

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

December 3, 2024

3:00 p.m.

226 Tigert Hall, President's Conference Room

or, if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94060947572?pwd=WndSeDhjbEM5ejNTU3E2NGp5UTVtdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 6094 7572

Passcode: 711489

Dial-in: +1 305 224 1968

Present: Sarah Lynne, Kent Fuchs, Marshall Gray, Tom Kelleher, Ruth Steiner, Amanda Phalin, Danaya Wright, Joe Glover, Amelia Dempere, Taylor Rose, Jason Frazier, Laurie Bialosky, Breann Garbas, Karen Whalen, Catherine Striley, Toby Shorey, and Selman Hershfield.

Call to Order

Sarah Lynne, Chair

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

Approve [November 7, 2024 Minutes](#)

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The Board of Trustees (BOT) meets December 12 – 13 and an update will be provided at the January Steering and Senate meetings.
- The first preparation meeting to kick off the Presidential search committee is December 18. Listening sessions will be held and the TBA dates and timeline will be shared with faculty and the campus community.
- Dr. Fuchs is out of town on December 10 and cannot attend Senate.

• **President's Report**

Kent Fuchs, Interim President

- At next week's BOT meeting, Dr. Fuchs and the trustees will receive a progress report on the Jacksonville campus. UF is nearing a site agreement and funding commitments by the city of Jacksonville. While the BOT will be asked to approve the concepts, nothing has been legally finalized yet.
- The trustees will also be asked to fund an upgrade on the UF AI supercomputer, as [HiPerGator](#) is about five years old.
- Trustees will hear plans on high quality undergraduate residential housing and proposed upgrades to current residence halls.
- Selection of the presidential search firm will be brought forward to the BOT for a vote, as per BOG procedures. Two searches will need to be synced with the president's announcement including: CFO search being launched in January (and Dr. Fuchs will be involved in that search), and a search for the successor to Dr. David Nelson Sr. VP for Health Affairs. This search is being rebooted and President Fuchs will serve as its chair. UF is using the same search firm previously used and will proffer a more robust position description, which will include the oversight of the academic health center.
- Award decisions for Past President Sasse's strategic initiatives applications remain pending. President Fuchs has asked Drs. David Norton and Nelson, Provost Glover, and CFO Taylor

Jantz to oversee the proposal awards. The awards will be centrally funded and the UF Office of Research will put in another \$10 million.

- Reading days begin on Thursday, when the lighting of the holiday gator will also occur. Dr. Fuchs will serve breakfast at 9pm – 11pm at Broward Dining Hall for all who breakfast at such hours and wish to purchase a meal.
 - In response to a Steering Committee inquiry about graduate student housing, Dr. Fuchs relayed that the administration is developing solutions for increased graduate housing options, including international graduate students; this information will be communicated by forthcoming administrative announcements.
- **Provost's Report** **Joe Glover**, Interim Provost
 - There are three Dean searches underway - in the College of Arts, CLAS, and the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering. There is little new activity to report at this point in the semester, but all are up and running.
 - Dr. Glover provided an update on the required GenEd courses submission to the Board of Governor (BOG). Approximately 300 of the 400 courses submitted for BOG approval are expected to receive UF Gen Ed course designation. Preliminary analysis shows that UF can continue to meet student demands in this area of the curriculum. UF anticipates hearing back from the BOG in late January.
 - Chair Lynne expressed appreciation to Drs. Fuchs and Glover for answering all the faculty Senators' many General Education inquiries at the past Faculty Senate meetings.

Introduction of College of Nursing Dean & System Chief Nurse Executive, UF Health

Shakira Henderson, PhD, DNP, MS, MPH, MBA
Dean, College of Nursing
System Chief Nurse Executive, UF Health

- Dean Henderson had a meeting conflict today. She will provide the below information at Senate:
 - Introduction
 - Professional background
 - An overview of the College of Nursing Strategic Plan

UF Print Services

Marshall Gray, Assistant Director
for Business Services

Marshall Gray, Assistant Director for Business Services, shared information about the UF Print Services department. He and his team have revamped the UF print shop, and recently purchased new equipment and hired a dedicated sales/service manager, making UF very competitive with external print companies. Their goal is to ensure the faculty and campus members have access to the best printing resources at the best price.

The department is also entering the promotional products business through their GatorSwag platform, and can meet the needs for custom pens, coffee mugs, backpacks, and more. There are over 10,000 promotional products to choose from and chartfield billing is available.

Academic Affairs

Tobin Shorey, Assistant Provost
Curriculum and Academic Policy

- [Department Name Change: Pharmacodynamics to Cellular and Systems Pharmacology](#)

- This department name change is being proposed to address and sharpen recruitment and messaging within the university and externally. The new name aims to convey the breadth of research being performed in the department and to retire 'Pharmacodynamics' which is not a widely recognized term, and which does not take advantage of brand recognition.
- Pharmacodynamics Department Chair Dr. Jason Frazier answered inquiries and reinforced that there is strong faculty and administrative support for this change.
- [Scripps Jupiter Special Purpose Center](#)

-- Scripps Florida located in Jupiter, Florida, was founded by The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI), one of the world's most innovative nonprofit biomedical research organizations. The Jupiter campus became part of UF in 2022 and was renamed The Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Innovation & Technology in acknowledgement of a \$100 million gift. Together, the UF Health Science Center and The Wertheim UF Scripps Institute work to advance human health through biomedical research, drug discovery and clinical studies. Pending approvals, the UF College of Medicine anticipates offering their Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences on this Jupiter campus beginning in Fall 2026.

Council Reports

Academic Policy Council

Karen Whalen, Chair

- The council wordsmithed a syllabus statement related to the new requirement for faculty to attest to their course materials.
- Council worked with John Jordi, Instructional Assessment Coordinator, Center for Teaching Excellence, on clarifying language for GatorEvals. He was able to add wording to readily point students to resources.

Budget Council

John Kraft, Chair

- Professor Kraft could not attend today due to a meeting conflict.

Infrastructure Council

Selman Hershfield, Chair

- Council heard concerns from faculty and staff regarding potential significant changes and reductions to the RTS bus routes. Dr. Hershfield relayed that the changes appear to be more modest than previously thought and complete update by UF Parking and Transportation Services will be provided at the December council meeting.
- Council informally discussed with and solicited feedback from colleagues regarding faculty obstacles to reserving rooms or spaces for testing and testing make-ups. An invitation has been extended to the Registrar's Office to attend a spring council meeting to further discuss faculty scheduling needs, to clarify the reservation process, and to discuss solutions.

Welfare Council

Breann Garbas, Chair

- Council met on Nov 22 and elected H  l  ne Huet as the spring council chair to replace Dr. Garbas, who leaves UF leaving this Thursday.
- Similar to APC, Welfare Council held a robust discussion with John Jordi about implementing GatorEvals language changes. Council agreed with reinforcing and highlighting the language pertaining to resources. The difference between confidential and anonymous student responses was vigorously discussed. Council requests that it be made clearer that evaluation responses are confidential but not anonymous. Council advocates for clearer language to increase students' understanding and UF's transparency.

Approve [December 10, 2024 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The agenda was approved with an amendment to change the [Scripps Jupiter Special Purpose Center](#) entry to its proper name of [The Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Innovation & Technology Special Purpose Center](#).

Adjournment

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.