

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

February 6, 2025

3:00 p.m.

226 Tigert Hall, President's Conference Room

or, if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96840086785?pwd=aCtCaG5SSC9PUUZEMThkZTR4dDFLdz09>

Meeting ID: 968 4008 6785 / Passcode: 915622 / Dial-in: +1 305 224 1968

Present: Sarah Lynne, Kent Fuchs, Tom Kelleher, Chris Hass, Joe Glover, Danaya Wright, Amelia Dempere, Tobin Shorey, John Kraft, Jeremiah Blanchard, Ashley Ghiaseddin, H  l  ne Huet, Laurie Bialosky, Taylor Rose, Ray Issa, Funke Dada, John Jordi, Lauren Solberg, Selman Hershfield, Catherine Striley, Ryan Rushing, Hans van Oostrom, Karen Whalen, Alexa Bitton Bailey, Ruth Steiner and Charlene Luke.

Call to Order

Sarah Lynne, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 by Faculty Senate Chair-elect Amelia Dempere. (Faculty Senate Chair Sarah Lynne resumed chairing at 3:05 p.m.)

Approve [January 9, 2025 Minutes](#)

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The minutes were approved with amendments to include two erroneously admitted Chairs Report announcements: Dr. Dixon's January 23 Distinguished Professor lecture and the Homecoming 2025 date of October 18 vs. Mississippi State.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- Centennial of the Smathers Library building: The Smathers Libraries are celebrating their centennial in 2025 and have shared this information:

While UF was founded in 1853, there was not a dedicated library building on campus; small libraries were scattered across different departments.

In 1925, the first section of what is now known as the Smathers Library opened with a collection of 40,000 books. Today in 2025, the Smathers Libraries system is the largest academic resource system in the state with six campus branches, affiliate branches across the state, and more than 5.5 million print volumes.

The centennial theme is "Illuminating Excellence. Celebrating Our Libraries Past, Present, and Future." While the centennial celebrates the 100th birthday of the Smathers Library branch, now host to the Special & Area Studies Collections Department, the entire library system will receive recognition through events and media features – stay tuned!

- The UF Office of Sustainability and Healthy Gators (currently overseen by GatorWell) have announced that the nomination period for the 2025 Champions for Change Awards is now open. Self-nominations are accepted and nominations close on Friday, March 14, 2025.

The Champions for Change Awards is a celebration of those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication to driving positive change in the area of sustainability or health & wellness while at UF. Nominees may include students, faculty, staff, and student organizations or groups, etc. Learn more at: <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/news-events/champions-for-change-awards/>.

- Join us for the two February Distinguished Professor Lectures:

1) February 13, 2025 @ 3:30

[Thomas Bianchi](#)

Distinguished Professor and Jon and Beverly Thompson Endowed Chair in Geological Sciences
Department of Geological Sciences
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Earth's Carbon Cycle: A Tale of Molecules, Mud, and Global Change

Bless Auditorium (100 Williamson Hall) & via *Zoom

*<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95850783411> / Meeting ID: 958 5078 3411 / Passcode: Spring25

2) February 20, 2025 @ 1:00

[Dominick Angiolillo](#)

Distinguished Professor & Chief, Division of Cardiology;
Medical Director of the UF Health Cardiovascular Center & of the Cardiovascular Research Program

Director of the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship & of the General Cardiovascular Care Fellowship

Department of Medicine

College of Medicine - Jacksonville

Precision medicine in interventional cardiology: implications for antiplatelet therapy in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention

J. Wayne Reitz Union, Ground Floor, Chamber Room & via [Livestream](#)

- Join us immediately before next month's Senate meeting for this lecture and refreshments:

March 13, 2025 @ 1:00

[Juan Gilbert](#)

Distinguished Professor, The Andrew Banks Family Preeminence Endowed Professor & Department Chair

Department of Computer & Information Science and Engineering

Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

Computing for Social Good: Changing the World with Technology Innovations

J. Wayne Reitz Union, Ground Floor, Chamber Room & via [Livestream](#)

- Nominations are open for Honorary Degrees. Closes March 1. The faculty is responsible for nominating all candidates.

