

Minutes of the February 4, 2020 UF Gainesville COM Faculty Council Meeting

Officers Present:

President – Emily Weber LeBrun
President Elect – Albert Robinson, III
Vice President – Sonia Deshmukh Mehta

Past President – Alice Rhoton-Vlasak
Secretary – Jean Cibula
Treasurer – Steven Swarts

Department Representatives Present:

Kimberly Sibille – Aging & Geriatric Res.
Rene Opavsky – Anatomy & Cell Biology
Matthew Andoniadis – Anesthesiology
Matthew Merritt – Biochem. & Molec. Biology
Arlene Naranjo – Biostatistics (by phone)
Ku-Lang Chang – CHFM
Addie Walker – Dermatology
Nicholas Maldonado – Emergency Medicine
Kelly Gurka – Epidemiology (by phone)
Dianne Goede – Medicine
Lizi Wu – Molec. Genetics & Microbiology (by phone)

Kathleen Green – Obstetrics & Gynecology
Gibran Khurshid – Ophthalmology (by phone)
Natalie Silver – Otolaryngology
Petar Breitingner – PA School
Luis Fernando Seguias – Pediatrics
Daniel Wesson – Pharmacology & Therapeutics
Mariam Rahmani – Psychiatry (by phone)
Steven Swarts – Radiation Oncology
Priya Sharma – Radiology
Romano De Marco – Urology

Department Representatives Absent:

Jiang Bian – Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics
Ashley Ghiaseddin – Neurological Surgery
Anna Khanna – Neurology

Andrew Maurer – Neuroscience
Hernan Prieto – Orthopaedics & Rehab.
Marie Rivera-Zengotita – Pathology
Abdel Alli – Physiology
Ryan Thomas – Surgery

Invited Speaker: Christopher Batich, Ph.D., Professor, Biomedical Engineering & Materials Science

Guests:

Ray Thomas, UF Faculty Senate Chair
Mark Segal, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Professional Development

Minutes:

1. President Emily Weber LeBrun called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.
2. The January 2020 Faculty Council meeting minutes were approved.
3. Question & Answer Session with UF Faculty Senate Chair, Ray Thomas
 - Mr. Thomas is the current Chair of the UF Faculty Senate and serves on the UF Board of Trustees. His home department is in the Department of Geological Sciences where he studies water and aquatic chemistry. He is working to strengthen the system of Shared Governance on campus by attending Faculty Council and Assembly meetings to learn about what the concerns are in individual colleges.
 - The role of the UF Faculty Senate is the legislative body of the University, providing a forum for mutual exchange of ideas between senior university officers and faculty. The Senate approves educational policies, including the creation, modification, or deletion of academic programs and units, and general policies concerning student instruction.
 - As Faculty Senate Chair, Prof. Thomas has addressed the following matters:
 - Compensation and retention of our talented faculty
 - Improving access to quality, affordable daycare and early childhood learning facilities

- on campus
 - Securing a paid parental leave benefit, which the Welfare Council has been working on for several years
 - Parking and transportation, which is also an ongoing matter
 - Additional topics being addressed by the UF Faculty Senate are:
 - Supporting Kognito Training for faculty: teaches faculty to recognize a student in distress and runs simulations on how to talk to them about seeking help.
 - Supporting Green-Dot Bystander Intervention Education
 - Green-Dot training teaches students and faculty how to interact as a bystander. Its name was derived from the red dots on maps that show where assaults have occurred; the green dots will show when a bystander intervened and nothing bad happened/there was a good outcome.
 - Addressing the concerning outcomes of the recent AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct
 - There are plans to distribute drink coasters around campus that are able to detect if a date-rape drug has been added to a drink. If a student is suspicious that there may be something in their drink, they can put a drop of drink on the coaster before consuming it, and it will alert them if the drug is present.
4. [Collaboration between the Colleges of Engineering and Medicine](#) – Christopher Batich, Ph.D., Professor, Biomedical Engineering & Materials Science
- Dr. Batich is on sabbatical this year. His charge is to increase interaction between the Health Science Center and the College of Engineering. He is the Founding Director of the UF Graduate Biomedical Engineering Program, he was the COO and Associate Director of the UF CTSI from 1999-2002, he was the Director of Pilot Programs for the CTSI from 2003-2004, he was on the MD/PhD Internal Advisory Board from 2009-2015, and is the co-inventor (mostly with UF Health faculty) on 65 UF patents.
 - There are approximately 279 tenure track faculty members and 10,000 students in the College of Engineering (COE). The students are eager to work on something practical and the Health Science Center is the largest real-world enterprise in our city, so there's a lot of opportunity for collaboration. The COE has multiple problem-solving skill sets and awareness of new technology in unrelated fields, but at times may not know what the real problems are. The COM is complex and deals with really important problems; therefore they can identify problems to solve and evaluate outcomes and progress of engineering projects. As an example, Dr. Batich described the first transistor implant for a pacemaker. The pacemaker was originally the size of a small refrigerator that was connected to the patient with vacuum tubes. When the vacuum tubes kept blowing out, the physician asked an engineer if they could create better, more dependable vacuum tubes. Instead, the engineer mentioned a new transistor that had been created, and suggested that it could be implanted.
 - Dr. Batich discussed past collaborations between the COE and the COM that resulted in publications, patents, or patent applications:
 - Design of a slow-release device to release peptides as a way to treat aneurisms; tissue growth regeneration subsequently increased around an aneurism site in an animal model
 - Design of modular and adjustable tables for wheelchair access to be used during Horticultural Therapy

