **Update UFPD Deputy Chief Bart Knowles' title** to UFPD Interim Chief.

-- **Add as an Information Item:**

#### **University Curriculum Committee (UCC)**

**Tobin Shorey**, Assistant Provost,  
Curriculum and Academic Policy

[Change The Common Prerequisites Manual \(CPM\) Approval Process](#)

-- **Remove as an Information Item:**

Master Health Administration (MHA) Credit Reduction

**Tom Kelleher**, Associate Dean  
for Academic Affairs

-- **Remove as an Information Item:**

Recreational Sports and Faculty Access

**Laura Hall**, Director, RecSports

### **Adjournment**

**Sarah Lynne**, Chair

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.