Details @: senate.ufl.edu in the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee tab:

(<http://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Committees/Honorary-Degrees-and-Distinguished-Awards-Committee>)

- Nominations for the next Faculty Senate Chair-Elect is open. Closes March 31.

Email nominations to the Faculty Senate Secretary @: FacultySenateChair@aa.ufl.edu.

- Faculty Senator Election Information has been sent to each college identifying the 2025-2028

Open Senator Seats. Please encourage your colleagues to serve, and view your term end date

on the online Senate roster @: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Senate/Faculty-Senate>.

Colleges will hold elections for these seats this Spring.

Please contact your Faculty Council Chair with specific election information or the Faculty Senate Secretary with term or general inquiries.

- Core Curriculum Task Force Report:

<https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//78///2024-2025//Core Task Force Report 2025.pdf>

has been submitted to the Provost and President and is posted @: senate.ufl.edu and

<https://senate.ufl.edu/resources/faculty-information/> (under 'Special Reports')

- There have been 3 presidential search advisory committee meetings since we last met. The first was Monday, Jan. 27 and it was a meeting of the marketing and communications subcommittee where a draft of the prospectus and advertisement were discussed. These documents largely focus on describing UF and the surrounding areas.

The second was Wednesday, Jan. 29 and it was a subcommittee meeting to discuss the draft qualifications and criteria for the next president. These drafts were based on listening session feedback. Chair Lynne provided feedback to explicitly include a statement related to shared

governance, and it was very positively received.

The third meeting was held this past Monday, Feb. 3rd and it was a full search committee meeting where the full committee had the opportunity to provide feedback on all of the draft documents, which are being finalized and should soon be posted. A number of nominations have been received and continue to be accepted. Please reach out to your colleagues to request more nominations.

- Chair Lynne attended the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting last week on Jan. 30:

-- The Gen Ed curriculums were all approved.

-- There was a presentation and discussion on the changing landscape of college athletics.

Amy Hass, UF Deputy Athletic Director/Senior Women's Administrator, and other SUS Athletic Directors and attorneys attended. The discussion was very engaging with many legal settlement details and how UF/Florida can maintain its strong collegiate sports in this changing landscape.

-- The draft of the new State University System (SUS) Strategic Plan was discussed.

-- The ROI pilot was discussed at the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) lunch with the Governors. It was a well-attended session that included a number of the Governors, the Chancellor, and the ACFS's faculty senate chairs/presidents from across the SUS.

Understanding how to best assess ROI was discussed, and feedback around some of the things to consider, including student metrics such as internships, and graduate programs was provided. It was also discussed that if this action is about state investment in the SUS, it should go beyond student outcomes and include other indicators of faculty success in research, service, and extension. Chair Lynne also raised that people tend to work towards new metrics when they are introduced, so systems that emphasize disciplinary-specific metrics may have the unintended result of reinforcing silos and breaking down interdisciplinary collaborations. A program may have individually lower ROI but might be a critical part of the university community and the success of other programs where the discontinuation of that program would have a bigger impact than expected. Chair Lynne relayed that the Governors and Chancellor were actively listening and that there is a strong desire to be able to tell a story about why it is good to invest in our system and that an ROI analysis is envisioned to be part of this story.

- The Graduate student housing subcommittee is holding its launch meeting this Friday, Feb. 14 and Chair Lynne is excited to move forward with this initiative. The group includes:

David Brandon, (Subcommittee Chair) Trustee /FCI Committee Chair

Marsha Powers, Trustee/FSPPPM Committee Chair

Rafael Cruzado, Director of Housing Finance

Tina Horvath, Sr Director of Housing

Sarah Lynne, Trustee/Faculty Senate Chair

Cydney McGlothlin, AVP, Planning Design & Construction

Kevin Senior, President of Graduate Student Council

Bill Starkey, AVP, Finance & University Treasurer

Nicole Stedman, Graduate School Dean

Heather White, VP of Student Life

- **President's Report**

Kent Fuchs, Interim President

- An audit for expenses in the President's Office was conducted. The report found issues related to inappropriate use of: UF airplanes; events hosting; over-extensive use of outside consultants; out of state employees residing out of state but working at UF; and the process used to hire employees. The Board of Trustees (BOT) has responded and is implementing updated best practices to be used for hiring, including for out of state employees, university airplane use, and other items of concern addressed in the report. Dr. Fuchs relayed confidence that the President's Office is now in a good place.

