



**University Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
March 25, 2024
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Engineering East Room 106**

1. The UFS meeting was called to order by Dr. Kevin Wagner at 1:01pm. The meeting was held in Engineering East Room 106.

**Dr. Dunn was attending the BOG meeting; Dr. Kevin Wagner, past-President of the UFS, presided over the meeting.*

2. Senate approved [February 26, 2024](#) UFS Minutes by unanimous consent.

3. President's Report

- None.

4. Guest Speakers

- None.

5. Committee Reports

- **Committee Report, Research Committee, Tina Penhollow**
 - There are 11 members of the URC with representatives from every college, including the library.
 - The URC meets every fall semester to determine sabbatical awards.
 - Full-time faculty, including university librarians, who have completed six years of service at FAU are eligible to apply for sabbaticals.
 - The full-semester sabbaticals are non-competitive.
 - The half-semester sabbaticals are competitive; 16 are available.
 - If the department has more than 20 faculty members, the chair can recommend 2 faculty for 1 semester or 1 faculty for fall and 1 faculty for spring.
 - In fall 2023, there were 34 faculty members that applied for sabbaticals and the top 16 were recommended to the Provost's Office. Following a sabbatical, faculty are required to stay at a FAU for one academic year and submit a report of activities to the Provost's Office which will also be included in their annual evaluation of that year.
 - The URC meets every spring semester to determine Researcher of the Year (ROY) and Scholar of the Year (SOY) awards.
 - There are three ROY awards - one for each category (full professor,

- associate professor, and assistant professor)
 - There are three SOY awards - one for each category (full professor, associate professor, and assistant professor)
 - This year we had 10 faculty apply for the ROY award and 13 faculty apply for the SOY award.
 - The top three for ROY award and the top three for SOY award are then recommended to the Provost's Office
- **Academic Planning and Budget Committee, Kevin Wagner**
 - **Committee Report**
 - The Academic Planning and Budget Committee shall consist of 6 faculty elected by the UFS President-Elect or Past-President of the UFS who serves as Chair. University Provost and CFO, both ex officio— nonvoting.
 - APBC, in consultation with the Provost, shall be responsible for the Planning of Academic Programs: (1) the Committee will review new and revised degree proposals for their budgetary impact and report to Steering, before the proposal is presented to the UFS, (2) the Academic Calendar, (3) Budget Policies, and (4) related support activities.
 - No major activities in 2023-2024.
 - [SPOT dates](#)
 - Dr. Kevin Wagner reported on the SPOT dates.
 - Recommendation was to continue SPOT dates as listed on the table, along with a positive recommendation from Steering.
 - Dr. Wagner made a motion to remain with dates outlined in the table.
 - **Motion carries.**
- **Committee Report, Policy and Procedures Committee, Meredith Mountford**
 - Postponed until April meeting.
- **Committee Report, Undergraduate Programs Committee, Korey Sorge**
 - The UPC shall consist of one faculty member from each college offering undergraduate courses. Including non-voting members, Registrar's Office, Admissions and the Library, as well as other ex-officio members.
 - Committee meets once a month.
 - The UPC shall review all proposals and recommend approval or, for cause, disapproval for
 - Introducing, changing, or terminating undergraduate courses;
 - Introducing, changing, or terminating undergraduate degree programs, majors, specializations, concentrations, areas of emphasis, and tracks;
 - Introducing, changing, or terminating undergraduate minors, Honors-in-the-Major programs, or certificates;
 - University-wide policy concerning undergraduate programs including but not limited to:

- General education requirements
 - The lower-division core
 - University-wide writing programs
 - University-wide honors programs
 - Grading, attendance, and related academic policies
 - Dr. Sorge discussed the process after Senate.
 - Dr. Sorge discussed what UPC had done this year; the usual items, FLEX requirements, and General Education requirements.
- **Committee Report, Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee, TBD**
 - Dr. Nicole Morse, presented on behalf of Melanie Acosta, chair of the Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee.
 - The Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee shall review and assist in reaching a voluntary settlement of all complaints of violation of academic freedom or due process, which are appropriate for its consideration and which are not currently under consideration by another body. If voluntary settlement cannot be accomplished, the committee shall deliberate and issue a statement of its findings and recommendations. The Committee shall review and give advice to the Senate on matters related to Academic Freedom and Due Process or any other matter referred to it by the Senate or the Steering Committee.
 - The Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee shall consist of one faculty member from each college, one member from the Library, and one non-voting member from the University Administration.
 - 2023-2024 activity included: (1) review BOG document on Civil Discourse and Free Expression; the committee reviewed, assessed, and produced the following statement: the Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee of the Florida Atlantic University Faculty Senate has reviewed the Board of Governors statement on Civil Discourse. We agree with and value the 2019 Civil Discourse statement. Some of our committee members have concerns about the 2024 statement Best Practices and National Models, (2) review a proposed statement and determine whether the committee supports it, the proposed statement is: the Florida University Faculty Senate has reviewed the university's policy statements and practices on civil discourse and freedom of expression. Note that the charge changed to reviewing FAU rather than the BOG statement. We find that our existing practices on our campuses generally conform with the State University system Board of Governors statement of free expression. We remain committed to civil discourse and free exchange and discussion of ideas. The committee reviewed, discussed and produced the following statement: The Florida Atlantic University Faculty has reviewed the university's policies, statements and practices on civil discourse and freedom of expression. We remain committed to civil discourse and to the free exchange and discussion of ideas as described in the State University System Board of Governors statement

