



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

**Pre-Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual Meeting**

**February 6, 2024**

**Time Convened: 9:33 a.m.**

**Time Adjourned: 9:45 a.m.**

**Committee and Board members present:**

Rahul Patel (Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair), David L. Brandon, Richard P. Cole, James W. Heavener, Morteza “Mori” Hosseini (Board Chair), Daniel T. O’Keefe, Marsha D. Powers, Fred S. Ridley; Danaya C. Wright, and Anita G. Zucker.

**Others present:**

Scott Angle, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Melissa Curry, Vice President for Human Resources; Kurt Dudas, Vice President/Jacksonville Lead; 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; David Nelson, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and President, UF Health; 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**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Rahul Patel welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

**2.0 Roll Call**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Rahul Patel conducted a roll call, and all Committee members were present, except Trustees Corr and Green.

**3.0 Review Draft Agenda for March Meeting**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel noted the pre-meeting is informational only and no action will come to the committee.

**3.1 Review Draft Minutes**

• **December 7, 2023**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel reminded the committee that they will review and approve the December 7, 2023, minutes at the March meeting.

### 3.2 Review Action Items

- **AFSSPRSC1 Degree Program Terminations**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel stated that there were three Degree Program Terminations as follows:

- The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is requesting to terminate the Bachelor of Science in Horticultural Science. The Bachelor of Science in Horticultural Science degree curriculum is now part of the Plant Science undergraduate degree and students can take horticultural science courses. Students enrolled as of Fall 2023 will still be able to successfully graduate in the new Plant Sciences major.
- The College of Design, Construction and Planning is requesting to terminate the Master of International Construction Management online program due to low enrollment, low graduation rates and maintaining the prerecorded content. The students currently enrolled in the program will be able to complete their degree by Spring 2025 when the program will be closing.
- The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is requesting to terminate the Master of Arts with a major in Classical Studies. This program has experienced low enrollment for several years and any students remaining in the program after Summer 2027 will enroll in the Master of Latin program.

- **AFSSPRSC2 Self Supporting Program**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel stated the College of Journalism and Communications is proposing to add a new graduate concentration in Digital Journalism and Multimedia Storytelling in the Master of Arts in Mass Communication. The purpose of this new graduate concentration is to add additional offerings in the specific area of journalism education, a key discipline for the college. Graduates in this space are increasingly expected to possess data and digital skills to be successful in their jobs in a changing journalism landscape (truth, trust, bias, safety, etc.). This program aligns with the mission of the College of Journalism, which includes educating the next generation of journalists who can rebuild the public's trust in media and act in the public's interest.

- **AFSSPRSC3 Instructional Site: Jacksonville Site**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel noted that the University of Florida plans to operate the Jacksonville Site as an Instructional that will provide clearly defined programs and services, such as research and public service, and reflects a permanent commitment by the university for the foreseeable future. The Jacksonville Site will offer courses from the Colleges of Business and Engineering that will lead to graduate degrees.

### 3.3 Review Discussion Items

- **Admissions Update**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel stated Vice President Mary Parker will provide an Admissions Update at the March meeting. The update will include the changes to admission release dates being moved earlier for the next admissions cycle.

- **Faculty Senate Update**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel noted Trustee and Faculty Senate Chair Danaya Wright will provide a Faculty Senate update at the March meeting.

- **Student Body President Update**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel noted Trustee and Student Body President Olivia Green will provide a Student Body update at the March meeting.

- **Student Life Update**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel noted Vice President Heather White will provide a Student Life at the March meeting.

- **Rankings Update**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel stated he, Provost Scott Angle, and Vice President Ray Sass will provide an update on the analysis of the Top 5 initiative.

- **Professional Testing Update**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel added they will provide an update on the Professional Exam Passing rates for all professional schools, focusing in particular on the College of Law. He indicated that Interim Dean Merritt McAlister will provide a presentation on the plan for the College of Law to improve the passage rates.

- **Dean Search Update**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel indicated there are several searches under way for new Deans. Provost Angle will provide an update on where in the process each search is.

- **Huron Report Update**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel stated President Sasse, Provost Angle, and his team retained the services of Huron Consultants to perform a review of the Provost Office structure. Provost Angle will provide a summary of the recommendations.

- **Centers/Institutes**

Board Vice Chair and Committee Chair Patel noted there was one Institute name change and four new Centers/Institutes:

- o Name Change: UF Informatics Institute to UF Interdisciplinary Informatics and Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (Office of Research)
- o New Center: CSEveryone Center (College of Education)
- o New Center: Fintech Research Center (Warrington College of Business)
- o New Institute: Institute for Advanced Learning Technologies (College of Education)
- o New Center: Southeaster Center for Integrated Metabolomics (College of Medicine)

#### **4.0 New Business**

There was no new business to come before the committee.

#### **5.0 Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.