

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2024**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Reitz Union Rion Ballroom - East**

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Channel/8456cbab10b449868436ee51ddb84dc45f/watch/583b009ba8614d3792b0d2c20d4f31fb1d>

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**Call to Order**

**Sarah Lynne, Chair**

**& Approval of [June 21, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes](#)**

- The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Faculty Senate Chair Sarah Lynne and the minutes were approved.

**Welcome**

**Kent Fuchs, Interim President**  
University of Florida

- Dr. Fuchs has been serving as Interim President for three weeks and, in lieu of the traditional State of the University Address, provided welcome remarks, and asked faculty to work to ensure that classrooms, labs, clinic, extension offices, etc. convey an atmosphere of caring, listening, and learning, particularly within the context of potential continued national and global tumult this fall. He is in discussions with the Board of Trustees regarding filling the large number of interim university leadership positions and is reviewing and assessing the large number of initiatives and requests for funding proposals began by former President Ben Sasse. His vision will focus on providing university infrastructure resources and he has tasked Drs. Scott Angle, David Nelson, and David Norton, and CFO Taylor Jantz to review submitted academic proposals. Dr. Fuchs attended the new student convocation yesterday and looks forward to the semester. He also answered inquiries and received comments about funding to increase road safety around campus; clarifying outside faculty activities; and the new presidential search.

**Reports:**

- [Chair's Report](#)

**Sarah Lynne, Chair**

- Chair Lynne welcomed the faculty and shared her experiences as a faculty member and an undergraduate student. She presented a general overview of the UF administrative structure most aligned with faculty job assignments, requested faculty feedback on the update to the [May 5, 2022 Presidential Qualities Resolution](#), and summarized the Board of Trustees (BOT) meetings she attended, including accepting Dr. Sasse's resignation as UF President, approving the appointment of Dr. Fuchs as Interim President, and approving a merit-based raise pool which equates to an average 4% increase in base salaries for out-of-unit state funded faculty, a merit-based raise pool which equates to an average 3.75% increase in base salaries for staff, and a bonus pool that will allocate a one-time bonus payment of \$10,000 to faculty members who received an "exceeds expectation" from the Post Tenure Review process. The CBA will bargain the in-unit faculty raise. The BOT also voted to approve an early admissions calendar for top students so that they can receive earlier admission offer letters and help UF be competitive with competing peer institutions.
- Chair Lynne will work closely this year with VP of HR Melissa Curry and UF Trustee Patrick Zalupski to expand access to high quality child care through Baby Gator.

- Chair Lynne thanked Provost Scott Angle for his service and leadership during a critical period at the university.
- Chair Lynne reviewed the Faculty Senate attendance policy and voting procedures and protocol for both Designated Off-site Senators whose offices are located elsewhere in the state of Florida and for Faculty Senators requesting remote participation when absolutely necessary.
- Nominations are open for Honorary Degrees this month:
  - Due October 1<sup>st</sup>. The [Call for Nominations Form](https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Committees/Honorary-Degrees-and-Distinguished-Awards-Committee) web link and email announcement is posted on the Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Awards Committee web page @: <https://fora.aa.ufl.edu/FacultySenate/Committees/Honorary-Degrees-and-Distinguished-Awards-Committee>.
- UF has named [ten Distinguished Professors](#) this academic year and Faculty Senate will host a lecture by each. Updates regarding each lecture's location, date, and reception details will be shared when confirmed.
- Chair Lynne thanked Brandi Renton, Interim VP, Business Affairs, for co-sponsoring the reception immediately following adjournment in Rion Ballroom – West.

