

Budget Council Minutes
February 14, 2020
Tigert 226
2 p.m.

Present: Ray Thomas, Ashley Ghiaseddin, Keith Schneider, Lauren Solberg, and Mei-Fang Lan, and George Kolb.

1. Call to Order

-The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m.

2. Approve January 31, 2020 Minutes

-The minutes were approved.

3. Childcare/Early Learning Facilities Update - Ray G. Thomas, Faculty Senate Chair

-The Faculty Senate Chair previously met with Dr. Stacy Ellis, Director of Baby Gator Child Development and Research Center, and they discussed the childcare center in Diamond Village. One reason for expansion of services is due to long wait times for faculty/staff to have their child accepted into Baby Gator. However, cost is an issue of expansion. In October 2019, Ray met with Dr. Patricia Snyder, Director of the Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies, and they discussed childcare services for the community at large as well. Previous discussions focused on the early childhood collaboration at [Innovation Square](#) which was initially meant to be a University/city of Gainesville collaboration, but no further discussions have been had.

4. Chair's Report/Council Speakers Updates

-Dr. Winn Phillips is the planned guest for the next council meeting and will discuss sustainability and divestment. In addition, the Faculty Senate Chair relayed information from a recent university conference at which Andrew Winden, UF Associate Professor of Law, discussed Corporate Securities and, specifically, the quality of data that companies are required to disclose regarding their investments (i.e. sustainable versus high energy consumers.) He discussed variability in quality and lack of oversight. The Senate or council chairs may consider reaching out to Andrew to gauge his interest in meeting with Budget Council in the future to give his thoughts on feasibility for sustainability and divestment.

-In April, council would like to hear legislative updates from Mark Kaplan, VP for Government and Community Relations, or from a Human Resources representative or the Compensation Committee to provide an update of retirement and healthcare plans (in the context of comparisons to peer universities.)

-Regarding the self-sustainability of the pre-eminence initiative, the Faculty Senate Chair met with the Provost, who relayed that the program has been successful. Senior faculty recruited under the pre-eminence initiative had brought with them significant funding which appears to have persisted since transitioning to UF with no significant decline in the funding from the top principal investigators. Research dollars have increased, and the program is likely a main factor in UF's rise in national rankings.

-Regarding a previous council inquiry about the proposed research building adjacent the

Harrell Medical Education building, council chair will ask Dr. Mark Segal the status of this building as well as the funding source.

-The Faculty Senate Chair also shared that preliminary discussion is being held within the Florida Legislature to consider the merging of [Florida Polytechnic University \(FPU\)](#) with UF, although no other information is available at this time.

5. Liaison Report/Updates

-There were no new liaison updates.

6. Adjournment

-The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.