



**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC, FACULTY
AND STUDENT SUCCESS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS**

Pre-Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

November 2, 2021

Time Convened: 10:02 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 10:30 a.m.

Committee and Board members present:

Rahul Patel (Committee Chair), David C. Bloom, David L. Brandon, Cooper L. Brown, Richard P. Cole, James W. Heavener, Daniel T. O’Keefe

Others present:

Kent Fuchs, President, Joseph Glover, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Chris Cowen, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and University Secretary, Mary Parker, Associate Provost and Vice President for Enrollment Management, D’Andra Mull, Vice President for Student Affairs, Nancy Paton, Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing, Ja’Net Glover, Director, Career Connections Center, and members of the University of Florida community.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

Committee Chair Rahul Patel welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He noted that this was an informational meeting only and that there would be no voting.

2.0 Roll Call

Board Staff conducted a roll call of all Committee and Board members present except Mori Hosseini and Tom Kuntz who both had a conflict.

3.0 Review Agenda for December Meeting

3.1 Review Draft Minutes

Committee Chair Patel noted that we will have minutes from the June 10, 2021 and August 4, 2021 meetings to review and approve at the December BOT meeting.

3.2 Review Action Items

AFSSPRSC1 Tenure Upon Hire

Provost Glover indicated there are five Tenure Upon Hire cases that have met the criteria for tenure and have been recommended to receive tenure. The five cases are as follows:

Dr. Jose Ignacio Reyes De Corcuera, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Dr. Henry Medeiros, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Dr. Michael Scharf, Professor, Department of Entomology and Nematology, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Suzanne Thornsby, Professor, Department of Food and Resource Economics, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Ramona Caponegro, Associate University Librarian and Curator, Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, Department of Special and Area Studies Collections

AFSSPRSC2 New Degrees

Provost Glover discussed the new degrees that have been submitted for approval by the colleges:

The College of Education is proposing a Bachelor of Arts in Education, Early Childhood Education as Limited Access that will teach individuals interested in working with diverse children and their families in preschool, kindergarten and early elementary grades.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering is proposing a Master of Science with a major in Applied Data Science that will provide students with a working knowledge of techniques and software commonly used in Data Science.

The College of Design, Construction and Planning is proposing a Master of Integrated Sustainable Development that will integrate research into required core courses and collaborative studio projects. The students will learn the skills and strategies to facilitate a quadruple bottom line of ecological, cultural and social and economic sustainability and resiliency across local, state, national and international scales of the built environment.

AFSSPRSC3 State University Career Planning Implementation and Guidance

Director of the Career Connections Center Ja'Net Glover outlined the steps the University is putting into place to comply with the recently enacted HB 1261 that requires the universities to establish a mechanism to connect state university undergraduate students to career information expectations.

AFSSPRSC4 Honorary Degrees

Provost Glover indicated that there will be 2 Honorary Degrees presented at the December meeting. Once the Faculty Senate approve the Honorary Degrees at their November 18 meeting, the packets will then be furnished to the Trustees.

3.3 Informational Items

3.3.1 Admissions Update

Vice President for Enrollment Management Mary Parker will give an overview of the enrollment numbers and updates on her Division.

3.3.2 Faculty Senate Update

Faculty Senate Chair David Bloom will give an update on faculty matters.

3.3.3 Student Body Update

Student Body President Cooper Brown will give an update on student matters.

3.3.4 Student Affairs Update

Vice President D’Andra Mull will give an update on the Student Affairs area.

3.3.5. Performance Funding Update

Provost Glover will share statistics that will be reported in the Accountability Plan next year that will show how the graduation and retention rates have improved over previous years.

3.3.6 Center/Institutes

Provost Glover stated that there are 2 new centers/institutes and 1 name change. They are as follows:

New Center: Intelligent Critical Care Center (College of Medicine)

New Institute: Institute for Coaching Excellence (College of Health and Human Performance)

Name Change: Fixel Center for Neurological Disease to the Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at UF Health

3.3.7 Degree Change

Provost Glover stated that the BA in Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures & Cultures will close as a major due to it not having any students for a long time and that it has been superseded by two other majors: International Studies and Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Committee Chair Patel stated that the bulk of the meeting in December will be a discussion on the performance of the individual college level rankings. He indicated that the University has been focused on improving at the University level based on the rankings in the U.S. News and World Report. The Board would like to understand what metrics matter to the individual departments and colleges and what they are doing to improve those rankings. Trustee O’Keefe asked for information to be shared in advance about the college rankings. Provost Glover provided a website and confirmed it would be circulated to the full Board prior to the meeting. Seven colleges have been asked to present at the December meeting:

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
- College of Medicine
- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
- College of Education
- Warrington College of Business
- Levin College of Law

Committee Chair Patel indicated that Provost Glover and Assistant Provost Lebo will give a brief explanation on what influences the rankings. The Deans will each have 15 minutes to present and then there will be a question-and-answer session at the end. This will be a deep dive on what they are doing and the plan to improve. The Deans will be asked to provide a more formal plan after the meeting. The remaining colleges will be asked to present at the next BOT meeting in March.

4.0 New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

5.0 Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.