



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate

Agenda for meeting of Thursday, October 7, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting for Senators and Guests:

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/92591222998?pwd=UTIIVVlyUzR4ZDRldURzd1ZGcmVhdz09>

Meeting will be recorded and streamed live at: <https://youtu.be/joVL0h5eKkl>

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics: http://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2lvudKVj4XL5yYu
3. Approval of Minutes of *September 9, 2021*
4. Recognition of Guests
5. Announcements
6. Report of the Senate Chair
7. Board of Trustees' Chair Alex Martins' Address
8. Report of the President
9. Report of the Provost
10. Old Business
 - a) COVID 19 on Campus Update
 - i) Discussion
 - ii) Senate Meeting Modality
11. New Business
12. Committee Reports
 - a) A brief written summary of each Operational and active ad-hoc committee's recent meetings will be sent to Senators and posted in the meeting materials on the website 24 hours before the meeting. Committee chairs or the senate liaisons may speak and Senators may comment or ask questions on committee business at this time.
13. Campus Climate Report
 - a) Knight Vision Presentation – *Cherie Herrin, Director, Knight Vision and Jana Jasinski, Vice Provost, Faculty Excellence*
14. Other Business
15. Adjournment



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Minutes for meeting of Thursday, September 9, 2021, 3:00-5:00 pm

Meeting recording available at: <https://youtu.be/hlzDGksVsJk>

1. Quorum reached and call to order at 3:01 p.m.
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics – Faculty Senate Chair Joseph Harrington, Vice Chair Stephen King, Secretary Kristine Shrauger and Past Chair William Self were present. *(See Attachment A for List of Attendees)*
3. Approval of Minutes of *April 22, 2021*
 - a) Motion to approve minutes by Senator King, second, vote taken electronically via Zoom, Motion passes with 48 yes/0 no votes.
4. Recognition of Guests
 - a) Joe Adams, Senior Communications Director, Office of the Provost
 - b) Frank Allen, Interim Dean, University Libraries
 - c) Theodorea Berry, Dean, College of Undergraduate Studies
 - d) Deborah German, Dean, College of Medicine
 - e) Matthew Hall, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology
 - f) Elizabeth Hamilton, Assistant Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Administration and Finance
 - g) Cherie Herrin, Director, Knight Vision
 - h) Allison Hurtado, Director of Communications, Faculty Excellence
 - i) Jana Jasinski, Vice Provost, Faculty Excellence
 - j) Michael Johnson, Interim Provost, Office of the Provost
 - k) Elizabeth Klonoff, Dean, College of Graduate Studies
 - l) Jeff Moore, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities
 - m) Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Pineres, Dean, Honors College
 - n) Austin Wilson, Vice President, Student Government Association
5. Announcements and Report of the Senate Chair – *Joseph Harrington*
 - a) Chair Harrington reviewed the Faculty Senate priorities for 2021-2022, which included strategic planning, policy and regulation development process, constitution and bylaws revision, budget for senate and specific committee issues. For a full Report of the Senate Chair, please see Attachment B.
6. Report of the President – *Alexander Cartwright*
 - a) President was not able to attend the meeting due to an urgent unexpected meeting.
7. Report of the Provost – *Michael Johnson*
 - a) Interim Provost Michael Johnson reported on strategic planning, academics this fall, enrollment, HEERF funding for students, the President's 2021 Strategic Investment Program, dean searches, the COACHE Survey, and the national



