



**University Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes**

November 4, 2024

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Engineering East Room 106

1. The UFS meeting was called to order by Dr. Kim Dunn at 1:00pm. The meeting was held in Engineering East Room 106.
2. Senate approved [October 7, 2024](#) UFS Minutes by unanimous consent.
3. President's Report
Dr. Dunn reported on the following:
 - **Presidential Profile Feedback:** Feedback on the presidential profile was requested, with three faculty members responding. An additional week is being given for comments, as the profile still needs to be approved by the Board of Trustees.
 - **Faculty Concerns:** It was noted that the limited feedback may not fully reflect faculty concerns, possibly due to a belief that their input isn't being heard. It was agreed that the current method for gathering input has been clear, but further opportunities for feedback may arise.
 - **Sad Announcement:** The passing of President Volnick's father was announced. Visitation is scheduled for today, and the funeral will take place tomorrow. Donations in memory of Mr. Bolton are encouraged to go to the FH General Education Fund, and contributions can be made through the Senate.
4. Guest Speakers
 - Gregg Fields, Vice President Research
 - **R1 Status Discussion:** The presentation covered the university's goal of achieving "R1" status, a high research classification from the Carnegie Foundation. To meet this, the university must increase research expenditures and doctoral graduates. Florida Atlantic University currently exceeds the required benchmarks and is on track to officially attain R1 status by early 2025. The university is employing various strategies and resources, including faculty support and technology, to reach this goal.
 - **R1 Status Significance:** Achieving R1 status is a highly selective achievement, with less than 3.7% of higher education institutions reaching this level. This status enhances the university's prestige and places it among a very small group, expected to officially occur in 2025.
 - **Impact of R1 Status:**

- The status increases the university's competitiveness for grants, particularly from the NIH, where researchers can apply for larger grants without needing to submit smaller ones.
 - R1 status boosts national prestige, attracting both students and potential internship opportunities.
 - It also improves access to funding for larger collaborative projects, which engage multiple colleges and disciplines, such as a \$20 million program involving education, criminal justice, and engineering.
 - **Faculty Involvement:** Faculty are encouraged to engage in larger collaborative research initiatives that R1 status enables. The university is exploring ways to involve faculty more actively in the process of transitioning to R1 status, recognizing their concerns about the impact of this status on their day-to-day work. Faculty input is seen as crucial in making this transition meaningful.
- Bobby Brown, Executive Director Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Coordinator and Michelle Shaw, Director, ADAC
 - **Title II ADA Update:** As of April 24, 2024, all web content, mobile apps, and digital platforms must be accessible from the start, even if the user does not have a disability. Full compliance is required by April 2026.
 - **Faculty Impact:** All digital course content must be accessible, and faculty must ensure accessibility from the beginning, not just for students with disabilities.
 - **University Response:** The university is providing training and resources, including the LifeWard Ally tool for Canvas, to help faculty check and improve content accessibility. Additional training sessions are scheduled for November and December.
 - **Ongoing Efforts:** Regular meetings are being held to ensure compliance with the 2026 deadline, and one-on-one support is available for faculty.
 - **Quick Fixes and Resources:**
 - Faculty can use accessible document training to learn about making content accessible. The training will cover various fixes, some of which are simple, and others that may require more time.
 - Additional resources include videos and tutorials for creating accessible documents, and Microsoft tools that show short clips on improving accessibility.
 - Word content accessibility guidelines and the Microsoft Accessibility tools are available to help with accessibility improvements.
 - **University Accessibility Policy:** The university has updated its accessibility policy to comply with WCAG 2.1 standards. Faculty can refer to these guidelines for more information.
- Julie Golden-Botti, Assistant Provost of Online and Continuing Education and Willie Freeman, Associate Executive Director
 - Speakers discussed the following:
 - **Faculty Support for Online Teaching:** Speakers highlighted the resources available to assist faculty in transitioning and enhancing their courses online,

including workshops, orientation courses, and 24/7 technical support from the Office of Information Technology (OIT).

