



Faculty Senate

Steering Committee

Minutes for meeting of Thursday, January 14, 2021, 4:00 pm

YouTube Link to access recording: <https://youtu.be/0S1MCDbDiIM>

- 1) Quorum reached and call to order at 4:02 p.m.
- 2) Roll Call via Qualtrics – Faculty Senate Chair Joseph Harrington, Vice Chair Blake Scott, Secretary Kristine Shrauger and Past Chair William Self were present. (see meeting materials for list of participants)
- 3) Approval of Minutes of *November 12, 2020*
 - a) Motion to approve minutes, second, vote taken, motion passed with 16 for/0 against
- 4) Announcements
 - a) Live Stream - Faculty Senate Chair Joseph Harrington said that the Faculty Senate has been live streaming the Senate and Steering meetings would like to make this a permanent feature and would like to publicize the meetings in order to let everyone know about the monthly President's Report and twice-monthly Provost's Report, in hopes of raising interest within the university community.
 - b) New Faculty Senate Website – The new Faculty Senate website was launched just prior to the holiday break. Chair Harrington thanked the committee, made up of Kristine Shrauger, Laurie Carroll, Allison Hurtado and Mark Bennett. He noted that there are still some features that needed to be added and he will be referring this issue to the Information Technology Committee.
 - c) Research Council - Chair Harrington, Vice President for Research Elizabeth Klonoff and Past Chair Bill Self met with the Research Council about upcoming issues and new procedures.
 - d) Faculty Statement - A group of faculty are interested in making a statement about the US Capitol insurgency. Please contact Senator Luca Argenti to volunteer to help craft the statement.
- 5) Recognition of Guests
 - a) Joe Adams, Academic Affairs
 - b) Kent Butler, Interim Chief Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Officer
 - c) Lucretia Cooney, Director of Faculty Excellence
 - d) Allison Hurtado, Director of Communications, Faculty Excellence
 - e) Jana Jasinski, Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence
 - f) Michael Johnson, Interim Provost
- 6) Report of the Provost
 - a) COVID Relief Package – Interim Provost Michael Johnson reported that a new COVID relief package has been approved and a large portion of the funds will be distributed to students in need. The University Budget Committee will be



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- identifying a process for distributing the remaining funds and they will be checking to see if these funds can be used to offset state budget cuts.
- b) State Budget Cuts - In addition to 6% previously withheld, the legislature's budget committee is meeting to deal with a projected \$2.7B state budget shortfall next year. It is unclear what this year's cuts will be.
 - c) COVID Update – The number of cases of COVID 19 is growing. The actions the university takes will be guided by the fact that Florida is now at the peak. Fewer than 1% of students returning to housing tested positive. Student Health will continue random testing this spring and testing of sewage discharge. All COVID policies will remain in place. UCF Health has received 1,000 doses of the COVID vaccine. There were specific instructions given as to how to distribute the vaccine. Employees and students who are patient facing and/or those over 65 will receive the vaccine. Earlier this week, the CDC list was expanded to family members of employee households that meet criteria. As of today, all appointments have been filled. Employees who qualified were sent emails to let them know they were eligible. Student Health Services is prepared to distribute mass vaccinations. The Provost noted that COVID precautions have proven very effective in preventing transmission of the virus.
 - d) Dr. Charles Negy Update - UCF has completed its investigation of Dr. Charles Negy. Over 300 people were interviewed, and hundreds of documents were reviewed. Social media posts were not related to his classroom performance and therefore were not considered, as they are protected by the First Amendment. The investigation did examine claims of improper classroom behavior. Some portions of those complaints were protected by academic freedom. But it was found that there was misconduct by Dr. Negy that went beyond anything that would be protected by academic freedom. He received notice yesterday that the university intends to terminate his employment. He has the right to provide material that would show errors in the findings within 10 days. The provost supports due process, which includes a grievance process. He repeated that none of the findings are a result of Dr. Negy's comments on Twitter, nor were they based on comments in the classroom that the university concluded were protected by academic freedom. He has been placed on paid administrative leave and is not teaching any classes this spring.
 - e) Open Educational Resources – Interim Provost Michael Johnson said that he is grateful for faculty members who are saving students money, over \$750,000 this past fall, by using open educational resources and noted that it takes a great deal of work to make these resources available and appreciates the efforts of the faculty and the Center for Distributed Learning.
 - f) Chair Harrington asked about White House Commission on COVID requesting Governor DeSantis to have universities test everyone weekly. The Provost noted that this would be a challenge to complete.
 - g) A senator asked for clarification as to who the essential workers at UCF would be that would be eligible for the vaccine rollout. The Provost said he has not heard anything official but believes that it may include teachers.
 - h) Another senator mentioned a report that stated that universities can be COVID spreaders and that when classes are remote, it does not spread. The Provost said he read the report and it stated that not all universities had the same issues



