



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate
Committee Reports
February 17, 2022

Budget and Administrative Committee

Chair – Tina Buck; Vice Chair – Adam Wells

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

No update

Information Technology Committee

Chair – Glenn Martin; Vice Chair – Lee Dotson; Steering/Senate Liaison – Joseph Harrington

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

February 8, 2022

Committee met for about an hour. Discussion primarily focused on the mass e-mail policy and a process/policy for evaluating software in the common good with a review of information collected from other institutions. In addition, the committee discussed opportunities for training and workshops available with existing software licenses to maximize use and the impact of the Open Records Law on few-seat software purchases.

Personnel Committee

Chair – Edwin Torres; Vice Chair – Adam Parrish

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

February 2022

The Personnel Committee met twice over the past four weeks (January 19 and February 9) to discuss issues akin to its mission. During the January 19 committee the committee engaged in a discussion on the exit and stay interviews at UCF and members voiced several suggestions on how to improve the process. A draft resolution has been prepared and will be given consideration towards the end of February. The committee also talked about the process of faculty involvement in hiring. Following relevant discussions with stakeholders, a resolution is being drafted (separate from the resolution on exit interviews) and will be given consideration towards the end of February. During our last meeting (February 9), we invited the SVP Hector and Provost Johnson to discuss budget-related issues and their impact faculty salary increases, the impact of inflation on wage erosion, and the prospect for the university to raise its revenues in the coming years. The session took the format of a question-and-answer session. The committee will reflect on the information given and continue discussion in the coming meetings. The next meeting of the personnel committee is scheduled for February 23, 2022.

Research Council

Chair – Linda Walters; Vice Chair – Shawn Burke

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

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Overall,

1. All committees have reviewed and approved the SEED grant funding resolution.
2. Subcommittee reviewed and selected the University-wide Excellence in Research winner for 2022.

Policy Committee:

1. Worked on wordsmithing the SEED grant resolution.

Internal Research Committee:

1. Working on faculty survey to understand needs/concerns/gain faculty perspective on large pieces of equipment in individual labs and shared labs in regard to safety, maintenance, financial costs (insurance, upkeep) as well as making sure the spaces/buildings themselves are safe.

Compliance Committee:

1. Dr. Klonoff has requested help in setting up 2 committees so there is a faculty voice in both. The first would be a general Research Misconduct committee. The second would be a committee to determine if a faculty member should lose graduate faculty status based on repeated issues with students.

Graduate Council

Chair – Stacy Barber; Vice Chair – Valeriya Shapoval

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

February 2022

I. The Appeals Committee (Anthony Byrd, chair) has not met in 2022.

II. The Curriculum Committee (Valeriya Shapoval, chair) met on 2/16 Their next meeting is scheduled for 3/2/2022.

III. The Policy Committee (Sarah Barber, chair) met on 2/16. The committee voted to revise catalog language regarding dissertation defenses. Virtual defenses will now be allowed, and the Chair will not be required to be on campus in case of a virtual defense. The next meeting is scheduled for 3/2/2022.

IV. The Program Review and Awards Committee (Reid Oetjen, chair) met on 2/11/2022 and 2/25/2022.

Undergraduate Council

Chair – Jeffrey Kauffman; Vice Chair – Tina Dow

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

February 2022

On Tuesday, 1 February, the UCRC held its monthly meeting. During that time 51 Consent Agenda and 11 Action Agenda items were approved. The UPCC held its monthly meeting Tuesday, 8 February. During that time, the committee approved 18 program/certificate/minor revisions, 1 new certificate, 1 new program, and 1 program termination. In addition, there was continued discussion of an academic archive containing syllabi that students could access as they select courses.

Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee



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Chair – William Self

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

February 9, 2022

Members of the committee discussed the mechanisms by which we will use a Teams folder to manage edits and/or proposals to amend or change the constitution and bylaws over the next few months. A Teams folder and a word document (using track changes) will be used to prepare edits. The committee will use Robert's rules to vote on potential changes once they have been inserted into the document.

One committee member suggested that we re-establish a 'pre-amble' for the constitution, or at least to revise the one we have had in the past. It was noted that the preamble that was previously present in the UFF bargaining agreement was removed several years ago in collective bargaining, so this kind of important shared governance language is likely needed in the faculty senate constitution.

