

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

January 9, 2025

3:00 p.m.

226 Tigert Hall, President's Conference Room

or, if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91817976310?pwd=c3FXd3FUTSt0aEJMaEpBUFVDSmo1dz09>

Meeting ID: 918 1797 6310

Passcode: 083948

Dial-in: +1 305 224 1968

Present: Sarah Lynne, Taylor Jantz, Kent Fuchs, Joe Glover, Catherine Striley, Taylor Rose, Tom Kelleher, Toby Shorey, Danaya Wright, Amelia Dempere, H el ene Huet, Laurie Bialosky, Jeremiah Blanchard, John Kraft, Raymond Issa, Karen Whalen, Charlene Luke, and Selman Hershfield.

Call to Order

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Chair Sarah Lynne at 3:03 p.m.

Approve [December 3, 2024 Minutes](#)

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- Presidential search listening sessions continue through January 15.
- Chair Lynne announced that a new lactation space in the Medical Plaza building is planned to be installed this Spring. Baby Gator plans and estimates are still being considered. Baby Gator is in the conceptual stage. Both projects are meant to meet stated faculty needs while ensuring the proper utilization of university resources.
- Immediately prior to the Senate meeting in Reitz Chamber, join the Distinguished Professor lecture, *Assured Autonomy for Uncertain and Data Intermittent Systems*, by Dr. Warren Dixon, from the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering. The lecture will be livestreamed and will be followed by a reception with light refreshments.
- Homecoming 2025 will be October 18 vs. Mississippi State.
- Chair Lynne provided updates from the December Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting:
 - o The UF Jacksonville campus plan was approved.
 - o 2500 new undergraduate beds will be added on campus.
 - o Chair Lynne will serve on a newly-formed committee designed to address graduate housing for both international and domestic graduate students.
 - o Funding to update HiPerGator was approved.
 - o The Steering Committee briefly discussed the BOT infrastructure presentation by Interim VP of Business Affairs Brandi Renton which provided helpful information about the status of current and upcoming campus projects.

• **President's Report**

Kent Fuchs, Interim President

- Two UF trustees were re-appointed: Rahul Patel and Richard Cole. Five new trustees, who are conservative reformers, were appointed to the University of West Florida this week.
- President Fuchs reported that although there are many (competing) university president positions open nation-wide, potential candidates are showing interest in the UF presidency

position.

- **Provost's Report**

Joe Glover, Interim Provost

- Carlos de la Torre stepped down as the director of the UF Center for Latin American Studies. Leonardo Villalón has been appointed to serve as the interim director and a new director search begins in the spring.
- The Steering Committee discussed an inquiry to Dr. Glover related to the Board of Governors (BOG) request for an ROI study on five programs for all State University System (SUS) institutions. Faculty relayed concern about the study's timing being concurrent with the legislative session potentially being an indication that the results of the ROI may be used to make funding decisions related to the programs under study in the pilot.

CFO Office Updates

Taylor Jantz, Chief Financial Officer

- At Senate, CFO Jantz, who leaves UF January 31, will discuss budgeting at the University of Florida, including the process, philosophy, and plans moving forward.

University Constitution & Regulations Committee
(UCRC) Report

Charlene Luke, Chair, UCRC

- [Proposed Amendments to Bylaw 7](#) for [AFTPRS](#) was presented and discussed. The new language aims to balance fairness to the faculty members launching the grievance process with committee efficiency. The proposal also intends to provide clarification to vague current language and ensure that the grievance process is consistent for all filed grievances, and applied equitably over time. Chair Lynne requested a bullet-point or a brief, high-level overview/executive summary be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting. Professor Luke will put together these .ppt slide(s) so that summary information can be easily relayed on the Senate floor.
- Faculty officer terms were also discussed yesterday's UCRC meeting and discussion will continue at its February meeting. The current proposal is for Senate office terms to end July 1 instead of June 1; on a future agenda, the UCRC may also consider presidential committee language updates.

University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Tobin Shorey, Assistant Provost,
Curriculum and Academic Policy

- [Proposed Academic Calendar 2029-2030](#)

- Calendars are prepared five years in advance. The calendar will be voted on in the February Senate meeting and the second page is for reference only.
- Extra gaps between fall and spring is a trend moving forward, as well as the five days allotted for Thanksgiving break.
- Religious holidays conflicts are also considered and avoided.
- UF matches its Spring Break to Alachua County's. The latter typically sets their Spring Break at their February meeting and UF remains in contact with them to coordinate upcoming dates.
- Homecoming date vetting begins at the end of the year for the upcoming year.
- The Steering Committee discussed the calendar ramifications to residence halls (i.e. shortened summer to fall semesters) but this is done to help accommodate calendar preferences approved by the Faculty Senate.
- This item was approved.

Graduate Council

Tom Kelleher, Associate Dean
for Academic Affairs

- [*Modify Master of Interior Design \(MID\) Credit Hours](#)

- This proposal will lower the MID credit hours from 36 to 33; electives will be deleted.

**This item was approved.*

**Following the Steering Committee meeting, the College of Design, Construction & Planning removed this proposal from consideration. There were no objections from any parties.*

- [Create Master of Science \(MS\) Finance and Technology Major](#)

- This Finance and Technology MS proposal will be a non-thesis on campus program and is 30 credits.

This item was approved.

Council Reports

Welfare Council

Hélène Huet, Chair

- Council did not meet in December. Hélène Huet has been elected to replace outgoing chair Breann Garbas, who left UF last month.

Academic Policy Council

Karen Whalen, Chair

APC met Monday morning. Council reviewed the new requirement for attestation of course materials and finalized the wording on the optional syllabus statement. A committee to collaborate on GatorEvals was approved and John Jordi will continue to check in with APC moving forward.

Budget Council

John Kraft, Chair

- Council discussed the UF budget model moving forward and potential changes. The Provost's general fund budget model was reviewed and discussed, as well as the data sets related to student credit hours for multiple schools. Data review for schools will continue throughout the spring council meetings.

Research and Scholarship Council

Ashley Ghiaseddin, Chair

- No report.

Infrastructure Council

Selman Hershfield, Chair

- Dr. Selman addressed a question from the last Senate meeting inquiring if the trees and plants demolished around graduate student housing was examined; he confirmed that it was done by the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee.

- Director of Transportation Will McDonald, attended the last council meeting and presented some minor changes to the RTS bus routes around UF, including campus bus routes which will now be run with smaller busses and which will continue to meet student and employee needs. One route which was eliminated was the route to the airport. However there is still a route to take a bus to airport but it now originates from downtown so it is less expensive and more efficient.

Chair Lynne will relay in her Senate Chair's report that information pertaining to FEA, the new P&T system, will be shared at the February Senate meeting. It has been beta-tested on campus and will launch this year (in May) for the 2025-6 tenure and promotion process.

Approve [January 23, 2025 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The agenda was approved as amended to remove the 'UCRC Report' Information Item.

Adjournment

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.