

Budget Council Minutes

November 20, 2020

3:00 p.m.

via Zoom:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94496464311?pwd=d1pWb3dDRDFLN1d1SIBuRkdEUEIHUT09>

Present: Ashley Ghiaseddin, Keith Schneider, George Kolb, Kevin Trejos, Lauren Solberg, Ariel Pomputius, Laurie Bialosky, and Mei-Fang Lan.

1. Call to Order

-The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Budget Council Chair Ashely Ghiaseddin.

2. Approval of October 16, 2020 Minutes

-The minutes were approved.

3. Chair Updates and Council Discussion

-The Florida legislature has placed a six percent hold for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and any surplus hold-back funds would be returned by June 30.

-Faculty Senate met yesterday. Dr. David Nelson, UF Health President and Sr. VP for Health Affairs, presented information about plans for Spring 2021 return to classes, including use of test and trace, a HyFlex model of teaching; testing of higher risk student populations; and the continued usage of the workplace and classroom safety practices of social distancing, hand-washing, and masking.

-The [updates to the university's furlough policy](#) was also discussed at Faculty Senate yesterday, with a presentation and Q&A by Jodi Gentry, VP of Human Resources.

- The nomination period to self-nominate or nominate a colleague for Faculty-at-large membership to University [Joint Committees](#), University [Presidential Committees](#), and [Faculty Senate Committees](#) is open through January 31. Please encourage your colleagues to submit this [nomination form](#). Only [current Faculty Senators](#) are eligible for membership on the [Faculty Senate Steering Committee](#) and the five [Senate Policy Councils](#), including Budget Council. Mei-Fang Lan and Keith Schneider are rolling off council this cycle (i.e. term ends May 2021).

4. Agenda Updates

-Andrew Winden, UF Associate Professor of Law, will attend the next council meeting to discuss environmentally responsible investment metrics and usage in the financial sector.

-UF Executive Chief of Staff, Dr. Win Phillips will be invited to the January meeting; if unavailable he will be invited for February. Council seeks information about responsible investments by the university and how to achieve its campus carbon neutrality goal. A [previous minutes link](#) was referenced regarding council's earlier sustainability/investments conversation on this subject:

<http://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//73///2020->

[2021//Budget%20council%20minutes%20Sept.18.2020.pdf](http://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs//73///2020-2021//Budget%20council%20minutes%20Sept.18.2020.pdf) (i.e. bottom of page two.)

-An overview of the UF Foundation (UFF) and its funding can be provided by David Christie, UFF Assistant Vice President/CFO, who will be invited to the February meeting. Inquires council wishes for him to address include:

What are the goals of the Foundation? How are funds obtained and how do they get used? How are gifts handled? What costs are related to having a Foundation and what are success stories? What are national benchmarks? How does the strength of our Foundation, Return on Investment (ROI) compare to both peer institutions and Top 5 public institutions?

-Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations, will be invited for the meeting in April, when there will be a clearer picture from the Florida legislature regarding budgetary priorities. Items to address include the university budget, the status of the 6% holdback, and what faculty expectations for the 2202-23 fiscal years should be.

-The March council meeting will be a flex date in which council will obtain more information about:

--the Artificial Intelligence/UF 100 hiring initiative from Provost Glover.

--any updates regarding retirement benefits following the [1/25/18 report](#) presented by 2017-8 Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. David Quillen. Has anything been done to improve or move the needle to address our 59/60 ranking? The ability to make a change in retirement options may fall under the purview of Welfare Council or Compensation Committee.

-Council discussed the source of retirement funding. Similar to raise funds, each pot of money helps fund retirement, including state dollars and grant, foundation, clinical, auxiliary funding sources. Approximately half of UF's salaries are state-funded. An update on retirement benefits from Human Resources could be requested for March although the more relevant conversation regarding may take place in the Compensation Committee or the Welfare Council.

5. Adjournment

-The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.