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- Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) week. For the full Report of the Provost, please see Attachment C and D.
- b) Questions: A senator commented that releasing information about employees who have contracted or died from COVID would be important information for the campus community to know. A dashboard link was shared in the chat: <https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus>. A senator asked about the hiring freeze in research. The provost said because a law was enacted on July 1 they had to put a freeze on research hires until processes are put in place to follow the law.
8. Old Business
- a) COVID 19 on Campus Update
 - i) Discussion
 - (1) No further discussion
 - ii) Senate Meeting Modality
 - (1) Vote taken electronically via Zoom whether to meeting remote or in person for the October 7, 2021 senate meeting. Results are 57 remote/2 in person. October 7 meeting will be remote via Zoom.
9. New Business
- a) Sense of the Senate Statement Re: ACFS Resolution (*Attachment E*) – *William Self*
 - i) The ACFS has passed unanimously a resolution that seeks to enable more local control for pandemic mitigation efforts at each of the state universities. Current legislation and the Governor's executive order are restricting the Universities ability to respond adequately to the pandemic's recent surge in cases. Other Senates have developed their own unique resolutions (e.g., USF) or have voted to 'affirm' the ACFS resolution over the past few weeks. Senator Self made a motion to affirm the resolution from the ACFS, second, discussion ensued, vote taken electronically via Zoom, 60 yes/3 no, motion passes.
 - b) Appeal to the President Re: Denial of Senate Resolution 2020-2021-12 – *Michael Proctor*
 - i) Senator Proctor made a motion to appeal to the President the denial of Senate Resolution 2020-2021-12. For the full report, please see attachment F. Motion was seconded, discussion between provost and senators, vote taken electronically via Zoom, 36 yes/20 no.
 - c) Senate-Sponsored Campus Debates – *William Self*
 - i) The topic of civil discourse at universities has been discussed at recent BOG meetings, and an idea has been raised to have the Faculty Senate organize outside speakers that engage in an active and civil discourse conversation. One of the leaders in this effort in Florida is a group known as the Village Square. Senator Self would like to work with an ad-hoc committee to bring a set of speakers to campus through the leadership of the Village Square to engage faculty, staff and students with an opportunity to witness a vigorous discussion and also a civil discussion in which a pair of speakers at ideological opposite ends of the political spectrum discuss a relevant topic for today's society. Motion to form an Ad-Hoc Committee on Civil Discourse with a charge to develop a plan for improving civil discourse through inviting



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speakers to campus or developing debates and discussions, second, discussion, vote taken electronically via Zoom, 63 yes/0 no, motion carries.

10. Motion to withhold committee reports until next Faculty Senate meeting, second, vote taken electronically via Zoom, 63 yes/0 no.

11. Motion to adjourn meeting, second, vote taken electronically via Zoom, 40 yes/19 no, motion carries.

12. Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Reviewed and Submitted by:

Kristine J. Shrauger

Kristine Shrauger
Secretary, Faculty Senate

10/4/2021

Date

Faculty Senate Attendance
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First Name:	Last Name:	College/Unit	College/Unit: - Other	Meeting Role:	Guest Title:
Pamela	Baker	CAH		Senator	
Mason	Cash	CAH		Senator	
Lynn	Casmier-Paz	CAH		Senator	
Patricia	Farless	CAH		Senator	
Scot	French	CAH		Senator	
Tremon	Kizer	CAH		Senator	
Shannon	Lindsey	CAH		Senator	
Blake	Scott	CAH		Senator	
Sandra	Sousa	CAH		Senator	
Gergana	Vitanova	CAH		Senator	
Sami	Alpanda	CBA		Senator	
Yoon	Choi	CBA		Senator	
Ethan	LaMothe	CBA		Senator	
Axel	Stock	CBA		Senator	
Kara	Consalo	CCIE		Senator	
Bobby	Hoffman	CCIE		Senator	
Karol	Lucken	CCIE		Senator	
Lisa	Martino	CCIE		Senator	
Brett	Meltzer	CCIE		Senator	
Sara	Michael Luna	CCIE		Senator	
David	Mitchell	CCIE		Senator	
Ann	Shillingford	CCIE		Senator	
Larry	Walker	CCIE		Senator	
Ladislau	Boloni	CECS		Senator	
Kevin	Coffey	CECS		Senator	
Ahmad	Elshennawy	CECS		Senator	
Jeffrey	Kauffman	CECS		Senator	
KAUSIK	MUKHOPADHYAY	CECS		Senator	
Marino	Nader	CECS		Senator	
Sumanta	Pattanaik	CECS		Senator	
Andrew	Randall	CECS		Senator	
Shawn	Burke	CGS		Senator	
Lori	Walters	CGS		Senator	

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Reshawna	Chapple	CHPS	Senator
Amy	Thomas	CHPS	Senator
Martine	Vanryckeghem	CHPS	Senator
Adam	Wells	CHPS	Senator
Nadine	Dexter	COM	Senator
Tina	Dow	COM	Senator
Stephen	King	COM	Senator
Stephen	Lambert	COM	Senator
magdalena	pasarica	COM	Senator
Dawn	Eckhoff	CON	Senator
Frank	Guido-Sanz	CON	Senator
Sarah	Barber	COS	Senator
Scott	Branting	COS	Senator
Alison	Cares	COS	Senator
Mark	Ehrhart	COS	Senator
Martha	Hubertz	COS	Senator
Tamra	Legron-Rodriguez	COS	Senator
Daniel	Marien	COS	Senator
Piotr	Mikusinski	COS	Senator
Adam	Parrish	COS	Senator
Jennifer Marla	Toyne	COS	Senator
Xin	Yan	COS	Senator
Patrick	LiKamWa	CREOL	Senator
Robin	Back	RCHM	Senator
Edwin	Torres	RCHM	Senator
Kristine	Shrauger	UL	Senator
Reid	Oetjen	CCIE	Steering
Kelly	Semrad	RCHM	Steering
Keith	Koons	CAH	Steering
Keri	Watson	CAH	Steering
Nina	Orlovskaya	CECS	Steering
Michael	Proctor	CECS	Steering
Bill	Self	COM	Steering
Luca	Argenti	COS	Steering

