



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate
Committee Reports
February 3, 2022

Budget and Administrative Committee

Chair – Tina Buck; Vice Chair – Adam Wells

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

February 2, 2022

Tina Buck and Gerald Hector provided an update from the University Budget Committee meeting on 12/3/21 on the topic of improving auxiliary overhead charges and how they will be taxed to support the university central services under the new budget model. There was discussion on how auxiliary income will be taxed rather than current model of taxing their expenditures. It was also noted that auxiliary dollars are more flexible than other sources of revenue, due for example to high amount of regulation on state funds. Importantly, it was made clear that events like conferences and camp payments are/will be excluded; as they are not considered auxiliary and such events are not material to the financial operations of the university. Rather they are pass-throughs that UCF holds funds for another agency, and not UCF funds.

Committee also had further discussion on accommodations of J1 visiting scholars. Barriers to establishing residences for visiting scholars were discussed, including new state laws which make it extra difficult to find accommodations. A potential resolution was discussed, but will likely not occur until the fall. In the meantime, Gerald Hector made contact with housing about potential options. Additionally, the committee will solicit data from UCF global regarding international scholars to ascertain the potential magnitude of the issue.

Information Technology Committee

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

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

January 25, 2022

Committee met for about an hour. Discussion about the mass e-mail policy was had with guests Joe Adams and Allison Hurtado also attending. In particular, existing policy seems to not align with current practice. Discussion about newsletters and e-mail lists including more intelligent systems that would not remind you of items you have actually already completed (e.g. training). What e-mail providers are approved? Is there a dashboard for e-mail lists? Committee will collect policies from other institutions and review them in a future meeting. Finally, continued discussion on software for the common good; committee is also requesting policies from other institutions.

Personnel Committee

Chair – Edwin Torres; Vice Chair – Adam Parrish

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering



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January 19, 2022

Minutes of the November 10 2021 meeting were approved. Additional topics discussed included a presentation by the Faculty Hiring sub-committee of Adam Parrish, Luca Argenti, Karol Lucken; the Exit and Stay interview sub-committee led by Blake Scott, and the upcoming visit by SVP Hector on Feb 9, 2022. The Faculty Hiring subcommittee is currently drafting a resolution on the topic. Blake Scott summarized the subcommittee findings on the best practices used to conduct exit and stay interviews at other institutions. Blake is coordinating a meeting between HR and the Personnel Committee for a future date to discuss the viability of UCF adopting practices identified. The SVP Hector visit is expected to discuss Faculty Wage Erosion and actions taken or not taken by this administration in its past, currently, and in the future to stop Faculty Wage Erosion. Michael Proctor reported as of the Dec 2021 CPI Faculty Wage Erosion has reached 8.578% for the over 70% of the faculty who have not received a promotion, ADI, TIP, RIA, or SoT since our last across the board pay raise in September 2019. The loss of approximately \$8,578 in purchasing power per \$100,000 by over 70% of the faculty contrast sharply with only 2.29% or 20 of the 875 faculty who dropped below CPI in the 5 years of the prior administration (Faculty Salary Equity Study 2020 Compression report).

Research Council

Chair – Linda Walters; Vice Chair – Shawn Burke

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

Research Council activity since last meeting:

1. Resolution (below) approved by all council members who responded. We are moving it now to Senate Steering Committee.
2. University Excellence in Research Award is now in a sub-committee's hands. Committee, with Linda Walters as Chair, meets next Monday to choose a winner.
3. Policy Committee: Linda Walters replaced Scot French as Chair as Scot had a teaching conflict this semester. At first meeting in January, the committee had a lively debate on the value of credit splits for grant proposals. The committee collectively decided that our small group did not agree on what credit splits represented at UCF, so we asked Winston Schoenfeld, OR, to provide us with clarification before continuing our discussion.
4. Internal Research Committee: Damla Turgut replaced Chris Emrich as Chair as Chris had a teaching conflict this semester. The committee is continuing to work on: a) faculty facilities needs/concerns and b) faculty software needs + how decisions are made to acquire new software. For the former, a meeting is scheduled with UCF Facilities on 2/18/22 to better understand issues from their perspective. For the latter, information has been provided by OR. The committee is working on preparing a survey that combines both topics to obtain faculty input.
5. Compliance Committee: Shawn Burke is the Chair of this committee. From January meeting, the committee provided updates on three items: (1) EHS action item (are faculty experiencing any issues with EHS presently?) - all survey results are in (not a huge response), but a summary of the results will be produced which combines input from survey, committee members, and those that were invited to come speak last semester. (2) Misconduct Review Committee action - committee has a suggested way forward for timely selection of committee



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members that will be included in their meeting minutes; and (3) Loss of Graduate Faculty Status - committee needs further clarification from Dr. Klonoff before proceeding.

Resolution 2021-2022-2 Continuing UCF SEED Research Funding for Faculty into the Future

Whereas, UCF is considered a highly innovative institution of higher education in part because faculty are encouraged to expand their individual and university-wide research in innovative and novel directions, and

Whereas, the UCF Office of Research/Office of the Provost have provided one million dollars in SEED grant funding to faculty for the past 3 years, and

Whereas, there has been a positive return on investment (ROI) from this SEED funding in terms of subsequent external funding, with the ROI from funded external awards based on SEED grants from the first year of the program equaling 662% (\$7.62 million received; additional \$54 million in submitted proposals), and

Whereas, the overhead generated from the funded external awards from first year awardees exceeded \$2.61 million (assuming 52% overhead) and thus exceeded the costs of the initiative, therefore

Be it Resolved that UCF Office of Research/Office of the Provost will continue to provide SEED grant opportunities for faculty at the current or higher funding levels in all future years.

Graduate Council

Chair – Stacy Barber; Vice Chair – Valeriya Shapoval

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

January 26, 2022

The Graduate Policy Committee is working on a revised course transfer policy, with the final version still to come. Previously the committee recommended that Dr. Klonoff work with the BOT in regards to an updated definition and treatment of academic misconduct.

Undergraduate Council

Chair – Jeffrey Kauffman; Vice Chair – Tina Dow

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

No update

Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

Chair – William Self

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

No update

Ad Hoc Committee on Civil Discourse

Chair – William Self

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

No update

Ad Hoc Health and Safety Crisis Response Committee

Chair – Stephen King; Vice Chair – Victoria Loerzel

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

February 1, 2022



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The committee's 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 we previously discussed that predicted a steep decline in cases. While case number is decreasing, we are seeing 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 we have seen. Therefore, we saw no reason to alter mitigation measures at this time.

Two points we want to raise and to be considered as we look 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 we are likely to see an influx of cases at that time due to the travel of students from other regions of the country to Florida.
- 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. We expect that there is likely to be another wave in the near future. 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