



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate

Agenda for meeting of Thursday, December 07, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Location: In person at the Charge on Chamber, Student Union, Room 340

For those unable to make the in person meeting due to travel, location, or health issues, there is a Zoom option:

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/99733123673?pwd=NUd0b051dVVPMDZBazYwdVgzeW95UT09>

Passcode: 476883

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics:
3. Approval of Minutes of *November 2nd, 2023*
4. Recognition of Guests
5. Announcements and Report of the Senate Chair
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Provost
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
 - a) Consideration and Vote of a Bylaws Resolution forwarded by Steering Committee on October 19, 2023
 - i) Resolution 2023-2024-3 Bylaws Amendment: Commencements, Convocations and Recognition Committee Membership
 - b) Report from the Faculty Senate Chair regarding action taken by the Steering Committee
 - i) Resolution 2023-2024-5 BOG Regulation 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures
10. Committee Reports
 - a) B&A Committee: Keri Watson, Chair of B&A Committee
 - b) IT Committee: Glenn Martin, Chair of IT Committee
 - c) Personnel Committee: Karol Lucken, Chair of Personnel Committee
 - d) Research Committee: Linda Walters, Chair of Research Council
 - e) Graduate Council: Danny Seigler, Steering Liaison for Graduate Council
 - f) Undergraduate Council: Tina Chiarelli, Chair of UCRC, Steering Liaison for Undergraduate Council
11. Campus Climate Report:
 - a) New Academic Success Coach Program
 - i) Paul Dosal, Senior Vice President for Student Success
12. Other Business
13. Adjournment

Resolution 2023-2024-3
Bylaws Amendment Resolution
Commencements, Convocations and Recognition Committee Membership

Whereas, the Commencements, Convocations and Recognition Committee duties and responsibilities include, amongst other things, evaluation for emeritus status, honorary degrees, posthumous degrees, and other related awards; and

Whereas, the Commencements, Convocations and Recognition Committee was first established when the only faculty in the Faculty Senate and the only faculty eligible for emeritus status were tenured faculty; and

Whereas, non-tenure track faculty are now eligible to serve as senators of the faculty senate and are also eligible for the award of emeritus status; and

Whereas, the experience of a broad array of faculty is beneficial to understanding the full range of the duties and responsibilities of the Commencements, Convocations and Recognition Committee; therefore

Be it Resolved, to amend the Faculty Bylaws to remove the Commencements, Convocations and Recognition Committee membership requirement that faculty from the academic units must be tenured; and

Be it Further Resolved, to amend the Membership section of the Faculty Bylaws of the Commencements, Convocations and Recognition Committee to state *“The committee shall consist of one faculty member from each academic unit selected by the Committee on Committees, (in consultation with the president), two students selected by the president of the Student Government Association (in consultation with the president) and the president and the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs or their designees. All faculty committee members must be faculty holding the rank of associate professor or professor, associate or senior instructor, associate or senior lecturer, associate or university librarian, or associate or senior instructional designer. The president (or designee) shall identify other ex officio members. The chair is appointed annually by the president from the faculty membership. The vice chair shall be elected annually by its membership at the first meeting of the committee after the new Faculty Senate is elected, normally in the early fall term. Terms of service shall be two years, staggered, with the exception of the student members, who shall serve for one year.*
“

COMMENCEMENTS, CONVOCATIONS, AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

CURRENT

The committee shall consist of **one tenured faculty member** from each academic unit, **and one Associate or University Librarian** selected by the Committee on Committees (in consultation with the president), two students selected by the president of the Student Government Association (in consultation with the president) and the president and the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs or their designees. The president (or designee) shall identify other ex officio members. The chair is appointed annually by the president from the faculty membership. The vice chair shall be elected annually by its membership at the first meeting of the committee after the new Faculty Senate is elected, normally in the early fall term. Terms of service shall be two years, staggered, with the exception of the student members, who shall serve for one year.

PROPOSED

The committee shall consist of **one faculty member** from each academic unit selected by the Committee on Committees, (in consultation with the president), two students selected by the president of the Student Government Association (in consultation with the president) and the president and the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs or their designees. **All faculty committee members must be faculty holding the rank of associate professor or professor, associate or senior instructor, associate or senior lecturer, associate or university librarian, or associate or senior instructional designer.** The president (or designee) shall identify other ex officio members. The chair is appointed annually by the president from the faculty membership. The vice chair shall be elected annually by its membership at the first meeting of the committee after the new Faculty Senate is elected, normally in the early fall term. Terms of service shall be two years, staggered, with the exception of the student members, who shall serve for one year.

Resolution 2023-2024-5
Board of Governors **Regulation 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures**

Whereas, the **First Amendment of the United States Constitution** states:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”; and

Whereas, the Board of Governors **Regulation 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures**, may prohibit universities, student-led organizations, and people working within and/or attending the State University System from exercising their duty to educate and train students and/or to support student led organizations that may engage in advocacy to effect *“change to a government policy, action, or function”*; and

Whereas, Appendix A State University System of Florida **Statement of Free Expression** was approved by the Board of Governors on April 15, 2019, and states, in part:

“A fundamental purpose of an institution of higher education is to provide a learning environment where divergent ideas, opinions, and philosophies, new and old, can be rigorously debated and critically evaluated. Through this process, often referred to as the marketplace of ideas, individuals are free to express any ideas and opinions they wish, even if others may disagree with them or find those ideas and opinions to be offensive or otherwise antithetical to their own worldview. The very process of debating divergent ideas and challenging others' opinions develops the intellectual skills necessary to respectfully argue through civil discourse. Development of such skills leads to personal and scholarly growth and is an essential component of each of our institutions' academic and research missions.

It is equally important not to stifle the dissemination of any ideas, even if other members of our community may find those ideas abhorrent. Individuals wishing to express ideas with which others may disagree must be free to do so without fear of being bullied, threatened, or silenced. This does not mean that such ideas should go unchallenged, as that is part of the learning process. And though we believe all members of our campus communities have a role to play in promoting civility and mutual respect in that type of discourse, we must not let concerns over civility or respect be used as a reason to silence expression. We should empower and enable one another to speak and listen, rather than interfere with or silence the open expression of ideas”; and

Whereas, the Board of Governors **Regulation 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures** will stifle the discussion and consideration of speech required as described in the Board of Governor’s **Statement of Free Expression** relating to *“race, color, sex, national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation”*, speech *“with a purpose of effecting or preventing change to a government policy, action, or function, or any activity intended to achieve a*

desired result related to social issues”, and speech on “topics that polarize or divide society among political, ideological, moral or religious beliefs”; and

Whereas the Board of Governors **Regulation 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures** is imprecisely worded and ambiguous about what activities are likely to be interpreted as attempts *"to equalize or increase outcomes, participation or representation"* or student activities or organizations, or university programs, that aim to *“achieve a desired result related to social issues”*, which may inadvertently intimidate or discourage activities that are protected by academic freedom or by the **First Amendment of the United States Constitution**; therefore

Be It Resolved, that University of Central Florida Faculty Senate urges the Board of Governors to revise **Regulation 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures** so that the definitions within the Regulation, when combined with the expenditure prohibitions of the Regulation, no longer conflict with the **First Amendment of the United States Constitution**, or the Board of Governors’ own **Statement of Free Expression**; and

Be It Further Resolved, that University of Central Florida Faculty Senate urges the Board of Governors to revise **Regulation 9.016 Prohibited Expenditures** so that the State University System institutions can freely support their Board of Governor-approved and Board of Trustee-approved Missions and Strategic Plans, which focus in large part on supporting the success of the more than 430,000 diverse students across the State University System.