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Joseph	Harrington	COS		Steering	
Jim	Moharam	CREOL		Steering	
Rebecca (Missy)	Murphey	UL		Steering	
Michael	Johnson	Other	Provost's Office	Guest	Interim Provost
Joe	Adams	Other	Provost's Office	Guest	Senior Communications Director
Jeff	Moore	Other	CAH	Guest	Dean - CAH
Frank	Allen	Other	Library	Guest	Interim Director of Libraries
Theodorea	Berry	Other	CUGS	Guest	Vice Provost and Dean
			Administration and		Assistant Vice President, Strategic
Elizabeth	Hamilton	Other	Finance	Guest	Initiatives
Allison	Hurtado	Other	Faculty Excellence	Guest	Director of Communications
Jana	Jasinski	Other	Faculty Excellence	Guest	Vice Provost
Sheila	Pineres	Other	BHC	Guest	Dean
Austin	Wilson	Other	SGA	Guest	vice President

UCF Faculty Senate Priorities for 2021-2022

Prof. Joseph Harrington
Chair, UCF Faculty Senate



Background

See detailed Background in agenda memo

FacultySenate.ucf.edu

Handle *business* interests of faculty (not bargaining)

Senate approval required for new academic programs, courses

Share governance with administration

44 committees (3 steering, 16 operational, 16 joint, 9 ad-hoc)

Resolution process requires administration response

Mainly work things out by facilitating communications

Appoint many faculty to administrative committees

Committees

Operational

1-2 meetings/month, report to Senate & Steering
Councils for Undergraduate, Graduate, Research, have committees
Committees for Personnel, Budget and Administration, IT

Joint

Few meetings/semester, annual report
16 – Each has a VP or leader and staff plus faculty
Academic Calendar, Textbook Advisory, Safety, Library, Honors, etc.

Ad Hoc

9 - Report to Senate & Steering if active
COVID (2), Bylaws, DEI, Governance, Study Abroad, etc.\

Steering

Sets agenda, manages issues, committee coordination

Priorities for 2021-2022

Strategic planning

Policy and Regulation development process

Constitution and Bylaws revision

Budget for Senate

Specific committee issues

Strategic Planning

Faculty eager to give input! Plan must...

- Recognize internal problems

- Show paths to goals

- Have budget/facility/etc. Realism

- Model outcomes (funding, student/faculty ratio, facilities)

JH working with Prof. Ron Piccolo to define process

New kind of Senate committee with non-faculty voters

Policy and Regulation Development Process

- **Faculty, Deans, and faculty-facing VPs** concerned they are left out of policy creation process
- Disconnects expressed on many policies impacting faculty (e.g., Conflicts of Interest, High Risk Entities)
- Do not want to learn about new proposed rules just 14 days before possible approval and implementation
- Want early notification of and involvement in writing
- Want more representation, transparency, and accountability on University Policy Committee
- Want to be consulted in evaluations of office and VP

Constitution and Bylaws Revision

Do every five years, last in 2016

New committee format for Strategic Planning, others

- Faculty and non-faculty voters

- Use Senate website and reporting

Update committees and charges

Representation issues

- One committee representative/college, but college sizes vary by 10x

- Instructional Designers

Process stuff

- How we form committees and (s)elect chairs

- Agenda flexibility

Budget for Senate

- Currently have no formal budget
- 1 administrative assistant, 3 course buyouts for leaders, 1 month of summer, travel to ACFS, AA computer, software, limited web development
- Unchanged since UCF was a small university
- Seek buyouts and/or summer months for Chair, Vice Chair, Operational Committee/Council chairs
- Service-level agreements on website, IT
- Budget for speakers, web services, Senate studies
- Commensurate with other large-SUS Senates

