

SENATE ACADEMIC FREEDOM UPDATES

1) UF Faculty Senate *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Freedom

We formed a special *ad hoc* committee on Academic Freedom. The charge of this special *ad hoc* committee is to gather information and report back to the Faculty Senate on UF practices that affect the ability of UF faculty to engage in outside activities that are normally accepted as appropriate scholarly activities of university faculty. This includes, but is not limited to, expert witness engagement, writing of op ed pieces, and consulting.

This special Senate Committee is separate from the President's Task Force on Expert Witness engagements. The Senate committee will consider outside activities of faculty in a broader context to reflect the range of concerns over academic freedom that we are hearing from faculty across the campus.

Committee Members:

R. Raymond Issa, Chair (Distinguished Professor and Director, Center for Advanced Construction Information Modeling, Rinker School of Construction Management)

Danaya Wright (T. Terrell Sessums and Gerald Sohn Professor in Constitutional Law, College of Law and former Faculty Senate Chair)

Sarah Lynne (Associate Professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, IFAS)

Michael Bernhard (Raymond and Miriam Ehrlich Eminent Scholar Chair, Department of Political Science, CLAS)

Robert Cousins (Eminent Scholar and Boston Family Professor of Nutrition, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, IFAS)

Angela Kohnen (Associate Professor, School of Teaching and Learning, College of Education)

SENATE ACADEMIC FREEDOM UPDATES

2) UF Faculty Senate *ad hoc* Committee on the Dr. Ladapo Hiring Process

We formed a special *ad hoc* committee on Academic Freedom. The charge of this special ad hoc committee is to gather information and report to the Faculty Senate on whether hiring practices used in the hiring of Dr. Joseph Ladapo into the Department of Medicine in the UF College of Medicine were inconsistent with practices used in the College of Medicine to hire other clinical faculty. As you probably are aware from the press attention that this hiring has received, Dr. Ladapo has also been nominated to be Florida's Surgeon General. There have been allegations in the press that Dr. Ladapo's hiring was accelerated and did not receive the normal faculty input that similar hires receive and the goal of this committee is to shed light on this question in an open and transparent manner.

Committee Members:

Richard Scholtz, Ph.D., Chair (Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, IFAS)

Katie Vogel Anderson, Pharm.D. (Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacotherapy & Translational Research, COP; former Chair of UF Faculty Senate)

Chris Giordano, M.D. (Associate Professor and Division Chief, Liver Transplantation, COM)

Maureen Novak, M.D. (Professor, Department of Pediatrics, COM)

Nila Radhakrishnan, M.D. (Associate Professor, Department of Hospital Medicine, COM)

Ruth Steiner, Ph.D. (Professor and Director, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, CDCP)

UPDATE FROM THE DECEMBER BOT MEETING

“Finally, coming back to our discussions yesterday regarding improving UF faculty’s reputation, it is critical to note that outside activity and consulting is an important component of our faculty’s reputation. The visibility of our faculty being sought after for this work establishes our faculty as thought leaders in their respective fields. It is important to not only protect the ability of our faculty to engage in these activities, but actually to encourage them.

Therefore, I look forward to working with the administration going forward to implement and improve our processes so that our faculty are able to perform scholarly and research activities without undue restrictions or regulatory burden so that we are able to compete on the same playing field as faculty at our peer institutions.”

From Senate Chair Report, BOT Committee on Academic, Faculty and Student Success, Public Relations and Strategic Planning, BOT Meeting Friday, December 3, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us at 5 pm for the 2nd lecture in the Distinguished Professor Lecture Series:

Presenter: W. Robert Knechel

Director, International Accounting and Auditing Center

Distinguished Professor and Frederick E. Fisher Eminent Scholar in Accounting

Senior Editor, *The Accounting Review*

Fisher School of Accounting

Warrington College of Business

“Who Do You Trust? Accounting and the (Political) Economy”

Nominations remain open to all faculty for University Committees and Councils.

Closes January 31. The nomination form is available on the Faculty Senate website. [Committee Service FAQ Sheet](#) is located @ <http://senate.ufl.edu/about/>.