- Design of a modified gauze that presently kills every bacteria that's been tested quickly on contact, without releasing anything into the wound
 - Design of a prototype for a cooling device to limit esophagus damage during radio ablation for heart problems
 - Proved the concept of using magnetic particles to deliver genes selectively to certain tissues
 - COE students can participate in a Clinical Preceptorship with COM physicians, which allows them to see things from a different perspective
 - Dr. Batich can be reached by email at: cbati@ufl.edu or by phone at: 392-6630
5. [Departmental Snapshot of Dermatology](#) – Addie Walker, M.D.
6. [Lifetime Achievement Award nominations](#) – Steven Swarts, Ph.D.
- The Call for Nominations was emailed to COM faculty on January 7, 2020, and will close on February 14, 2020 (end of business day). To date there have been 4 nomination packets received.
 - Nomination packets will be sent to Faculty Council members on February 18, 2020 for review prior to the March meeting
 - Selection of awardees will occur at the March 3, 2020 Faculty Council meeting
 - Awardees will be announced at the COM Spring Faculty Appreciation Reception on April 1, 2020
7. [Committee Reports:](#)
- Update on COM Dean Search - Emily Weber LeBrun, M.D.
 - Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, Dr. David Nelson, recently convened the search committee for the COM Dean. They are currently seeking candidates and revising the job description. Faculty who have a candidate they would like to suggest can email Dr. Weber LeBrun, who will forward the candidate's name to the search committee. The search firm will vet all of the candidates.
 - Executive Committee (report from January 16, 2020 meeting) – Emily Weber LeBrun, M.D.
 - The evolution of the Villages was discussed.
 - Dr. Joseph Fantone provided an update on the current medical school statistics.
 - The Dean will be developing Task Forces to address some of the topics from the recent COM Retreat.
 - Chair Evaluations – Emily Weber LeBrun, M.D.
 - The Faculty Council developed a system to evaluate Department Chairs on an annual basis. The surveys are emailed to faculty in May and are collected for three weeks. The results are then forwarded to the Dean. This process will now be outsourced to a company called Linkage. The Faculty Council officers will be meeting with reps from Linkage on February 14, 2020 to discuss the strategies and implementation of the evaluations. The new profile for the evaluations will be vetted by the Faculty Council before being sent to faculty this May.
 - Curriculum Committee meeting – Nicholas Maldonado, M.D.
 - The committee voted to approve two new Certificate Programs that will provide opportunities for the small number of students who are unable to complete medical school. The Academic Status Committee will notify students who withdraw or are dismissed whether or not this is an option for them.

- [Research Task Force](#) – Kimberly Sibille, Ph.D.
 - Responses to the 2019 Faculty Wellness Needs Assessment Survey identified several areas of interest for improving faculty well-being related to the conduct of research. Noted below are the initiatives currently in process to address these issues:
 - For Funding Assistance:
 - Launch of a COM “Bolster Bucks” program to support specific research-related needs
 - Development of a resource page to connect COM faculty to an array of internal research funding opportunities
 - For Administrative Assistance:
 - Development of a resource list to connect faculty with existing resources available to help identify student RAs and experienced Research Coordinators (RCs)
 - An inaugural Undergraduate Research Assistant “Speed Pitch” event will be held on February 5, 2020 to connect faculty with students interested in research
 - In collaboration with the UF CTSI, an orientation checklist for new RCs is being developed to assist with onboarding and training
 - For Networking:
 - The COM Research Day Poster App and web link organized by the COM Office of Research Affairs will help researchers identify others with similar interests
 - COM Faculty Mentoring Moments will improve connection/collaboration between faculty and trainees at the COM Research Day Poster Session and Reception
 - The new COM Faculty Lounge will facilitate faculty networking and collaboration
 - Development of Quarterly Networking Opportunities

8. [Faculty Enhancement Opportunities 101](#) – Jean Cibula, M.D.

- Current FEO application deadlines are noted below:
 - The College FEO committee (COM-FEO) requires a brief Letter of Intent (LOI) to be submitted as a brief email sent to hamleen@ufl.edu to indicate that you will be preparing an application. Please tell us what date you joined the UF faculty and describe the activity for which you will be requesting support (1-2 sentences), an estimated total cost, and the time frame that the activity will take place (which must be between July and December 2020). The eLOI is due by March 12, 2020. **The completed application is due by March 13, 2020 @5:00PM.**
 - Your application will be reviewed by a COM committee to determine the proposals that will be recommended for support.
 - If supported by the COM FEO review committee, your application will be submitted to the Provost on or before the University submission deadline of March 30, 2020, for consideration by the University FEO committee.

9. President Weber LeBrun adjourned the meeting at 6:01pm. The Faculty Council representatives then gathered for refreshments in the new faculty lounge.

Announcements:

- **All faculty are welcome to attend any Faculty Council meetings**

- Faculty Enhancement Opportunities will be announced soon – watch for deadlines!
- Check out the Faculty Lounge in the Medical Science Building, Room M-125. It's a place to meet colleagues, a place to roost between meetings, and a quiet place to work.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award nominations are due 2/13 to sgwarts@ufl.edu.**
- To schedule an appointment with the UFCOM Ombudsman for faculty, Dr. Keith Stone, email your request to stonek@ufl.edu, and simply include your name and contact information. To maintain confidentiality, use email only to schedule appointments.

The next Faculty Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 3, 2020 @ 5PM in the Medical Science Building, Room M-112.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Liverman, Administrative Assistant, and edited by Dr. Jean Cibula and Dr. Emily Weber LeBrun.