- Two new interim leaders have been named: effective February 3, Nick Kozlov replaces outgoing UF CFO Taylor Jantz, and effective February 8, Steve Orlando assumes the role of Interim VP for Communications, replacing outgoing VP for Communications James Wegmann, whose last day at UF is tomorrow.

- Dr. Fuchs briefly discussed the UF presidential search and shared his perspective on which priority areas university presidents should focus.

- No plans are being made to address the flurry of U.S. presidential executive orders via task forces, 'war rooms', devoted websites etc. UF will instead move forward to resolve issues as they occur because every moment is different and changing. UF will continue to provide campus with information and invited the Steering Committee to voice if there was any objection to this approach by the university. Chair Lynne shared concerns about how to best allay faculty confusion as they conduct their daily job responsibilities and university mission, particularly if there is a chance that different guidance might be provided by different deans and chairs. Steering discussed the need for cross-college consistency and how to best handle the changing and fast-flowing executive orders. Provost Glover noted that he meets twice monthly with a group which includes the deans of the university and Interim VP and General Counsel Ryan Fuller and VP of Research David Norton, who can, respectively, provide their legal and research expertise and advisement.

- **Provost's Report**

Joe Glover, Interim Provost

- Provost Glover is working with Leo Villalón, UF Center for Latin American Studies Interim Director on the search for his replacement.

- Dr. Glover intends to announce a new dean search at the Faculty Senate meeting.

University Constitution & Regulations Committee

Charlene Luke, Chair, UCRC

(UCRC) Report

- Professors Issa and Luke reviewed changes to efficiently facilitate the AFTPRS grievance procedure and processes and provided these [summary slides](#) of proposed amendments pertaining to:

- [Faculty Senate Bylaw 7 \(AFTPRS/grievance processes\) updates](#).

- [Article IV, Constitution of the University of Florida](#): Changing the term of the Faculty Senate Chair from June 1 to July 1 to assist with trustee responsibilities and scheduling and align with the fiscal year.

- [Faculty Senate Bylaw 4](#) amendments were presented and include updates to the Chair-elect election timing and nomination materials submission as well as clarification that outgoing Faculty Senators (as opposed to the newly elected, incoming Faculty Senators) would attend any special meetings held between the academic years.

- [Faculty Senate Bylaw 20](#) amendment to remove the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) from the responsibility of reviewing 5000-level course proposals.

Graduate Council

Tom Kelleher, Associate Dean
for Academic Affairs

- [Master of Health Administration Credit Reduction](#)

- This proposal seeks to reduce the major's required credits from 57 to 50 for the MHA degree.

[Tourism and Hospitality Management MS Name Change](#)

- This proposal seeks to change the name of the major in Tourism and Hospitality Management to Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management for the MS, College of Health and Human Performance, to align better with faculty expertise in the program and curriculum. This is not a curriculum change proposal.

- [New Degree: Master of Healthcare Education \(MHE\) with a major in Artificial Intelligence](#)

- This is a new 30 credit non-thesis degree proposal requested by the College of Medicine, which has successfully collaborated with the College of Education in the preparation of this proposal.

Academic Affairs

Tobin Shorey, Assistant Provost,

- [Hamilton School for Classical & Civic Education](#)

Curriculum and Academic Policy

- This proposal documents support for the Hamilton Center's proposed transition to Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education. This change better aligns the unit with analogous programs at other institutions and the Hamilton Center faculty voted 26-6 in favor of the proposal.