### **Provost's Report**

**Scott Angle**, Provost

- This is Provost Angle's last Senate meeting before returning to his role as UF/IFAS Sr. VP for Agriculture and Natural Resources. He thanked the faculty, shared his perspectives on his term and is engaging with incoming Interim Provost Joe Glover, who begins September 6. There are \$120 million of funding requests for the 10x10x10 and other strategic initiatives initiated by Dr. Sasse. About \$40 million will be allocated for university infrastructure (for people and places to increase UF's growth capacity and not for specific research proposals).
- The raises mentioned by Chair Lynne will be funded centrally rather than by individual units.
- The Marston Library will remain open at night 24/5.
- The Sr. VP of Health Affairs and the CALS Dean's searches have both been narrowed to approximately five candidates each and updates will be provided as the searches move forward.
- 7,412 new students from all 50 states and 80 countries were welcomed to campus today for the first day of classes. Over 9,000 students have also moved into the residential halls.
- Nearly 3,000 students graduated this summer and Hamilton Center Professor Paul Lim provided the Commencement address.
- Provost Angle shared HyperGator updates and UF's AI initiatives, including those spearheaded by Dr. David Reed, Associate Provost for Strategic Initiatives. UF was named the #1 AI University in the country.
- The Jacksonville graduate campus is progressing, with several programs starting in 2025.
- 24 new Hamilton Center faculty were hired, many with tenure; hiring continues as does its national reputation of excellence.
- Provost Angle's post-tenure review (PTR) op-ed will be published this week. He shared the PTR data and commented on post tenure review. He sees this process as a way to protect tenure, especially given that tenure is under scrutiny nationally; this provided an opportunity to reassure the tax-paying public that they receive value from this institution. UF was a stand-out in the State University System (SUS) in following this law in a serious and meaningful way. Provost Angle made final decisions based on unit's established and codified criteria. He provided SUS context, including that, for example, FSU asked for volunteers to undergo their post-tenure review; no negative results were then reported, with every volunteer 'passing'. UF's post-tenure review outcome was that 83 percent reviewed met or exceeded expectations; 15 percent does not (and needs improvement/can remediate via a performance improvement plan), and five faculty failed

the review.

- Provost Angle answered follow-up PTR inquiries and responded to inquiries about how to increase support to the university's research mission and grants infrastructure.

## Action Items:

### Graduate Council

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

#### - [Genetics and Genomics MS Credit Reduction](#)

- The College of Medicine requests a reduction from 33 to 30 credits for the Genetics and Genomics MS degree. This better aligns this major with a traditional Master of Sciences 30-credits degree.
- This item was unanimously approved.

### University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

**Tobin Shorey**, Assistant Provost,  
Curriculum and Academic Policy

#### - [Change The Common Prerequisites Manual \(CPM\) Approval Process](#)

- This is a proposal to remove the 'Faculty Senate approval' vote on common pre-requisite manual additions. The current practice of adding common prerequisites approvals to Faculty Senate agendas represents a merely ministerial action; such items currently exist to notify the BOT of a program update or change in prerequisites which then goes to the BOG for placement in the manual established by the BOG and there are no substantive changes to any programs. Removing this item from the Senate agenda and approval process will streamline and encourage departments to bring their program manuals up to date.
- This item carried, with two opposed.

## Information Items:

### Graduate Council

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

#### - [MS in AI in Biomedical and Health Sciences](#)

- This is a proposal approved by the Graduate Council in June for a new, 30 credit MS in AI in Biomedical and Health Sciences. It will be a Jacksonville program run by UF faculty and has three options, including a thesis and non-thesis option.
- A motion to move this item from an Information Item to an Action Item carried with the required 2/3 vote.
- A motion to approve the MS in AI in Biomedical and Health Sciences was made and seconded.
- Professor Elizabeth Palmer was present to answer inquiries and, following discussion, a motion to table the MS in AI in Biomedical and Health Sciences and bring it back to the Senate floor next month as an Action Item carried.

## Open Discussion from Senate Floor - *Three-minute limit per speaker.*

### 1) University of Florida Faculty Senators

- Senator Catherine Striley (GROUP 1) requested that Faculty Senate provide an update on UFGO.
- Senator Hal Knowles (DCP) advocated for better integration of schedules of courses, catalogues, pre-requisites, and other essential digital academic infrastructure. Senator Jeremiah Blanchard (ENG) replied with support. Chair Lynne recognized VP of Jacksonville Programs Kurt Dudas who discussed academic approval timelines and priorities.
- Senator Judi Shade Monk (DCP) commented on the Presidential Qualities resolution and the need for strong faculty engagement and representation during the presidential selection

process.

