Resolution 2019-2020-24 Formation of the UCF Council

Whereas, in an institution of over 70,000 members, there inevitably arise concerns that could be resolved easily if heard by those able to resolve them; and

Whereas, in an institution of over 70,000 members, it can be difficult for such concerns to reach those who can resolve them; and

Whereas, in an institution of over 70,000 members, people naturally coalesce towards the separation of constituencies among whom communication is important; and

Whereas, awareness of the concerns of other constituencies can positively influence decisions; and

Whereas, a free exchange of ideas and a fair hearing of concerns is critical to the functioning of any healthy institution; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the UCF Council be formed, to provide a public venue at which any constituency within UCF can raise concerns and make suggestions that will be heard by the other constituencies.

The UCF Council shall consist of the following: Chair of the UCF Board of Trustees, President, Provost, Faculty Senate Chair, Faculty Union President, Staff Council President, Graduate Student Association President, and Student Government Association President. To ensure the open exchange of ideas and a fair hearing of concerns, all members of the Council speak with equal voice.

The Council shall meet monthly during the academic year. Each meeting shall be led by one of the members, in rotation. Members are to attend personally, and not by representation, unless on family or medical leave or unavoidable travel. To ensure maximum participation, the meeting time and location will be coordinated by the Administrative Assistant to the UCF Faculty Senate. Meetings shall be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.

The standard agenda for each meeting will contain, in order, approval of minutes, time for public comments, time for reports on action items from the previous meetings, 45 minutes devoted to the leader, and time for facilitated discussion of concerns brought by members. In the section devoted to the leader, the leader may speak, arrange for presentations by others, host a conversation among members, hold an open discussion including audience members, cede the time to the subsequent facilitated discussion, shorten the time, or otherwise use the time for the benefit of UCF, in their sole discretion.

Prior to the adjournment of each meeting, the leader will review a brief summary of items covered in the discussion and also identify, with participant assistance, any items that the group has agreed will need further action, recording which entities agree to address the issues and report their progress at the following meeting(s).
Meetings of the Council are to be held during business hours and on the main campus. They are open meetings, recorded and streamed live, with minutes taken. Each meeting’s time, location, and agenda must be announced at least two weeks before the meeting by the Administrative Assistant to the UCF Faculty Senate.

Approved by the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance on February 24, 2020.
Approved by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee on March 5, 2020.
Approved by the Faculty Senate on March 19, 2020.