

Senate Steering Committee Minutes

October 2, 2025

3:00 p.m.

226 Tigert Hall, President's Conference Room

or, if needed, via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96528157123?pwd=fgGOHHxdnQiw6KlKBJDKzle3mjmA5Q.1>

Meeting ID: 965 2815 7123

Passcode: 311288

Dial-in: +1 305 224 1968

Present: Luisa Amelia Dempere, Raymond Issa, Chris Hass, Rachel Burnside, Sarah Lynne, Monika Oli, Hannah Vander Zanden, Angie Brown, Elias Eldayrie, Laurie Bialosky, Joseph Glover, Taylor Rose, and Ruth Steiner.

Call to Order - Luisa Amelia Dempere, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Luisa Amelia Dempere.

Approve [September 4, 2025 Minutes](#)

The minutes were approved.

Reports

- **President's Report - Donald W. Landry**, Interim President
There was no President's Report.
- **Provost's Report - Joe Glover**, Interim Provost
The Provost was available for inquiries and will provide a report to Senate.
- **Chair's Report - Luisa Amelia Dempere**, Chair
 - Chair Dempere shared [slides](#) which included UFPD information about blue phone lights and the upcoming Distinguished Professor lecture.
 - The post tenure review audit report was shared with the Faculty College Council/Assembly Chairs, and will be added to the Welfare Council and the Academic Policy Council agendas.
 - The Welfare Council will also discuss safeguarding free expression resolutions from the UF Faculty Senate and the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS). The [ACFS Resolution on Safeguarding Free Expression in the State University System of Florida](#) was approved by ACFS on September 23 and sent to SUS Chancellor Ray Rodrigues and all SUS Faculty Senate Chairs for potential endorsement. The UF Faculty Senate previously approved related resolutions on [Civil Discourse, Free Expression, and Academic Freedom](#) (March 2024) and [Academic Freedom](#) (November 2021). Chair Dempere has shared all of these with UF faculty, and no faculty comments have been received yet.
 - ACFS meets on Monday and updates will be shared at Senate. ACFS topics of discussion include the 45-day syllabi posting policy. If approved by the Board of Governors (BOG) in November, a waiver may be granted for the spring semester.
 - A flow diagram of grievance procedures at UF via the [Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations And Standards \(AFTPRS\) Committee](#) will be shared at Senate.
 - Chair Dempere is meeting with the Sustainability Committee on Tuesday to discuss productive ways to support existing and future sustainability efforts. Updates will follow throughout the year.
 - Past Faculty Senate Chair Lynne will provide an update on Interim Provost Glover's Drafting Committee for the proposed UF Academic Strategic Plan at Senate. A tool for engagement and

contribution to the plan will be announced soon.

- AI initiatives will be shared at Senate.

- Florida Sunshine Law application to Senate and Joint Committees and councils are being reviewed.

- Chair Dempere has been in touch with VP and Chief Enrollment Strategist Mary Parker regarding inquiries received about Florida residency applications and she is meeting with HR regarding the \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas. This is a one-time fee and applies only to new visas and not anything filed before September 21, 2025.

- The College of Medicine Faculty College Council supported a resolution regarding vaccine essentiality and safety and standards of medical practice. They approached Faculty Senate to support the information contained in their forthcoming white paper. Any new information will be included in the Senate Chair's report.

Empowering UF - Elias Eldayrie, Chief Information Officer

- CIO Eldayrie has been visiting around campus to share and answer inquiries about all the elements of Empower UF. He and his team have made over 100 presentations across campus. Many UF IT systems have reached their maximum lifespan. All 16 colleges and all UF centers will be impacted, and this is to be a one UF system for all. There will be a main campus and a UF Health system. CIO Eldayrie also reviewed the guiding principles to transform UF business processes and will focus on best practices. Which systems integrations will stay are being reviewed. Many companion projects have already begun and a timeline of them and the core system implementation was shown and discussed.

Graduate Council - Tom Kelleher, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

- Close PhD w/ a Major in Communication Sciences & Disorders

Graduate Council has approved this proposal to close the doctoral program in Communication Sciences & Disorders. The PhD program in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) ended with the merging of two departments; Department of CSD of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of Speech Language and Hearing Sciences of the College of Public Health and Health Professions (PHHP). After the merger of the two departments, PHHP offered an interdisciplinary college level program in Rehabilitation Science for students in doctoral education. No students have been enrolled in the doctoral program in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

UCRC - Rachel Burnside, Chair, University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC)

UCRC Lightings of New/Updated UF Policies and Proposed Regulations

- The Committee discussed the updated and new UF policies and the regulations proposed for BOT consideration which were lit by UCRC yesterday and on September 10th. These [will be summarized for Faculty Senators to easily view the UCRC's assigned lights and administrative categories](#) and shared via slides at October 16th Senate.

- Regulation inquiries can be submitted to the 'responsible administrator' noted in each regulation or to the contact listed at the bottom of each page of the regulation / policy posted at the [UF Regulation and Policy Hub](#). Although specific text changes are not listed/'red-lined' the history of a policy's update is viewable at the foot of each policy page. When an existing policy is updated, General Counsel works to remove all the various postings of obsolete policies. The Steering Committee discussed the need for faculty, administration and employees to be aware of and visit the policy and regulations hub for new information and updates.

Council Reports

Infrastructure Council - Jason von Meding, Chair

- Dr. von Meding is unable to attend today due to a schedule conflict, but submitted a [council report](#).

Research and Scholarship Council - Hannah Vander Zanden, Chair

- Last month Dr. Vander Zanden and Chair Dempere met with VP of Research David Norton regarding potential research topics for council to explore this academic year, including the disconnect with graduate students over the summer concerning: grant payments and tuition and their roles as RA's.

- It was noted that UF Chief Negotiator Patrick Deegan is an appropriate contact to speak to regarding the appointments of RA's and adherence to contracts, etc. with the UF Graduate Assistants United (GAU).

Academic Policy Council - Monika Oli, Chair

- Topics being discussed by council this semester include the 45 days syllabus posting policy, the textbook attestation and adoption processes, UF AI Blue Sky Visioning Taskforce follow ups, faculty microcredentials/badging through the Center for Teaching Excellence and use of [Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#) to support faculty and connect to national resources, GatorEvals Committee proposal updates, and follow ups on the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation and the Faculty Insights, Excellence and Advancement (FEA) system at UF.

Approve [October 16 2025 Faculty Senate Agenda](#) - Luisa Amelia Dempere, Chair

- The agenda was approved as amended to include an updated UCRC link displaying the UCRC's assigned lights and administrative categories.

Adjournment - Luisa Amelia Dempere, Chair

- The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.