- Associate Provost of Faculty & Academic Affairs Chris Hass responded to the below inquiries:
- Senator Jeannine Brady (DENT) inquired about how unit Promotion & Tenure Committees metrics and processes integrate with UF PTR.
- Senator Hannah Vander Zanden (CLAS) inquired about CLAS' 7-year sustained faculty performance reviews and UF PTR integration.
- Senator Valeria Kleiman (CLAS) relayed experiences with unit faculty reviews and inquired about PTR criteria, outcomes, and potential future codifications.
- Senator Megan Butala (ENG) discussed UF's university resource distribution, particularly relative to peer institutions, and advocated for increased (and positive) staff support for faculty to fulfill their professional missions.
- Senator John Mendoza-Garcia (ENG) inquired about rolling multi-year contracts.
- Senator Ben Smith (CLAS) inquired about increased compensation for instructional faculty which would be similar to that of the PTR reviewees who 'exceeded expectations'.

## **2) University of Florida Faculty**

- Zhengfei Guan, (UF/IFAS) called attention to and expressed concerns about [SB 846](#), post-tenure review, and implications on academic freedom, including their impacts on both faculty and on university leadership.
- Associate Provost of Faculty & Academic Affairs Chris Hass responded to the below inquiry:
  - Breann Garbas ([MED] and current Welfare Council Chair) inquired about post-tenure review and annual faculty review processes.

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

## **Attending**

### *Senators*

Jose F. Abisambra  
Tim Altmeyer  
Christopher James Anthony  
Tracy Ashby  
Ali Ataya  
Lisa Athearn  
Kelly Balmant  
Eban Bean  
Marguerite Beckford  
Lauren Berkow  
Jeremiah J. Blanchard  
Victor Blanco  
Eleni Bozia  
L. Jeannine Brady  
Sarah Brunnig  
Megan Butala  
Michael A. Carrillo  
Nico Cellinese  
Konstantina  
Christodoulopoulou  
Sandra Citty  
Mayra L Cordero  
Cynda Crawford  
Lina Cui  
Paul Davenport  
Carol Demas  
Luisa (Amelia) Dempere  
Randell Doty  
James Essegbey  
Gayle Nelson Evans  
Jeanne Ewert  
Sara Moscovita Falzarano  
Michael Feely  
Ifigeneia Giannadaki  
Frank Gibson  
Alexandre Gomes De Siqueira  
Vivian E. Gonsalves  
Rachel L. Grant  
Robert L. Hatch  
Selman Hershfield  
Emily Hind  
Carolyn Holland  
Flora Iff-Noel  
Jill Ingram  
Raymond Issa  
Sarah Rajkumari Jayasekaran  
Frederick 'Rick' Kates  
Habibeh Khoshbouei

Valeria Kleiman  
Hal S. Knowles  
Jaclyn Kropp  
Jason Kruse  
Yu Hao Lee  
Chenglong Li  
Mengyu Li  
Lin Liu  
Ashley MacSuga-Gage  
John Alexander Mendoza-  
Garcia  
Don Monk  
Judi Shade Monk  
Christine T. Myers  
John K. Neubert  
Nigel Newbutt  
Ashlee Ossiboff  
David Outerbridge  
Jorg Peters  
Mario Poceski  
Ruchir Puri  
Courtney M. Pyche  
Heidi Radunovich  
Czerne Reid  
Cheryl Resch  
Alison Reynolds  
Esther F. Romeyn  
David Gaddis Ross  
Eleonora Rossi  
Daniel A. Rubin  
Peter Sayeski  
Jodi Schorb  
Marie Nancy Seraphin  
Jinnie Shin  
Catia Silva  
Benjamin Smith  
Edward L. Stanley  
Svetlana Stepchenkova  
Adam Wayne Stern  
Catherine Striley  
Imanol Suarez-Palma  
R James Toussaint  
Anastasia M. Ulanowicz  
Pilar Useche  
Asoo Vakharia  
Hannah Vander Zanden  
Tripti Vashisth  
Jason von Meding  
Cynthia Willming

Stefanie Wulff  
Sabrina Wyatt  
Feifei Xiao  
Jing Zhao  
Xin Zhao

### *Student Senators*

Austin B. Edwards  
Antonio Hendricks  
Ali Mahmoudi  
Emma Putnam  
Kevin Senior

### *Liaisons*

J. Scott Angle  
Kurt Dudas  
Kent Fuchs  
Breann Garbas  
Christopher Hass  
Douglas S. Jones  
Tom Kelleher  
John Kraft  
Forrest Masters  
David Norton  
Taylor Rose  
Nicole Stedman  
Tobin (Toby) Shorey  
Danaya Wright

### *Guests*

Hans van Oostrom  
Pamela Dickrell  
Kimberly Driscoll