Specific Committee Issues

DEI – Integrate with university committee

Strategic Planning – Define and form

Research Council – Finalize committees, handle major issues

University Policy Committee – more faculty representation

Priorities for 2021-2022

Strategic planning

Policy and Regulation development process

Constitution and Bylaws revision

Budget for Senate

Specific committee issues



UCF Faculty Senate Priorities for 2021-2022

Prof. Joseph Harrington

Chair, UCF Faculty Senate

Interim Provost Michael Johnson's Remarks Faculty Senate – Thursday, September 9, 2021 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Zoom

Academics this fall

- Largely returned to pre-pandemic class schedules for fall
- But this is no typical fall semester. Half our students are first time on campus, and some students challenged by f2f after being used to online
- COVID cases spiked in Florida and central Florida, although there are signs we may be past peak. Not clear on campus whether we're past the peak; student numbers rose last week, although faculty and staff remain low.
- Covid safety measures remain
 - Testing, tracing, and extra cleaning; isolation/quarantine space 64
 - UFF bought masks for instructional faculty and GTAs, and Faculty Excellence helped distribute. We bought 50,000 simple masks, ordering KN95 to distribute to employees.
- As you know, we have emphasized that we expect those who can to be vaccinated, and expect wearing masks inside. However,
 - Can't ask whether students have been vaccinated or require it
 - Can ask students to wear masks, but can't mandate or penalize if don't
- We are pushing very hard to convince as many students as possible to be vaccinated, and to wear masks indoors.
- Random sampling in the first week showed just over 72% with one shot, and 2/3 fully vaccinated. They continue to get vaccinated. For example,
 - 650 students vaccinated since then at Student Health, in the first two weeks
- Announced raffle incentives program last week for fully vaccinated students
 - 60 Apple or Dell tech bundles — a \$1,500 value
 - 100 grants for textbooks and academic supplies — a \$500 value
 - 10 tuition and fee waivers for one semester — up to \$5,000
- Drawings Sept 15, Sept 30 and Oct 16: **10,400 student entries as of Tuesday**
- Turn to teaching in a continuing pandemic
- We have tried to provide simple instructions on what to do if a student in class, or you, or a household member, falls ill, tests positive, or is exposed. Sent in an email, and also posted on Coronavirus site
- In general, a call to the COVID line triggers whatever response is appropriate. But please go to that information, and help others find it.
- Some faculty with significant health risks granted accommodations using our usual ADA process.

- Taken advantage of some of what we learned since pandemic; for example, many faculty said remote office hours better; may opt for this
- Our original description of fall emphasized personal responsibility; students who did not get vaccinated and fell ill would deal with as in a normal semester
- But the recent spike, and the recognition that vaccinated people can get the Delta variant, required some modifications
- In a message last month, encouraged faculty to take the steps they ordinarily would to help students who are ill, quarantined, vaccinated
 - Things like recording lectures, or streaming them, or making notes available
 - Still teach in the classroom, in person, but with option to add this type of assistance to help students who temporarily can't attend
- Many faculty and students have great concern about COVID and the current wave. I share the concern. But the steps we can take are limited. We are part of a state system, and are obligated to follow its guidance.
- We hope but cannot be sure that the steps we are taking will permit a successful semester. Depends significantly on rate of vaccinations among students.

Enrollment

- **Preliminary enrollment just over 70,000**
 - Below the nearly 72,000 of fall 2020 and just above fall 2019
 - Similar for student credit hours of about 752,500
- Another accomplished incoming class, early stats:
 - Record average freshman GPA of 4.22
 - Record 107 National Merit Scholars
 - Test scores remain high; average SAT and ACT scores of 1323 and 28.6, respectively
 - 46 percent minority enrollment, down slightly from last year
 - Retention rate strong, expecting to settle around 91.4 percent
- Many students eager to come back, be involved in college experience, build community
 - Extra efforts by many offices and organizations to welcome FTOC as well as FTIC
 - Extensive outreach by many student services offices and student government to engage students
 - Strong attendance at Annual Welcome Week events
 - Pandemic led to some adjustments, e.g., moving large events outdoors, and virtual options where possible

HEERF Funding for Students

- **Three rounds of funding, \$314.4 million total**
 - Much of the money (at least three-fourths) has been allocated
 - Uses include lost revenue, COVID 19 response (additional housekeeping, HVAC repairs, UV lighting in HVAC systems, etc.), technology enhancements, etc.
- Required to use roughly half for student aid; helped almost 36,000 students in first two rounds
- Have done more. E.g., recently paid student tuition and fee debt for the semesters affected by COVID:
 - Erased \$3 million in past fees and tuition for 2,500 students
 - Students alerted last month to HEERF III funds to offset COVID-related costs, including aid for those who couldn't otherwise re-enroll because of pandemic-related problems
 - **20,000 students awarded \$40 million yesterday (Wednesday)**, efforts continue
 - Uses include tuition and fees, housing, books, healthcare, food, childcare, etc.