- **Quality Standards:** The discussion emphasized the importance of meeting state and university standards for online courses, with an "online quality badge" for courses that meet these criteria, ensuring both course quality and accreditation.
- **Course Development Resources:** Faculty are encouraged to collaborate with e-learning designers to create or update online courses. Support is available for both new and existing courses, with a review process to ensure compliance with state standards and a three-year review cycle.
- **Technical Support and Accessibility:** Faculty will receive assistance with tools like Canvas and MediaSite for course management and delivery, with easy access to support via phone or email.
- **Training Opportunities:** Multiple avenues for faculty development were presented, including an online orientation, workshops on digital tools, and training for teaching assistants to improve online teaching practices.
- **Faculty Learning from Faculty:** There was an emphasis on faculty learning from each other, with a call for more participation in "Faculty Lounge Live" sessions. These sessions allow faculty to share experiences and best practices, particularly regarding AI and other teaching strategies.
- **Clarifying Expectations and Directives:** Concerns were raised about unclear language around training and expectations, especially regarding terms like "directed" versus "encouraged." This ambiguity, particularly in assessments, can lead to miscommunication, especially when trained faculty assess others who may not have completed the same training.
- **Creating a Level Playing Field for Assessment:** The need for clear, consistent criteria in faculty assessments was discussed. It was noted that differences in training or understanding of best practices could affect peer assessments. A more transparent distinction between "best practices" and "directives" was suggested to ensure fairness and clarity in evaluations.
- **Plans for Recording Support:** Efforts are underway to provide recording services for faculty, particularly for those seeking to record materials for online or hybrid teaching. This service is still in progress but aims to support faculty in creating effective instructional content.

5. Committee Reports

- **New Budget Model Special Session:** There is a special session scheduled for **Monday, November 25th, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, focused on the new budget model. This session will allow faculty to engage with the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and other key figures to discuss the budget model in-depth. The goal is to provide a more interactive and productive discussion than the typical brief PowerPoint presentations. This session will be an opportunity for faculty to ask questions and participate actively.

6. UPC Consent Agenda

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

7. UPC Action Agenda
 - A. Business
 - Program Change, BS in General Economics
 - A motion was made to **postponed** until December Senate meeting. **Motion carries.**
 - Program Change, Gerontology Certificate
 - No recommendation from Steering. **Motion carries.**
 - Program Change, Health Administration Minor for Non-Business Majors
 - No recommendation from Steering. **Motion carries.**
 - B. Honors College
 - Program Change, General Education Curriculum
 - Positive recommendation from Steering. A motion was made to **postponed** until December Senate meeting. **Motion carries.**
 - New Program, Biomedical Science Concentration
 - Positive recommendation from Steering. **Motion carries.**
 - C. University-Wide
 - Policy Change, Academic Petitions Process
 - Positive recommendation from Steering. **Motion to approve carries.**
 - Policy Change, Baccalaureate Degree Requirements
 - 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

None.
11. New Business

None.
12. Open Forum with the Provost
 - Updates on the following were provided by Provost Ivy:
 - **Textbook Review Process:** Starting in Spring 2025, the Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 8.03 on textbook affordability will include a review process where instructors must attest that their chosen materials meet course requirements. Those who don't complete the process will receive reminders and follow-ups. For multi-section courses, textbook selection will be reviewed by a committee rather than an individual.
 - **Textbook Review for Inappropriate Content:** A review is underway for textbooks flagged for potentially inappropriate content, such as anti-Semitism. A committee is compiling a list of textbooks to be reviewed by January or February 2024. AI tools will be used to flag "red flags" in textbooks, but human judgment will be crucial in the final review.
 - **Committee Structure and Process:** A committee has been formed at the university with faculty from multiple colleges to oversee the textbook review process. Other institutions are also working on forming similar committees to ensure thorough reviews.

13. Open Forum of the Senate
 - Discussion of effective date for Website Accessibility implementation
14. Good of the Senate
 - November UFS Steering will be held virtually
 - Please vote
15. **Meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.**

UFS Senator Attendance Roster
Fall 2024

Senators include College representatives, faculty assembly heads, steering committee, standing committee chairs, elect/past president, and non-voting members President and Provost.

Present =x

Last Name	First Name	Role	College	9-Sep	7-Oct	4-Nov	2-Dec
Johnson	Geoffrey	Guest	Academic Affairs	x			
Almonte	Mauricio	Senator	Arts and Letters				
Balkan	Stacey	Senator	Arts and Letters		x	x	
Berlatsky	Eric	UGC Co-Chair	Arts and Letters	x			
Branaman	Ann	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	
Calargé	Carla	Senator	Arts and Letters				
Chapman	DaLaine	Guest	Arts and Letters	x			
Eason	Shane	FA Chair	Arts and Letters	x			
Ellis	Meredith	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	
Harris	Mike	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	
Kharlamov	Viktor	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	
MacDonald	Ian	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	
McConnell	Will	Senator	Arts and Letters	x		x	
Nichols	Angela	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	
Robé	Chris	Senator	Arts and Letters				
Rossow	Stacie	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x		
Sementelli	Art	UGC Co-Chair	Arts and Letters				
Trapani	Bill	Steering, APBC Chair, President-elect	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	
Wagner	Kevin	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	
Agapova	Anna	Senator	Business			x	
Baghersad	Milad	Senator	Business	x	x	x	
Banerjee	Kuntal	FA Chair	Business				
Bilgihan	Anil	Senator	Business				
Castrogiovanni	Gary	Senator	Business	x	x	x	
Dunn	Kim	President	Business	x	x	x	
Gendler	Richard	Senator	Business				
Kohlbeck	Mark	Senator	Business	x	x	x	
Sacks	Emily	Senator	Business	x		x	
Bloetscher	Fred	Guest	college of engineering and computer science	x			
Graves	B. Sue	Guest	Department of Exercise Science and Health Promotion	x			

