

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

November 7, 2024

3:00 p.m.

226 Tigert Hall, President's Conference Room

or, if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97676284079?pwd=NjBRaHhhTUU1d2hYd0NsNjNBWkFaQT09>

Meeting ID: 976 7628 4079

Passcode: 643647

Dial-in: +1 305 224 1968

Present: Sarah Lynne, Joe Glover, Stephen Motew, Amelia Dempere, Chris Hass, Tom Kelleher, Toby Shorey, Laurie Bialosky, Jason Degen, John Kraft, Breann Garbas, Danaya Wright, Taylor Rose, Catherine Striley, Charlene Luke, Selman Hershfield, Karen Whalen, and Linda Dixon.

Call to Order

Sarah Lynne, Chair

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

Approve [October 3, 2024 Minutes](#)

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The minutes were approved.

Reports

• **Chair's Report**

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- Past UF Parliamentarian and Law Professor Joe little passed away October 23, 2024 and Chair Lynne recognized his contributions as past Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.
- The Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) and the Board of Governors (BOG) met last month at FIU in Miami. They discussed the BOG's faculty-related strategic plans for the next five years. The Chancellor spoke with the ACFS, with a central focus on metrics for faculty excellence evaluations across the State University System (SUS). Discussion included student outcomes and alignments with each SUS's individual institution's mission.
- During the BOG meeting, a presentation was delivered on the political survey which was distributed to SUS employees and students. This is the second iteration of this survey, and results were discussed. Efforts were made to increase the student response rate and sample weighting was done to be more representative across Florida. The company which worked with the BOG has extensive national experience in such surveys and was able to share state to national benchmark comparisons. Florida results compared very positively, exceeding other peers and states with data reflecting that diverse campus discourse remains robust in the SUS. Governor Amanda Phalin provided feedback to the BOG regarding the survey (measurement validity).
- A final optional syllabus statement is being drafted by Chair Lynne and will be sent to the Academic Policy Council (APC) for discussion, and then, if approved, to the Provost's Office. This is related to the mandatory faculty course instructional materials review and attestation which will be required in the Spring. The Provost's Office is working with the colleges so that graduate students or instructors or course designers who teach the course, will all be sent a Qualtrics-type of attestation; it will include the BOG regulation language and will be a "yes I certify".
- A subset of course textbooks will be reviewed for antisemitic content. Use of AI assistance in the process was discussed, including that Associate Provost Hass submitted two books as a beta test; faculty can potentially review the AI report and then do a double-check on course

materials. The APC prefers that an administrative-titled faculty conduct these reviews, such as chairs or directors of departments or centers, such as the directors of the Hamilton Center or Jewish Studies, etc.

- The Gen Ed course appeals are due November 11 and the process is moving forward. Appeals must be sent to Interim President Fuchs and BOT Chair Hosseini. Appeals will proceed through the BOG data request system and SUS Interim Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs, Emily Sykes. UF Interim Vice Provost of Undergraduate Affairs Angela Lindner and Associate Provost and Director Cheryl Gater are diligently working on this to ensure adherence to the BOG directive.

- Chair Lynne is serving on the presidential search committee along w. Health Science Center (HSC) faculty members Duane Mitchell and Michael Okun; while there is strong HSC representation on this committee, Chair Lynne expressed her commitment to ensure college-wide faculty representation, and she has already received much faculty feedback in the form of questions and comments. Although no formal committee meetings have occurred yet.

- Chair Lynne discussed her pro-active work in advancing Baby Gator, including working with the trustees and UF administrators to help plan construction for additional Baby Gator facilities. There will be a presentation on this progress at the next BOT meeting in December so more will be known and shared then.

- Chair Lynne acknowledged the work of the Welfare Council related to faculty recognition for employment service to UF (i.e. amount of time employed at UF). Staff has had such milestone recognition and HR has agreed that it will now be open to faculty whose units may not have previously offered it. Eligible faculty will be notified in 2025.

- Committee members referenced and briefly discussed the New York Times articles reporting about faculty inclusion and legislative reaches into shared governance, recent shifts in the higher education landscapes, the dissolution of the University of Kentucky Faculty Senate and the attempt by Arizona lawmakers to also do so at Arizona public universities.

- Chair Lynne reminded all that in December, Senate and Steering meets on a Tuesday rather than a Thursday: *Steering*: Tues Dec 3 / *Senate*: Tues Dec 10 in the Reitz Auditorium (not the Chamber).

- **Provost's Report**

Joe Glover, Interim Provost

- Dr. Glover relayed that The College of Arts (COTA) had their first Dean's search committee meeting today.

- The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) search committee is meeting soon.

- The Wertheim College of Engineering Dean search committee formation is nearly complete. There is a search advisory committee being Chaired by VP of Research David Norton.

- Information pertaining to both the CLAS & COTA searches are posted on the Provost Office website.

