



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate
Committee Reports
January 20, 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

January 11, 2022

Committee met for about an hour. Discussion primarily focused on a discussion of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) across campus systems but especially regarding Office 365. UCF will be phasing in MFA for all users during the spring semester (between February 17 and March 3). In addition, continued discussion on "software for the common good" and how that might be identified or handled across campus.

Personnel Committee

Chair – Edwin Torres; Vice Chair – Adam Parrish

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

January 19, 2022

The committee met to discuss issues akin to its mission. One of the items under discussion is the process followed for exit interviews. A subcommittee on exit and stay interviews discussed the results of their efforts at benchmarking other institutions for best practices. The committee and subcommittee have extended an invitation to members of the Human Resources department to attend one of their meetings and discuss how the exit interview process could be standardized and better captured for future use. The Personnel Committee also resumed their discussion on faculty involvement in the hiring process. Following a process of consultation with the office of institutional equity and review of the current practices and some of the concerns voiced by faculty around the university, a subcommittee on exit interviews is currently drafting a resolution for consideration in our next meeting. Finally, the committee has invited VP Gerald Hector to attend one of its meetings for a question and answer session. The discussion will focus on long-term plans to address salary erosion. The committee added one more meeting to their February calendar to accommodate this discussion. The next two meetings will occur on February 9 and February 23.

Research Council

Chair – Linda Walters; Vice Chair – Shawn Burke

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

1. We needed to replace 2 of 3 Committee Chairs this semester due to class conflicts.

Damla Turgut is now the Chair of the Internal Research & Facilities Committee and Linda Walters is now the Chair for The Policy Committee.



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2. A draft resolution on continuing SEED research funding has been distributed to all Council members and will be sent to Steering Committee within the next 2 weeks.
3. Organizing committee to review University-wide Excellence in Research applications (the winners at the college level).

Graduate Council

Chair – Stacy Barber; Vice Chair – Valeriya Shapoval

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

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

The Curriculum Committee (Valeriya Shapoval, chair) met on 1/19 Their next meeting is scheduled for 2/2/2022.

The Policy Committee (Sarah Barber, chair) met on 1/12. The committee voted to revise catalog language regarding probation. The next meeting is scheduled for 2/2/2022.

The Program Review and Awards Committee (Reid Oetjen, chair) will not be meeting again until February 2022.

Undergraduate Council

Chair – Jeffrey Kauffman; Vice Chair – Tina Dow

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

January 11, 2022 – Undergraduate Course Review Committee (UCRC)

The UCRC held its monthly meeting. During that time 98 Consent Agenda and 8 Action Agenda items were approved. One Action Agenda item was tabled until the February meeting at the request of the proposing department. In addition, Dr. Tim Letzring encouraged committee members to remind their individual departments to review the catalogue for their programs to ensure there were no mistakes during the manual entering process.

January 18, 2022 – Undergraduate Policy and Curriculum Committee (UPCC)

The UPCC approved 7 minor/program revisions and 1 new certificate. SGA presented and the committee discussed two current initiatives:

- 1) Academic Archive: nominally a syllabus repository to aid students' selections as they sign up for courses. Discussion focused on whether/how it might be implemented and then populated with syllabi.
- 2) Student Perception of Course Components Survey: SGA-administered survey gathering descriptions of primary instruction style(s), assessment mechanism(s), course materials cost, and other comments that may assist students when selecting courses.

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

Ad hoc committee on Civil Discourse met recently and we discussed further the issues around civil discourse at UCF and how our committee, or more broadly how the faculty senate could address the issue of improving civil discourse on campus.



Faculty Senate

Two themes emerged from this discussion: 1) the committee needs to develop a mission statement that can determine the purpose for this group within the context of the faculty senate and 2) the need for better comprehensive communication of seminars, debates, guest speakers across campus. We will be vetting a mission statement in the near future and editing this for future senate review. The recommendation for better communication is something that can and should be discussed in either the steering committee or in an upcoming senate meeting.

Ad Hoc Health and Safety Crisis Response Committee

Chair – Stephen King; Vice Chair – Victoria Loerzel

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

January 11, 2022

Most of the discussion was about the omicron variant, how it is affecting UCF, nearby areas, and the state of Florida.

Omicron: Modeling for the state of Florida predicts a very steep increase of cases to peak in mid/late January followed by an equally steep drop off in cases. Therefore, measure to mitigate transmission in the next few weeks may be enough to curb the impact of the omicron wave at UCF. UCF is continuing testing on campus, including wastewater testing, and as of the meeting was at a 25% positivity rate, comparable to the rest of Florida. Genomic sequencing shows omicron is by far the dominant COVID variant at UCF.

Teaching during omicron spike: There is confusion over whether, and how, faculty could or should move classes to remote/zoom during the omicron spike. More clarity in guidance from UCF will be helpful for faculty that may be in departments with conflicting information.

Return to work authorization: Return to work authorization was discussed as it is practically impossible to get a doctor visit to sign and approve paperwork for a faculty or staff member to return to campus. The UCF COVID Hotline can provide clearance for faculty and staff, but most of campus is unaware of this!

Remote possibility for OPS and hourly employees: The committee is aware of cases where some staff employees are awaiting COVID test results or may be in isolation without symptoms and are conflicted between staying at home for health concerns and working in order to receive pay. At the previous Senate Steering meeting, guidance was provided that employees in these types of situations should contact their supervisors to see if they can be assigned remote work during the time period. There is concern that there is no uniform policy on this, and many affected employees do not have sick time that be used.

Further campus guidance: Soon after our meeting, return to work authorization and attendance/remote policies were further elaborated upon by the provost in a message to campus the evening of January 11th.

Ad Hoc Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee

Chair – Kristine Shrauger

Request to Speak at Senate/Steering

No update