DeGiorgio	Michael	Senator	ECS	x		x	
Kaisar	Evangelos	Senator, Honors and Awards Chair	ECS	x			
Moslemian	Davood	Senator	ECS	x	x	x	
Sobhan	Khaled	Senator, Steering, Promotion and Tenure Chair	ECS	x			
Brown	Vicki	Policy and Procedures Chair	Education				
Darling	Sharon M.	Senator	Education	x	x	x	
Dukes	Charles	Senator, Steering	Education	x	x		
Finnegan	Lisa	Senator	Education	x	x	x	
Miller	Katie	Senator	Education	x	x		
Mountford	Meredith	Steering, FA Chair	Education				
Ramirez Agudelo	Andres	Senator	Education	x		x	
Schoorman	Dilys	Senator	Education	x	x		
Floyd	Deborah	Guest	Educational Leadership	x			
Assis	Raquel	Guest	Engineering and Computer Science	x			
Steppe	Stephen	Guest	Graduate College	x			
Beckler	Jordon	Guest	HBOI	x			
Bernot	Kelsie	FA Chair	Honors				
Ferrara	Zachary	Senator	Honors	x	x	x	
Harrowood	Michael	Senator	Honors				
Follin	Tiffany	FA Chair	Library				
Mello	Lawrence	Senator	Library			x	
Buteau	Stephan	Senator	Medicine				
Lu	Michael	Senator	Medicine	x			
Sacca	Lea	Senator	Medicine				
Wu	Jang-Yen	Senator	Medicine				
Luck	George	FA Chair	Medicine				
Butcher	Howard	Senator	Nursing	x	x		
Newman	David	Senator	Nursing	x	x		
Quidley- Rodriguez	Narciso	Senator	Nursing	x	x	x	
Wiese	Lisa	FA Chair	Nursing	x	x		
Volnick	Stacy	President	Office of the President		x		

Ivy	Russ	Provost	Office of the Provost	x	x	x	
Ball	Jason	Guest	OIT	x			
Szabo	Debra	Guest	Provosts Office	x			
Claire DeMassi	Marie	Guest	Registrar	x			
Beetle	Chris	Senator, Steering	Science		x		
Dumbaugh	Eric	Senator	Science				
Hoffman	Fred	Senator	Science	x	x		
Leventouri	Theodora	Senator	Science	x	x	x	
Lin	Yuandan	Senator	Science	x	x	x	
Locke	Stephen	Senator	Science	x	x	x	
Nikolova	Daniela	Senator	Science	x		x	
Penhollow	Tina	Research Chair	Science				
Sarajedini	Vicki	FA Chair	Science				
Schmidmeier	Markus	Senator	Science				
Sorge	Korey	Undergraduate Programs Chair	Science	x	x	x	
Yin	Zhijun	Senator	Science	x	x	x	
Arneklev	Bruce	Senator, Steering	SWCJ	x	x		
Atkin-Plunk	Cassandra	FA Chair	SWCJ	x	x	x	
DeRigne	LeaAnne	Senator, Steering	SWCJ	x	x	x	
	TBD	Library Advisory Chair	TBD				
Rothe	Dawn	Academic Freedom and Due Process Chair	SWCJ				
Nettles	Aidan	Guest	Theatre and Dance	x			
Gosser	Mary Ann	Guest	UHC	x		x	
Meeroff	Dan	Guest	Undergraduate studies	x			
Bebergal	Jennifer	Guest	Undergraduate Studies and QEP	x			
Olarte	Juanita	Guest	Univerisity Press	x			
Kersten	Alan	Guest	Department of Psychology, College of Science			x	

Assis	Raquel	Guest	College of Engineering and Computer Science			x	
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