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- but did not know what locations they used for the study. He noted that Orange County was not affected adversely by students coming back in the fall.
- i) A senator asked how much money UCF would received from the most recent COVID relief act. The Provost stated that a third party estimated it will be \$86.9M. Chair Harrington inquired as to whether, if the state does not meet the funding requirements in the relief acty by cutting our budget, would we have to return the funds to the federal government. The Provost said he believed the state must agree to the terms before accepting the funds.
- 7) Committee Reports
- a) Ad Hoc Budget and Labor Crisis Response – *Reid Oetjen*
 - i) Senator Oetjen stated that the committee will be doing a poll to see when they will be meeting next. They will likely meet once it is found out when the \$86.9 M will be coming in.
 - b) Ad Hoc Health and Safety Crisis Response – *Steve King*
 - i) Senator King said that they have had one meeting so far this semester. They talked about the vaccinations and the essential worker question.
 - ii) Other topics discussed were the spring semester plans, the random testing plan and sewage testing. They would like to see random testing be proactive and not reactive.
 - iii) They also discussed the capacity of tests, both generic long term and the quick screen test. They would like to find out the cost of each test and what is affordable for the university.
- 8) Old Business
- a) COVID Discussion – no further discussion
- 9) New Business
- a) Appointment of a Selection Committee for the University Excellence in Professional Service Award (Three Steering Committee Members plus the Chair of the Faculty Senate)
 - i) Senators Blake Scott, Shawn Burke, and James Gallo have volunteered and will form the committee with Chair Harrington
 - b) A Culture of Ethics – *Elizabeth Klonoff*
 - i) Dr. Klonoff had an external conflict arise and may join the meeting later. Motion to defer to later in the meeting, second, vote taken, motion passes
- 10) Committee Reports, Continued
- a) Budget and Administrative Committee – *Nina Orlovskaya*
 - i) Senator Orlovskaya said that the committee met in December and discussed the library budget and journal subscriptions. They will be meeting next week to consider a resolution.
 - b) Information Technology Committee – *James Gallo*
 - i) Senator Gallo stated that the committee met with Huron last fall and will be discussing several issues with the new Chief Information Officer, Matthew Hall, at their next meeting.
 - c) Parking, Transportation and Safety Committee – *Adam Wells*



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- i) Senator Wells said that the committee has not met since last Steering Committee meeting.
- d) Personnel Committee – *Steve King*
 - i) Senator King noted that there was a record number of people going up for emeritus. He feels this indicates that there may be a lot of retirements coming up.
 - ii) The committee has been discussing the one-year tenure clock extension for pre-tenure faculty due to COVID. Faculty work is continuing, and it is difficult to collaborate due to COVID restrictions. They are looking at whether faculty can apply for a delay if they did not apply last year or if they can apply for a second year.
 - iii) Clock for start-up funds – The committee is looking into whether this can be extended due to COVID.
 - iv) Impact statement for binder – The committee will be looking into whether this can be used to help understand where a faculty member is in their productivity.
 - v) Tenure committees – The committee will be looking into the training/education that Tenure Committee members receive in order to make appropriate decisions about applicants for tenure.
 - vi) Grad students and post docs in labs are being affected because of the COVID restrictions.
 - vii) A senator said that Rosen faculty have been greatly affected by COVID and that many had taken the extension. She is concerned about the time that has been invested in converting courses taking away from these faculty members' research. She also wondered how this would affect performance for AESPs.
- e) Research Council – *Vicki Loerzel*
 - i) Senator Loerzel said that the Research Council will be breaking into work groups since their workload is increasing.
- f) Graduate Council – *Jim Moharam*
 - i) Senator Moharam said he has nothing to report.
- g) Undergraduate Council – *Bill Self*
 - i) Senator Self said that the UPCC met in December. The normal business of the UPCC and UCRC is moving forward. The scheduled “Ban the Box” discussion, where they will ask administration to remove some of the questions that are asked of students applying to UCF about past felony convictions, was postponed because of catalog deadlines. It will be discussed in February.
 - ii) Chair Harrington asked whether the university is still requiring SAT scores for admissions. Senator Self said that SATs are in the Board of Governors' jurisdiction and the university does not have the authority to decide. The BOG has not taken up any changes regarding SATs.
 - iii) Chair Harrington would like to know if we are on track with enrollment. Provost Johnson said that enrollment is down. FTIC applications are down and test scores are down.
- h) Ad Hoc Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee – *Kristine Shrauger*
 - i) Senator Shrauger said the committee met for the first time yesterday and received their charge from Chair Harrington.



