

## Minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - UF Gainesville COM Faculty Council Meeting (held via Zoom)

### Officers Present:

President – Erica Dale  
President Elect – Michael Haller  
Past President – Martin Rosenthal

Vice President – Erin Vanzant  
Secretary – Paramita Chakrabarty  
Treasurer – Eric Jeng

### Department Representatives Present:

Arvin Trippensee – Anesthesiology  
Thomas Mareci – Biochem. & Molec. Biology  
Li Chen – Biostatistics  
Dan Rubin – Community Health & Fam Med.  
Michael Lavery – Dermatology  
Ronnie Ren – Emergency Medicine  
Kelly Gurka – Epidemiology  
Ramzi Salloum – Health Outcomes & Bio Informatics  
Sherri Kittelson – Medicine  
Ashley Ghiaseddin – NeuroSurgery

Benoit Giasson – Neuroscience  
Jonathan Hu – Ophthalmology  
Matthew Patrick – Orthopaedics & Rehab.  
Si Chen – Otolaryngology  
Jason Fromm – PA School  
Yu Yang – Pathology  
Michele Lossius – Pediatrics  
Jonathan Bird – Pharmacology & Therapeutics  
Rui Xiao – Physiology & Aging  
Matt Daley – Psychiatry  
Steven Swarts – Radiation Oncology  
Romano DeMarco – Urology

### Department Representatives Absent:

Rene Opavsky – Anatomy & Cell Biology  
Edward Scott – Molec. Genetics & Microbiology  
Gabriel Bonnell – Neurology  
Sarah Baxley – Obstetrics & Gynecology

Shawn McGargill – Phys Med & Rehabilitation  
Priya Sharma – Radiology  
Lisa Spiguel – Surgery

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### Ex-Officio Members:

Mark Segal, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Professional Development, UF College of Medicine  
Ellen Zimmermann, M.D., Associate Dean for Faculty Development, UF College of Medicine

### UF Faculty Senator - COM:

Lauren Berkow, M.D., Professor, Department of Anesthesiology

### Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.
2. The minutes from the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting were approved.
3. New Business:
  - The current UF Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Danaya Wright, recently emailed faculty regarding the new law about hiring people from the 7 countries of concern. The Board of Governors is working on understanding and interpreting the law. The following details were noted:
    - Current UF students are not impacted by the new law, and visits home by those students to any of the 7 countries is not an issue.
    - Undergraduates with citizenship from the 7 countries of concern currently living in the United States can be granted Teaching Assistantships (TA's) and Research Assistantships (RA's).
    - Undergraduates with citizenships from the 7 countries of concern currently living outside of those countries can get TA's and RA's.
    - Students with citizenship from any country currently living in the 7 countries of concern, as interpreted at this point, cannot get TA's or RA's.
    - Post-docs from these 7 countries can still be hired with an H1B Visa.

- Additional information can be found online at: [Microsoft Word - PSE-Waiver-Guidance-March-2023 \(flbog.edu\)](https://flbog.edu/Microsoft%20Word-PSE-Waiver-Guidance-March-2023).
- There was discussion regarding Dr. Joseph Ladapo's recent statement about his interpretation of the safety of the vaccines.

#### 4. Old Business:

- A Chair for the COM Wellness Task Force is needed. In the Spring of 2023, the task force established new clinical awards (Clinical Excellence Awards and Rising Star Awards) that received a tremendous response from COM faculty. The task force also worked to identify resources for faculty with disabilities.
- Faculty Council representatives who are interested in chairing the task force can email Dr. Dale at: [ericadale@ufl.edu](mailto:ericadale@ufl.edu).

#### 5. Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee Report – Erica Dale, Ph.D.
  - No updates to report.
- AAMC CFAS – Albert Robinson, III, M.D., Meredith Thompson, M.D.
  - No updates to report.
- Committee to Determine Best Practices for Hiring at COM – Ashley Ghiaseddin, M.D.
  - No updates to report.
- Curriculum Committee - Jason Fromm, M.D.
  - No updates to report.
- UF Faculty Senate (December 2023 meeting) – Lauren Berkow, M.D.
  - Dr. Wright is working on reducing administrative burdens for faculty. An online form is available for faculty to [report administrative burdens](#). The Senate established five Action Teams to address the following topics:
    - Finance/procurement (especially related to travel and UF GO)
    - HR research processes
    - Effort and conflicts reporting
    - Student experience and teaching
  - The Post-Tenure Review is moving forward based on the following new regulations:
    - A “skinny” packet will be submitted that includes the faculty member's last five annual reports, a CV, and an optional narrative.
    - The review will only be based on assigned duties.
    - The Provost anticipates that this will be a good thing and that there will be rewards and incentives for high achievers.
  - Dr. Michael Okun is the featured speaker at the upcoming Faculty Senate Distinguished Lecture Series to be held at 5pm on January 18, 2024 in the UF Senate Chamber at the Reitz Union. Dr. Okun will present “Journey to the Center of the Brain and Back”.
  - Nominations are being accepted through January 24, 2024 for [UF Faculty Senate Committees and Councils](#). Self-nominations and colleague nominations are welcome.
- Hospital Operations Committee – Lisa Spiguel, M.D.

- The committee is continuing to work on developing a new platform for their meetings. An update should be provided within the next couple of months.
- [Research Task Force](#) – Jonathan Bird, Ph.D.
  - No updates to report.
- Wellness Task Force
  - No updates to report. A representative from the Faculty Council is needed to take over leadership of this group. Those interested can email Dr. Dale at: [ericadale@ufl.edu](mailto:ericadale@ufl.edu).

President Erica Dale adjourned the meeting at 5:39 pm.

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### **Announcements:**

- Warm wishes for a happy and productive 2024
- Save the date for the UF College of Medicine Celebration of Research: February 12 - February 13, 2024.
- Welcome to Jennifer L. Hunt, M.D., M.Ed., the new interim dean of the UF College of Medicine
- Welcome to Jesse Lee Kresak, M.D. who has been appointed interim chair of the department of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine
- Please nominate accomplished colleagues for university designated awards (including honorary degree, distinguished alumnus award, distinguished achievement award, and distinguished service award) by March 1<sup>st</sup>. More information [here](#).
- Please join the Faculty Senate Distinguished Professor Lecture, by Michael Okun, on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 in the Senate Chamber. The full schedule of lectures is [here](#).
- For updates on post tenure review discussion by the Faculty Senate, please visit [here](#) and [here](#)
- To schedule an appointment with the Ombuds office, call 352-392-1308. Appointments are confidential.
- For resources and tools to thrive, be sure to check out the UFCOM Wellness [website](#)
- Log Into Your Free Electronic Lab Notebook Account at LabArchives through the [SSO](#): Instructions on accessing LabArchives

The next Faculty Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5:00pm.

*Minutes recorded by Melissa Liverman, Administrative Assistant, and edited by Dr. Paramita Chakrabarty and Dr. Erica Dale.*