



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

**Pre-Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual Meeting**

**May 5, 2021**

**Time Convened: 1:01 p.m.**

**Time Adjourned: 1:34 p.m.**

**Committee and Board members present:**

Rahul Patel (Committee Chair), Cooper L. Brown, Richard P. Cole, Christopher T. Corr, Sylvain Dore, James W. Heavener, Thomas G. Kuntz, Morteza “Mori” Hosseini (Board Chair), Daniel T. O’Keefe, Marsha D. Powers, Fred S. Ridley, and Anita G. Zucker.

**Others present:**

Kent Fuchs, President, Joseph Glover, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Chris Cowen, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Jodi Gentry, Vice President for Human Resources, Amy Hass, Vice President and General Counsel, Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and University Secretary, D’Andra Mull, Vice President for Student Affairs, Nancy Paton, Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing, 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 1:02 p.m. He noted that this was an information 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.

**3.0 Review Agenda for March Meeting**

**3.1 Review Draft Minutes**

Committee Chair Patel noted that we will have minutes from the March 18, 2021 and May 5, 2021 meetings to review and approve at the June BOT meeting.

**3.2 Review Action Items**

**AFSSPRSC1 Tenure Upon Hire**

Provost Glover indicated there are two Tenure Upon Hire cases that have met the criteria for tenure and permanent status and have been recommended to receive tenure. The two cases are: Dr. Christopher Gunter, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Professor and Chair,

Department of Horticultural Sciences and Dr. David Rifkind, College of Design, Construction and Planning, Professor and School Director, School of Architecture.

### **AFSSPRSC2 Degree Program Termination**

Provost Glover stated that the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is requesting to terminate the B.A. Degree in Plant Science-Community Food Systems since there has been a lack of student interest and there are currently no students enrolled.

### **AFSSPRSC3 Annual Tenure Awards**

Provost Glover indicated that the annual list of tenure awards will be presented at the upcoming committee meeting in June. The list of individuals will have gone through the university's process including being recommended by the respective Dean, the Academic Personnel Board, and the Provost. Provost Glover is in the process of reviewing the list of candidates, which will be available for Trustees to review prior to the June Board Meeting. Chair Patel asked if there have been any changes to the process, which the Provost confirmed there has not.

## **3.3 Review Discussion Items**

### **3.3.1 AI Update**

Committee Chair Patel stated that Provost Glover will give an update on the AI Initiative and Vice President Mitchell will discuss what has been done to improve our rankings using the AI Initiative. Provost Glover indicated that he had gone to the data center and initiated the speed trial on the supercomputer. The University will enter the results in the world competition in June to see how it ranks among the world's top supercomputers. He stated it only took a half an hour for the speed trial to run, using 1.1 megawatts of electricity, and expects the University to be in the Top 20-30 in the World Rankings when done.

### **3.3.2 UF Online**

Chair Patel stated that Associate Provost Andy McCollough would give an update on UF Online.

### **3.3.3 Graduate School Dean Vision**

Chair Patel indicated that the graduate student experience strategy has been delayed due to the transition to a new Graduate School Dean. At the next June meeting, the new Dean, Nicole Stedman will present her vision for the Graduate School.

### **3.3.4 Admissions Update**

Provost Glover will give an update on Admissions in June. Trustee Cole inquired whether the university was reaching out to the students that did not choose to come to UF. Provost Glover indicated that the Admissions Office does reach out to some students but not all. He indicated that the reason why some students decide not to come to UF is because other universities are able to offer more financial aid. Chair Patel indicated that there would be an Honors Update at a future meeting where we would also discuss what schools we lose honors students to.

### **3.3.5 Kognito Training Update**

Vice President Jodi Gentry gave an update on the training that the Board of Governors (BOG) has required all SUS institutions to provide to their faculty and staff to address student mental health issues through Kognito by May 7, 2021. Vice President Gentry indicated that 99% of the faculty

and staff have taken the training. BOG set a threshold of 95% completion which has been met. President Fuchs indicated that the BOG has requested that the institutions report the number of employees that have been trained to ensure reporting across the system. UF had already met the threshold with 96% completion at the March 23, 2021 BOG meeting. VP Gentry indicated UF has been providing this training since 2002.

### **3.3.6 Strategic Communications and Marketing Update**

Vice President Nancy Paton gave an update on the Key Performance Indicators comparing quarter one 2021 against 2020. These reputation-related performance metrics, which are the best gauge of progress, indicate a strengthening of UF's reputation position over the past 12 months. Vice President Paton stated these key performance indicators are important to monitor continually and noted that the undergraduate-related peer assessment voting is currently underway. Trustee Patel stated Vice President Paton will be presenting on the university's Research Promotion Initiative at the June Board of Trustees meeting.

### **3.3.7 Faculty Senate Update**

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

### **3.3.8 Student Body President Update**

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

### **3.3.9 Student Affairs Update**

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

### **3.3.10 New Department**

Provost Glover indicated that the Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation is reorganizing and would like the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation to be an independent department.

### **3.3.11 Degree Closure**

Provost Glover stated that the combination degree for BA/MA in Religion will be eliminated but that the University is still offering a BA in Religion and an MA in Religion, just not together.

## **4.0 New Business**

Board Chair Hosseini stated that at the June board meeting that the Board will start the process of looking at the graduate students. In addition, there will be a presentation about Baby Gator and how to proceed.

## **5.0 Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.