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11) Other Business

- a) Chair Harrington said that there has been a significant increase in the number of ethics violations among graduate students. The students are doing unethical things, like using information they find on the internet as their own and arguing when told that is not acceptable. Vice President for Research Elizabeth Klonoff will be invited to next Steering Meeting to discuss this issue.
- b) New Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Gerald Hector started in January. Chair Harrington said he was impressed with how prepared he was when he came to the Board of Trustees meeting. He will be coming to the next Senate meeting to be introduced by President Cartwright.
- c) Senator Self asked to bring a new topic to Steering Committee, coming from Undergraduate Council Associate Deans and it regards curriculum agreements. It was noted that different entities build curriculum agreements, but they do not come to the Undergraduate Council for review. He would like to see the role of Undergraduate Council addressed regarding these agreements.
- d) Chair Harrington stated that the Conflict of Interest Subcommittee from the Research Council has a draft document and asked anyone that would like to review it to contact Debopam Chakrabarti, Natalie Underberg-Goode or Vicki Loerzel.
- e) Senator Argenti talked about the reasoning behind the push for a Statement of the Faculty Senate (see 4d) regarding last week's US Capital insurgency. He said that since UCF is a cultural and educational institution, it should not appear agnostic. He said that blurring the difference between documented truth and blind faith can destroy democracy and also universities. He said it is also a point of racial discrimination. He does not want UCF to come across to minorities as if it appears that politics do not matter to UCF, as this entails a rejection that all are equal before the law. He wants to offer support to students and promote their participation in the democratic process.
- f) Campus Climate Update – Chair Harrington asked for suggestions for speakers. A senator suggested the UFF because full-book bargaining has started. Motion to put the Union on the Campus Climate Update, second, vote taken, motion passes with 13 yes/0 no. Motion to have Elizabeth Klonoff give a campus climate update, second, vote taken, motion passes 15 yes/0 no.
- g) A senator asked whether the new relief fund money can be used to hire faculty or fund the library before other priorities. Chair Harrington described faculty representation on the University Budget Committee and how that committee has allocated some of the CARES act funds. The UBC defended the library and IT from cuts. The Provost remarked that the new funds have fewer restrictions, but still must be used on COVID-related expenses. Almost certainly, we cannot use the funds for our normal problems.
- h) Past-Chair Self noted that Resolution 6 was approved by the Provost. Faculty-facing vice presidents will get input from faculty and students in their reviews. The Provost noted that the (new) President expected we were already doing this. Chair Harrington expressed gratitude for a President who thinks of faculty first and thanked the Provost for his approval.



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12) Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm

Steering Committee Meeting Attendance
January 14, 2021

Name:	College/Unit:	Meeting Role: - Selecte Meeting Role: - Guest (provide title be
Allison Hurtado	Faculty Excellence	Guest (provide title bel Director of Communications
Joe Adams	Office of the Provost	Guest (provide title bel Senior Communications Director
Lucretia Cooney	Faculty Excellence	Guest (provide title bel Director
Michael Johnson	Academic Affairs	Guest (provide title bel Interim Provost
Jana Jasinski	Faculty Excellence	Guest (provide title bel Vice Provost
S. Kent Butler	ODI	Guest (provide title bel CEIDO
Elizabeth Klonoff	Office of Research/Grad Studi	Guest (provide title bel VPR and Dean, Graduate Studies
Mike Proctor	CECS	Steering Committee Member
Stephen King	Medicine	Steering Committee Member
Nina Orlovskaya	CECS/MAE	Steering Committee Member
Christa Diercksen	Sciences	Steering Committee Member
Reid Oetjen	CCIE/HMI	Steering Committee Member
Adam Wells	CHPS	Steering Committee Member
Shawn Burke	Graduate Studies	Steering Committee Member
Keith Koons	CAH/School of Performing Art	Steering Committee Member
loerzel	nursing	Steering Committee Member
Bill Self	COM/BSBS	Steering Committee Member
Margaret Zaho	CAH SVAD	Steering Committee Member
Luca Argenti	Sciences / Physics	Steering Committee Member
Jim Moharam	Optics and Photonics	Steering Committee Member
Kelly Semrad	RCHM	Steering Committee Member
Blake Scott	CAH/Writing and Rhetoric	Steering Committee Member
Rebecca Murphey	Libraries	Steering Committee Member
Joseph Harrington	College of Sciences	Steering Committee Member