



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

**Pre-Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual Meeting**

**May 14, 2024**

**Time Convened: 10:08 a.m.**

**Time Adjourned: 10:31 a.m.**

**Committee and Board members present:**

Rahul Patel (Committee and Board Vice Chair), David L. Brandon, John E. Brinkman, Richard P. Cole, Christopher T. Corr, Morteza “Mori” Hosseini (Board Chair), Daniel T. O’Keefe, Marsha D. Powers, Danaya C. Wright, and Anita G. Zucker.

**Others present:**

Ben Sasse, President; Scott Angle, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Melissa Curry, Vice President for Human Resources; Dan Dillon, Vice President for Marketing and Senior Advisor; Elias Eldayrie, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Amy Hass, Vice President and General Counsel; Taylor Jantz, Interim Chief Financial Officer; Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and University Secretary; David Kratzer, Senior Vice President for Construction, Facilities, and Auxiliary Operations; Maria Gutierrez Martin, Interim Vice President for Advancement; Stephen Motew, President and System Chief Executive Officer of UF Health; David Nelson, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs; David Norton, Vice President for Research; Mary Parker, Vice President and Chief Enrollment Strategist; Raymond Sass, Vice President for Innovation and Partnerships; Jim Staten, Senior Advisor to the President; James Wegmann, Vice President for Communications; Heather White, Vice President for Student Life; members of the University of Florida community, and the public.

**1.0 Call to Order and Welcome**

Committee and Board Vice Chair Rahul Patel welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**2.0 Roll Call**

Provost Scott Angle conducted a roll call, and all Committee members were present, except Trustee Heavener.

**3.0 Review Draft Agenda for June Meeting**

Committee Chair Patel noted the pre-meeting is for discussion only and no action will come to the Committee. The following items were addressed by the Committee:

### 3.1 Review Draft Minutes

- **March 7, 2024 and April 29, 2024**

Committee Chair Patel reminded committee members to review the draft minutes prior to the board meeting in June.

### 3.2 Review Action Items

- **AFSSPRSC1 Tenure Upon Hire**

Provost Angle reviewed the one Tenure Upon Hire case:

- **Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)**

Dr. Mark Kistler, Professor, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication and Center Director, Indian River Research and Education Center

He noted we expect to receive additional cases and those will be provided to the Committee to review prior to the June meeting.

- **AFSSPRSC2 Annual Tenure Awards**

Provost Angle stated the Annual Tenure Awards grant tenure and permanent status to certain faculty who meet the requirements of the university's tenure and permanent status policy. All candidates on the list provided to the Board for approval will be fully vetted through the university process, which includes recommendations by the Provost and President. This report is in process and will be provided to the Committee to review prior to the June meeting.

- **AFSSPRSC3 Self-Supporting Programs**

Provost Angle stated pursuant to Florida Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 8.011, we are required to submit a request for approval of the creation of Self-Supporting Programs. He reviewed the two colleges requesting Self-Support Programs:

- The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is proposing to add a new concentration within the Ph.D. in Microbial and Cellular Data Science (CIP 26.0503). The program will serve an unsupported segment of online degree completers in the life sciences who are interested in completing a Ph.D. but unable to attend a residential doctoral program.
- The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is proposing to develop a fully online, self-supporting Master of Arts in Economics with a concentration in Econometrics and Data Analysis (CIP 45.0603). This program will enroll working professionals from around the State, the nation, and the globe. It will accommodate a new population of students that is not currently served.

- **AFSSPRSC4 Degree Program Termination**

Provost Angle stated the BOG requires a periodic review of all academic degree programs to determine whether they remain viable academic options. Degree programs that have been inactive or which are not planned to be reactivated must be closed. He reviewed the 1 Degree Program Termination:

- The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is requesting to terminate the Masters in Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology because the program is more focused on awarding Ph.D. degrees and has had only 7 students graduate in the last 5 years. There are currently

5 students enrolled in the program and are expected to complete the program in Spring 2025.

Board Chairman Hosseini suggested the President and Provost connect directly with the Colleges to review their degree programs to determine if they are viable or should be terminated based not only on low enrollment, but also if the degree helps them obtain a job in that field after graduation. President Sasse and Provost Angle agreed. President Sasse noted this would overlap with two adjacent streamlining initiatives in progress: Registrar Function and Dual Core. Board Chairman Hosseini asked Provost Angle to work with the President to create a set of guidelines and recommendations to present to the Board at the June meeting and Provost Angle agreed. President Sasse noted overlap with two additional adjacent streamlining initiatives in progress: Admissions clusters and Advising. Vice President Mary Parker and President Sasse stated the goal of the streamlined approach is to improve unpredictability of student areas of study from application to admission, which will improve overall advising. Board Chairman Hosseini agreed and emphasized the importance of advising for our students.

- **AFSSPRSC5 Common Prerequisite Manual Changes**

Provost Angle stated The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is requesting to add common prerequisite course alternatives to the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Sciences degree programs. The new requirements will bring the common prerequisite manual in line with what the students are currently required to take in order to complete these degrees. Approval by the BOG is required.

- **AFSSPRSC6 General Education Courses Annual Review**

Provost Angle stated pursuant to new BOG Regulation 8.005, the Board and President are now required to annually review and approve the courses offered by the institution that meet general education course requirements and submit the approved list to the Florida Department of Education Articulation Coordinating Committee by September 1 of each year.

- **AFSSPRSC7 New Degrees**

Provost Angle reviewed the proposed Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Comparative Biomedical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CIP 26.0102). This will allow students to train in various areas of emphasis, including diseases and immunology, physiological sciences, forensic sciences, aquatic animals, ecosystem health, and artificial intelligence. Approval by the BOG is required.

### **3.3 Review Discussion Items**

- **Updates**

Committee Chair Patel noted updates will be provided at the June meeting for the following:

- Admissions
- Faculty Senate
- Student Body President
- Student Life
- Top 5 (U.S. News and World Report rankings initiative)
- Marketing

- **Centers/Institutes**

Provost Angle reviewed the proposal to create the UF Space Mission Institute (UF-SMI). The creation of this institute will propel us to one of the nation leaders in space-based research. He shared UF Distinguished Professor Rob Ferl will serve as Director of the institute. Dr. Ferl will be the first NASA-funded academic researcher to conduct an experiment as part of a commercial space crew on an upcoming mission of Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket.

President Sasse expressed his gratitude to Provost Angle and his team for their hard work on the acceleration of this proposal. This institute is some of the early fruits of the 10x10x10 initiative.

- **Department Name Change**

Provost Angle reviewed the proposal to split the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research into two distinct departments to assist the College of Pharmacy in achieving a more focused and impactful approach to research, clinical work, and education:

- Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research
- Department of Pharmacy Education and Practice

- **Annual Academic Degree Programs List**

Provost Angle stated pursuant to BOG Regulation 8.011(4)(a), universities are now required to provide an annual list of the new Academic Degree Programs for the upcoming academic year to the Board for approval. Committee Chair Patel asked if the list will be ready for review before the June meeting and Provost Angle confirmed.

#### **4.0 New Business**

Trustee Danaya Wright stated this is her final meeting and expressed her gratitude to the Board and Senior Administration for their support of the faculty and her administrative burdens initiative.

#### **5.0 Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Committee and Board Vice Chair Rahul Patel adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.