President's 2021 Strategic Investment Program underway

- **Up to \$30 million in central funds and up to \$20M matches**
 - Strategic reinvestment of funds from central administration and colleges, to strengthen our academic enterprise and student success
 - Three fund categories: Jump Start, Academic Excellence and Student Success.
 - Selection based on impact, return on investment, and alignment with president's vision for UCF's future
- **Jump Start** has \$5M in nonrecurring funding, and is designed for projects up to about \$500k
 - First group of awards decided; 13 projects using \$4 million of available \$5 million
 - Will allocate the remaining \$1 million soon
 - Submission period has ended
 - 70 proposals from 10 colleges and OR
 - Most research related, secondly curricular
- **Other two programs** have deadlines tomorrow, awards expected in October

Dean Searches

- Final stages for Colleges of Sciences, founding dean of Libraries

COACHE Survey

- A way for us to assess and improve campus culture
- Recently received data; initial report posted on the Faculty Excellence website
- Faculty Fellow Lindsay Neuberger beginning initial review
- She has assembled a faculty priority setting committee for use of results
 - Members are listed on the FE website

National HSI Week

- National Hispanic Serving-Institution Week is next week.
 - 1 of 16 research R1 HSIs in nation, 3 HSIs in Florida SUS
- HSI Institutions Week Forum Monday 3 to 4:30 pm; in person at Live Oak Center, or on UCF YouTube channel
- Being HSI focuses our attention on our responsibility to underrepresented students, and also gives some funding opportunities.
- **Total HSI-UCF related funding to date: \$26 million**, includes \$19.2 million in HEERF funds would not have received otherwise
 - Seven UCF faculty have obtained HSI grants
- UCF involved in R1 HSI Consortium, MSI STEM research and Development Consortium

Optional accolades

- UCF Programming Team headed to world finals, has qualified for the last decade
 - Advised by Ali Orooji, supported by team of seven coaches
- UCF awarded first Keck Foundation grant, \$1 million
 - Led by College of Optics and Photonics Professors Ayman Abouraddy and Demetrios Christodoulides
 - Project titled: Space-time optics for novel light-matter interactions

Closing

- Glad to welcome students back to a campus experience despite pandemic
- Grateful for all our faculty colleagues have done to see us through historically difficult times
- Thank you, glad to take questions

2021-09-09-Senate-Chat.txt

00:30:18 Matthew Hall (he/him/his): brb meeting transition moment!

00:56:39 FS--Patty Farless: Yay!!

01:03:38 G-Joe Adams: New faculty guidance page:
<https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/document/faculty-guidance/>

01:03:49 FS-David Mitchell: My thoughts on the strategic planning committee: Unless the president's office is deferring the stakeholder input function to Faculty Senate (which would be great!), I would caution against duplicating the broader stakeholder input process by creating non-faculty committee positions. Instead, the faculty senate committee could seek input from non-faculty stakeholders as it sees fit. The FS committee could then serve as the dominant voice of the faculty in the strategic planning process, and I would advocate for members of this committee to serve as our representatives in the president's effort, bound to the committee's preferences. In doing so, we control a fact-finding process, we speak with a collective voice, and we tie our efforts with the broader university process.

01:04:02 FS - Martha Hubertz: Thanks @Joe

01:14:43 FS Tina Dow: I have some concerns with Covid reporting. To date, I've had over 100 students contact me regarding testing positive, but have not received the same number of reports from UCF alerting me to positive students in my courses. Of the more than 100, I've only had correspondence from UCF for >20. I'm not sure if this is a lack of students following through and reporting their cases, or a delay from UCF to professors.

01:15:18 G-Joe Adams: COACHE survey and committee membership details:
<https://facultyexcellence.ucf.edu/coache/>

01:19:03 FS - Karol Lucken: When you get a chance, could you please confirm whether UCF has a COVID TESTING site AND a COVID VAX site on campus? And, if so, is it free to faculty? And, does it require an appointment or just drive up? If these sites do exist, where are they located? I have not been able to find consistent information on this. Thank you.

