

**Senate Steering Committee Minutes**

**September 5, 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

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**Present:** Sarah Lynne, Kent Fuchs, Catherine Striley, Chris Hass, Tobin Shorey, Tom Kelleher, Jeremiah Blanchard, Danaya Wright, Taylor Rose, Amanda Phalin, Breann Garbas, Laurie Bialosky, John Kraft, Selman Hershfield, and Karen Whalen.

**Call to Order**

**Sarah Lynne, Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Sarah Lynne.

**Approve [August 15, 2024 Minutes](#)**

**Sarah Lynne, Chair**

- The minutes were approved.

**Reports**

• **Chair's Report**

**Sarah Lynne, Chair**

- Chair Lynne met w. Interim VP of Business Affairs Brandi Renton and scooters are not allowed inside UF classrooms and residencies or UF buildings. Micromobility devices and UF efforts to keep students' property secure were discussed. Faculty should be assured that hallways are free of clutter and there are no fire hazards in their classroom and research environments.
  - The Steering Committee discussed that electric bikes seem to have increased in popularity recently, resulting in increased issues surrounding them.
  - Food for fines will happen again this year whereby students pay their parking fines by a food donation rather than a monetary fee.
  - The timing of the expiration of and distribution of parking permits were discussed by the committee. There was an inquiry about the potential of creating a new UF parking permit which could accommodate a specific number of visits. Given that class times are different for different units and colleges, this would help in situations such as when nine-month appointment faculty need limited parking; the ability to purchase a 'per visit' (like ten visits) permit would be very helpful to such faculty and students.
  - [May 5, 2022 Presidential Qualities Resolution](#)
  - APC held an August meeting to work on the resolution. All other councils have also been asked to place this on their agendas so members can please obtain as much faculty feedback as possible.
- The committee discussed that the presidential hiring process must be transparent to maintain integrity and that it is helpful to distinguish between what may and what must be done during the hiring process.
- Parliamentarian Taylor Rose noted that the process is largely controlled by Florida statute.
  - Chair Lynne wanted to make the committee aware of this [Letter from ACFS](#) and the issues surrounding it. A complaint was made about a testing item in a textbook used by a State

University System (SUS) adjunct faculty member. This generated concerns that when instructional materials are selected, supplementary materials not utilized by the instructor may contain content such as antisemitic language. This concern may increase with textbook companies utilizing AI to generate supplementary material such as study guides and test bank questions.

- Dialogue related to next steps continues within the ACFS and the Board of Governors (BOG).
- The BOG's proposed process to move forward for SUS materials was to do a focused review.

- **President's Report**

**Kent Fuchs**, Interim President

- The presidential search was discussed. Dr. Fuchs shared his experience as a candidate and emphasized that consideration of the academic leadership structure is important as well as a presidential candidate who has been a success in leading within an academic environment.
- An audit is being conducted of the president's office's expenses in the past year.
- UF has numerous interim and unfilled VP, Dean, and upper-level leadership positions. Dr. Fuchs is communicating with the Board of Trustees (BOT) about the search priorities, including the Sr. VP for Health Affairs.
- Many proposals were received for the president strategic initiatives funds and submissions will be reviewed, including for the 10 x 10 x 10 initiative.
- There is a trustee retreat next week and Dr. Fuchs anticipates that the Presidential Search Committee will commence as early as late this month.
- Dr. Fuchs will need to leave Steering and Senate meetings a bit early to attend an SEC Zoom call which is scheduled for every Thursday at 4:00.
- Responding to committee inquiries about the Jacksonville campus, Dr. Fuchs confirmed that the initiative is moving forward and that he has met with Jacksonville and university officials to review sites and continue talks. Graduate programs are now being launched in the Fall 2026 (as opposed to UF's initial plans of a Fall 2025 launch).
- In response to an inquiry about West Palm Beach, Interim President Fuchs relayed that UF is now looking at downtown Miami space for programs for colleges wishing to expand to this geographical area. The committee discussed the virtues of an extension of the [Brightline](#) high-speed passenger train (for which there are currently no plans) to Gainesville. It now has 150,000 riders per month, and committee members shared that it has greatly simplified travel between Orlando and Miami.
- Dr. Fuchs answered inquiries about NIL business models and its impacts on athletic financial models.

- **Provost's Report**

**Scott Angle**, Provost

- There was no Provost's Report. Dr. Joe Glover will begin service as the Interim Provost tomorrow.

### **Graduate Council**

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

- [Anatomical Sciences Education MS Credit Reduction](#)
- Approved by the Graduate Council, this is a request from the College of Medicine to reduce an existing degree from 32 to 31 credits. A required course was reduced by one credit.
- This item was approved.

- Following process inquiries, the committee discussed shared governance duplication and overlap in curriculum matters. External consults are meant to be collaborative. Chair Lynne noted the importance of recognizing faculty voices. The need to encourage collaboration and the importance of shoring up the role of faculty representatives involved in curriculum review, particularly AI, which will have degree overlap but not duplication, were also discussed.

- [Faculty Senate Bylaw 4 \(C\)\(4\)\(c\)](#) was referenced:

(c) After the presentation of an information item, the presiding officer shall inquire whether the Senate wishes to discuss the materials presented in the information item. Upon an affirmative indication by ten Senators, the matter shall be opened for discussion.

- The committee discussed that it would be helpful to share with Senators and/or curriculum-focused committee members an infographic with the timeline/dates and how they flow through the curriculum structure.

## **Council Reports**

### **Research and Scholarship Council**

**Ashley Ghiaseddin**, Chair

- Dr. Ghiaseddin was traveling today but reported that council meets September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Welfare Council**

**Breann Garbas**, Chair

- Welfare Council meets tomorrow.

### **Academic Policy Council**

**Karen Whalen**, Chair

- APC met August 29 and heard from John Jordi, Instructional Assessment Coordinator, and Alexandra Bitton-Bailey, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence, regarding a GatorEval tool. It screens course evaluations for serious, red flag items, such as mentions of suicide, harassment, etc., which aims to protect students and also provides both pedagogical and legal benefits for UF.

- Chair Lynne visited and they worked on a presidential qualities resolution.

### **Budget Council**

**John Kraft**, Chair

- Budget Council meets next week.

### **Infrastructure Council**

**Selman Hershfield**, Chair

- Meets September 18. Dr. Hershfield discussed the council's past work on issues surrounding UF's power plant and its success in helping reduce the university's carbon footprint. Much of this work was spearheaded and led by past council chair Keith Rambo and continued by the next council chair, Walter O'Dell, who both promoted the Inflation Reduction Act with administration. By the end of the semester, UF will offset 80 percent of their electrical consumption with solar energy. The campus powerplant will utilize thermal energy only and there will be a partnership with Duke Energy for two years. A new UF Climate Action Plan ([CAP 2.0](#)) was also vigorously propelled forward by the UF Sustainability Office and joint committee as well as this council.

- To learn about more campus project updates, a potential October council guest is Cydney McGlothlin, a university architect now serving as Assistant Vice President for UF Planning, Design, & Construction.

- The Steering Committee was encouraged to share these examples of positive changes and impacts made by Faculty Senate shared governance participation and advocacy.

### **Approve [September 19, 2024 Faculty Senate Agenda](#)**

**Sarah Lynne**, Chair

- The agenda was approved.

### **Adjournment**

**Sarah Lynne**, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.