of free expression. Dr. Morse noted that the committee landed on this statement rather than the proposed statement because members of the committee had concerns about whether, in fact in practice.

6. [UPC Consent Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Approved by unanimous consent.**

7. [UPC Action Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Motion to approve carries.**

8. [UGC Consent Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Approved by unanimous consent.**

9. UGC Action Agenda

- None.

10. Old Business

- **Digital access for UFS Steering and Senate meetings**, Kevin Wagner
 - Require FAU login to access Steering; will continue livestream but no recording.
 - No recommended changes to Senate; will continue livestream and recording.
 - Motion for Steering to revisit Digital access for UFS Steering and Senate meetings. **Motion carries.**

11. New Business

- [Proposed bylaw revisions](#)
 - Dr. Wagner presented the removal of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and the creation a new committee, Faculty Development, Success, and Retention Committee
 - Positive recommendation from steering.
 - Change of bylaws; this is the meeting of notice of the proposed change, the change will come back in the April meeting for further debate and vote.
 - Dr. Beetle commented that subsection b. the ex-officio members was vague and should be specified.
 - For background information see [Regulation 9.016](#)
- [Statement on Free Expression](#)
 - Dr. Wagner presented the Statement on Free Expression.
 - Dr. Nicole Morse, from the Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee, further discussed the process pertaining to the Statement on Free Expression that was undertaken by the committee and other concerns. She also requested that the Statement on Free Expression be sent back to Steering.

- All those in favor on approving the Statement on Free Expression, 19 in favor and 15 opposed; the **motion carries**.
- For background information see [Civil Discourse Final Report](#)
- Nominations – Voting open 4/1 – 4/19
 - Faculty Senate President Elect
 - Dr. Wagner presented the nominees and asked if there are any other nominations. None. Nominations closed.
 - Statements from nominees; Dr. Khaled Sobhan and Dr. Willian Trapani
 - Steering Committee – need to fill 3 slots
 - Dr. Wagner presented the nominees and asked if there are any other nominations. None. Nominations closed.
 - Final nominees
 - Cristobal Salinas
 - Howard K. Butcher
 - LeaAnne DeRigne
 - Mark Kohlbeck
 - Mauricio Almonte
 - Chris Beetle
 - Meredith Mountford
 - Richard Gendler
 - Vicki Sarajedini
 - Khaled Sobhan
 - Academic Planning and Budget Committee – need to fill 4 slots
 - Dr. Wagner presented the nominees for steering and asked if there are any other nominations. None. Nominations closed.
 - Final nominees
 - Adam Wyatt
 - Sharon Darling
 - Fred Hoffman
 - Mark Kohlbeck
 - Chris Beetle
 - Richard Gendler
 - Yuandan Lin
 - Zhijun Yin
 - Carol Mills
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee – need to fill 7 slots
 - Dr. Wagner presented the nominees for steering and asked if there are any other nominations. None. Nominations closed.

- Final nominees
 - Daniel Scheide
 - Dilys Schoorman
 - Mauricio Almonte
 - Zhijun Yin
 - Policy and Procedures Committee
 - Dr. Wagner presented the nominees and asked if there are any other nominations. None. Nominations closed.
 - Final nominees – need to fill 4 slots
 - Adam Wyatt
 - Richard Gendler
 - Fred Hoffman
 - Kevin Wagner
 - Meredith Mountford
 - Morgan Cooley
 - Nwadiuto Esiobu
12. Open Forum with the Provost
 - None. Provost was attending the Board of Governors meeting in Gainesville.
13. Open Forum of the Senate
 - Daniela Nikolova announced an event by the Association for Women in Science at FAU & NSF ADVANCE-EMPOWER Project.
 - Faculty Stakeholders Investing in Best Practices in Academia
Monday, April 1, 2024, 1:00pm-2:30pm
FAU Boca, Engineering East 101K (Gangal Hall)
RSVP required.
 - Presented the main goals and objectives Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
 - Nicole Morse expressed concerns about the academic freedom and free expression statement.
 - Senators discussed BOG regulations and PTR.
14. Good of the Senate
 - None.
15. **Meeting adjourned at 2:41pm.**