- Following inquiries, Dr. Glover briefly clarified operational differences between advisory and search committees. Advisory committees will not winnow the pool of candidates but will instead advise Interim Provost Glover, and therefore are not required to adhere to Sunshine laws (unlike the search committees).

Introduction of UF Health CEO & President

Stephen Motew, UF Health CEO
& President

- Dr. Motew provided an overview of his educational and professional background and shared his vision for UF Health. This is a brand-new role and strategic goals were discussed, including enhancing and transforming the UF Health care components of academic research and education, and health care delivery. At Senate, Dr. Motew will provide a high-level view of the UF healthcare system, its strategic direction, and how it integrates into UF. He will discuss the role of improving the UF

academic mission via the UF Health care 6.2-billion-dollar enterprise, and the opportunities it brings for cross-collaboration and betterment of people's lives.

Campus Master Plan & Bike/Pedestrian Safety Updates **Linda Dixon**, Director
UF Planning, Design, & Construction

- Director Dixon will share slides at Senate to provide an overview of the Campus Master Plan and how it works, as well as updates on upcoming projects. Also, a bicycle and pedestrian safety focus on completed and upcoming projects will be highlighted, as well as updates on funding status and collaboration between the university and local and state government transportation and planning agencies, including the City of Gainesville.

[Honorary Degree Candidate](#) **Ruth Steiner**, Chair, Honorary Degrees
& Distinguished Awards Committee

- Dr. Steiner shared [slides](#) detailing information about the unanimously approved Honorary Degree candidate being put forward by the Honorary Degrees & Distinguished Awards Committee. A brief update was provided on other committee distinguished and community service awards, including for Mickey Singer.
- Honorary Degree candidate Sachio Semmoto was unanimously approved.

Professional Curriculum Committee (PCC) **Tobin Shorey**, Assistant Provost,
Curriculum and Academic Policy

- [Creation of New Master of Studies Law \(MSL\) Degree](#)
-- This is a new degree request from the UF Levin College of Law for a Master of Studies in Law (MSL). It is designed for working professionals who do not have a J.D. but who must regularly navigate or comply with legal requirements and regulations. It is a 30 credit multi-modality degree and was approved by the PCC last month.
- [Merger of Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology with the Department of Physiology and Aging](#)
-- This is a request from the College of Medicine to merge these departments to create one department to be called the Department of Physiology and Aging. Curriculum and degrees will not change but the department structure will.

University Curriculum Committee (UCC) **Tobin Shorey**, Assistant Provost,
Curriculum and Academic Policy

- [BS Construction Management Credit Reduction](#)
-- This is a request from the Rinker School of Construction Management to reduce this degree's credit hours by five credits. It was approved unanimously at the October UCC meeting.

Council Reports

Budget Council **John Kraft**, Chair

- Council's October meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Milton. Council meets next Wednesday.

Infrastructure Council **Selman Hershfield**, Chair

- Council will receive an update in December from Will McDonald, new Senior Director of Transportation and Parking, about Regional Transit System (RTS) negotiations with UF and impacts on campus and local bus routes. Council is reviewing available academic space for faculty or staff who want to reserve space for testing of some kind. Council is exploring what options are out there and what is readily available from the Registrar. [Chair's Report slides](#) were shared at the last council meeting.

Research and Scholarship Council **Ashley Ghiaseddin**, Chair

- Dr. Ghiaseddin cannot attend today but reported that council's October meeting was cancelled.

Welfare Council **Breann Garbas**, Chair

- Council elected Hélène Huet as the spring chair. Breann accepted employment in L.A. but will serve through this semester. Council heard updates from the Compensation & Equity Committee, including on the progress being made on multi-year contracts. Council is conducting faculty service recognition

benchmarking to comparable institutions. Because this was raised with former President Sasse, council has asked Chair Lynne about the request status. Council is also beta testing the online P&T faculty evaluation system for spring 2025 (i.e. not the post tenure review system).

Academic Policy Council

Karen Whalen, Chair

- APC is also participating in the above beta testing and they reviewed the syllabus statement presented by Chair Lynne. Next month council will hear from the Center for Teaching Excellence about textbook affordability. This item may be presented to the full Senate in February.

--Following an inquiry on FARS being individual for each college, Associate Provost Hass relayed that more than half of campus utilizes current FAR system to review their assignments and is used for effort reporting, but many colleges' FAR is not communicating well with the central system, so the new UF Workday will seek to align the systems. There is no new information to share just yet.

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

Sarah Lynne, Chair

- The agenda was approved with the amendment of moving the [Merger of Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology with the Department of Physiology and Aging](#) 'PCC Information Item' to an Information Item under the header of 'Academic Affairs', to be presented by Associate Provost Hass, and to immediately follow Director Dixon's presentation.

Adjournment

Sarah Lynne, Chair

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