The members of the committee will have access to all the faculty senate constitutions, bylaws, faculty handbooks and similar documents during the revision process. The ACFS recently (2020) compiled all this information and so this is available to the group, again through the use of a Teams folder.

Several questions were edited (in real time in the meeting) that will enable 'bottom up' feedback from our current committees in the faculty senate. These are the following:

Questions for all committee chairs: (DRAFT)

a) If you could suggest a change to your committee membership, what would it be and why (e.g., committee membership outlined in the bylaws)

Note to add to communication - Please review both section (a) and section (b) for your committee in answering this question

b) Is there enough faculty representation on your committee?

c) Do you have the right mix of expertise between the faculty and the staff members to support the work of your committee?

d) Do you have a sufficient range of representation across units and faculty job titles?

e) Is there a productive relationship between you and the principal administrator (ex officio) that is assigned by the bylaws to enable the committee's work?

f) Is there a change to your Duties and Responsibilities (b) in the bylaws that you feel could improve your ability to support UCF's mission?

g) How could the senate leadership and/or office help your committee do your work?

h) Is there a way to improve communication or support for your work from the senate leadership?

i) How could the faculty senate website support your mission better?

These questions are going to be distributed to all committee chairs (operational and joint committees) in the coming week to gain feedback for the revision process.

The committee discussed several ideas, including one to add a council/committee that includes both current steering members as well as operational committee chairs that might meet monthly. This larger group could potentially better communicate to enable more efficient work in the operational committees moving forward. This kind of structure, as one example, is moving



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forward in future committee meetings and may result in changes to our bylaws and/or constitution.

The committee will review the materials and meet again later in February to consider these ideas and others in a revision targeting Fall 2022.

Ad Hoc Committee on Civil Discourse

Chair – William Self

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

January 10, 2022

Members of the ad hoc committee discussed one potential set of speakers, a pair of speakers, through the organization Village Square (Tallahassee, FL). In this discussion, the committee also discussed that we need as a group to first establish a Mission statement for the ad hoc committee so that we will be better able to defend our initial and/or subsequent speaker requests to the Faculty Senate. Questions were raised such as, who is the audience for this event? Is this aimed at the entire UCF community or just the academic community? What other groups invite speakers and how do they pay for it?

Further questions were raised on the long-term goals of having the Faculty Senate invite guest speakers, including (but not limited to) what budget would there be to pay for these kinds of speakers? Some ideas were raised (i.e., fundraising and non-profits) but again concerns centered around the long-term goal of having the Senate invite speakers on behalf of the faculty as a whole and how best to do this to support the Faculty Senate's mission overall.

The consensus of the group was to first establish a mission statement prior to bringing recommendations to the Steering Committee or the Senate floor. The chair of the committee is currently working on said mission statement.

Ad Hoc Health and Safety Crisis Response Committee

Chair – Stephen King; Vice Chair – Victoria Loerzel

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

February 1, 2022

Discussion focused on the omicron variant.

The number of cases in central Florida and at UCF are coming down from recent all-time highs. So far, this caseload data is following the models previously discussed that predicted a steep decline in cases. While case number is decreasing, there are rises in the number of hospitalizations and deaths. This trend has been present throughout the pandemic, as hospitalization and mortality peaks continue to occur a few weeks after the case load. Although case numbers are quickly dropping, they are still significantly higher than the baseline that have been seen. Therefore, the committee felt there was no reason to alter mitigation measures at this time.

Two points raise and to be considered looking ahead:

1) Spring Break. It looks like Florida will be at lower COVID levels than much of the country by the time spring break season is here. This means that there will likely be an influx of cases at that time due to the travel of students from other regions of the country to Florida.



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2) Preparation for the next COVID wave. Both the Delta and Omicron waves took Florida and the country by surprise. They each occurred when many people felt the pandemic had waned and might be over. It is expected that there is likely to be another wave soon. The committee felt it was important to be vigilant and to be mentally prepared for this. Let's not let ourselves be surprised yet again by some new variant in the coming months.

Ad Hoc Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee

Chair – Kristine Shrauger

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

No update