Textbook Affordability and Options

Ryan Rushing, Textbook Affordability Coord.
Funke Dada, Ctr. for Teaching Excellence Instr.

- At Senate, the ZTC ([zero textbook cost](#)) badge qualifications and expansion will be discussed as well as the textbook adoption portal updates made to streamline the submission of non-textbook and courseware related materials. This office is increasing outreach to individual departments so those details will be provided, including a list of upcoming events, including textbook adoption open mic sessions and workshops. Inquiries will be answered and available resources, such as the integration of Pressbook (an open educational resource publishing tool) will be shared.

- Past Chair Wright noted the need to recognize the faculty administrative burden, particularly on the teaching side, to provide affordable textbook options to students.

GatorEvals URL Change & Other Updates

John Jordi, Instructional Assessment Coordinator, Ctr. for Teaching Excellence

- As of Monday, the GatorEvals URL link has been updated from <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> to <https://my-ufl.bluera.com/>. There is an auto-redirect to a new interface with faculty and students. At Senate, additional changes to: the home page layout, faculty and aggregate dashboards, filters, and available reports, bookmarks, QR codes, and Microsoft bookings for consultation, and more will be shared.

Faculty Excellence and Advancement (FEA)

Chris Hass, Associate Provost for Academic & Faculty Affairs

- Associate Provost Hass provided an update on where the FEA system currently stands. Information has been shared with the Welfare and Academic Policy Councils. FEA is currently in phase one testing for faculty being reviewed in the 2025-6 cycle In April, as the system goes live, there will be faculty training by college.

- Dr. Hass will be out of town during this month's Faculty Senate meeting. The Steering Committee considered sharing a 30-minute informational video about FEA. However, approximately half of the 300 people going up for review have already seen this video and it is anticipated that all faculty going up for review will see this video by the end of this month. It was agreed that this information could be shared at Faculty Senate in March, which Chair Lynne will add to her Chair's Report.

Council Reports

Research and Scholarship Council

Ashley Ghiaseddin, Chair

- Council discussed having several groups within UF (Colleges/Institutes) to review ways to increase grant submission surrounding community partnerships. Based on that discussion, council is working to invite members from IFAS/The UF Center for Arts, Migration and Entrepreneurship in the College of the Arts/The UF Center for Humanities in the Public Sphere and the CTSI COO. Council is scheduling the members from these groups to attend during the February and March council meetings.

Welfare Council

Hélène Huet, Chair

- The Compensation and Equity Committee reviewed faculty turnover data for 2024 and will continue the discussion, including looking at pre-pandemic data from 2019. UF faculty turnover has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

- As a result of the Compensation & Equity Committee resolution from a few years ago, rolling, multi-year contracts may be incorporated at CLAS.

- Council is inquiring on the status of its communal faculty space proposal put forward last year.

-- It was clarified that any strategic funding proposal from Dr. Sasse's initiative has been decided. Award decisions were sent to all proposers with a notification of if the award was or was not granted.
-- Past Chair Wright clarified that she presented this proposal separately from the strategic initiative fund. It was suggested that the Welfare Council Chair follow up on the proposal with the new UF President; Dr. Huet will provide this update to council at its next meeting.

Academic Policy Council

Karen Whalen, Chair

- Council met on Monday and heard from and worked w. John Jordi on GaterEval initiatives and updates. Council also reviewed and approved the Faculty Senate Bylaw change requested by the UCC.

Budget Council

John Kraft, Chair

- Council meets next week so it hasn't met since the last Steering Committee meeting.

Infrastructure Council

Selman Hershfield, Chair

- Champions for Change information will be shared at the next council meeting.

- UF doesn't have an arborist and lost that position around 2008.

- Council will hear from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) Director Jenna Gonzalez about testing center statistics and needs at its next meeting.

Approve [February 20, 2025 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The agenda was approved as amended to update the UCRC Report link with today's materials and to remove Dr. Hass' FEA Information Item.

Adjournment

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.