01:19:13 FS Tina Dow: Sorry, less than 20.

01:19:40 G - Allison Hurtado: Testing:
<https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/#get-tested>

01:20:00 G - Allison Hurtado: Vaccines:
<https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus/vaccines/>

01:20:26 FS - Karol Lucken: Thank you.

01:20:55 G - Allison Hurtado: The dashboard the provost is referring to is about halfway down on the main page: <https://www.ucf.edu/coronavirus>

01:31:19 FS-Patrick Likamwa: There are definitely more students who tested positive for Covid and who have duly reported to Student Health Services but we as faculty have not received the confirmation from UCF. I have had a student like that who is now back in class having self-quarantined for 10 days.

01:37:55 G-Austin Wilson: Thank you so much Chair Harrington! SG looks forward to a great year. If anyone has any questions or would like to partner up with an initiative. Please do not hesitate to reach out to sga_vp@ucf.edu

01:49:39 FS- Bill Self: Thank you for the strong support the ACFS resolution!

01:49:59 FS--Patty Farless: Thank you for your work on this !

02:12:11 FS Mason Cash: Can we get the text of the original resolution

please?

02:13:04 FS Mason Cash: Be it Resolved that both the Equity and the Compression report be prioritized, updated with the 2020 CUPA faculty salary data and the relevant analyses be completed, level of normality reported, prediction methods implemented and resulting indices measured, and both reports be re-submitted at the same time to the Faculty Senate in an early Fall

02:15:19 FS-Lynn Casmier-Paz: I have to get ready for my class tonight, so I have to leave. Goodbye everyone, and I apologize that I have to leave before the meeting is adjourned.

02:15:38 FS - Nadine Dexter: jump to knight visions

02:17:20 FS- Adam Parrish: The Nicholson School of Communication and Media is hosting four events for Free Speech Week October 18-22. The first event will be a debate from our UCF Team addressing if student funds should be used to bring controversial speakers to campus.

02:20:34 FS- Bill Self: Charge: Ad hoc committee to develop a plan for improving civil discourse through inviting speakers to campus or developing debates and discussions

02:24:57 G-Matthew Hall (he/him/his): That sounds like a challenge for Cherie!

02:26:15 FS - Linda Walters: I would like to share abit on international hiring freeze

02:26:30 FS - Scot French: Thanks, everyone!

RESOLUTION

ACFS Opposes statewide restriction or legislation that limits public health mitigation measures in the State University System during a global pandemic

Whereas, the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) is charged with advising the Chancellor of the State University System (SUS), the Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, the Legislature, the Governor and other officials and organizations involved in the establishment of policies, administration, or funding of public higher education in Florida; and

Whereas, as of March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis declared a Public Health Emergency in the State of Florida that lasted until May 3, 2021, and current infection and hospitalization levels are in excess of those observed during that time period; and

Whereas, all counties in the State of Florida have high community transmission rates of COVID-19 as of August 10th, 2021; and

Whereas, Florida is currently the national epicenter of the Delta variant, a much more infectious and easily transmissible version of the virus that can infect and be spread by even fully vaccinated individuals, and therefore poses a special threat to faculty with underlying health conditions and unvaccinated children; and

Whereas, as of July 27, 2021, the CDC added a recommendation for fully vaccinated people to wear masks in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission and public health experts overwhelmingly agree that there are several mitigation strategies that would be effective in controlling the spread of COVID-19 that are currently restricted by executive orders of the Florida Governor (i.e., EO 21102) or state legislation (SB 2006); and

Whereas, the Florida SUS institutions are returning to in-person classroom settings in the fall semester 2021 using classroom configurations that will not permit social distancing; and

Whereas, multiple peer-reviewed studies support the use of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and found no adverse effects on those wearing masks for extended amounts of time (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>); and

Whereas, public health decisions are best made locally through the action of the individual Boards of Trustees and University administrators based on public health metrics during a pandemic that is not restricted by statewide legislation that ties the hands of leaders; and

Whereas, the Florida SUS institutions have an obligation to protect the health and well-being of their faculty, students, staff, and surrounding communities; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates petition Governor Ron

DeSantis to end Executive Order 21102 and its limitations on local mitigation actions to allow individual Universities to decide how to protect students, staff, faculty and administration in the upcoming fall semester, and petition members of the Florida Legislature to prioritize the health and safety of the State Universities in Florida more generally by repealing or amending the related limitations in SB 2006.