



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

AGENDA
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023
3:05 P.M.

Regular Session

The regular session of the 2023-24 Faculty Senate was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Faculty Senate President Bridgett Birmingham presided.

The following members attended the Senate meeting:

T. Adams, P. Aluffi, M. Augustyn, S. Ballas, A. Barbu, A. Boutin, J. Broome, D. Broxterman, J. Calhoun, E. Chicken, N. Ennis, J. Fiorito, V. Fleury, G. Gerard, M. Goldmark, R. Goodman, J. Guan, A. Gunjan, W. Hanley, E. Hilinski, R. Hughes, K. Killian, M. Killian, E. Kim, P. Kumar, T. Ledermann, L. Lee, A. McKenna, S. Metcalfe, C. Owens, C. Parker-Flynn, E. Peters, J. Profitt, Q. Rao, S. Sansom, D. Smith, T. Somasundaram, G. Stanwood, M. Swanbrow Becker, A. Thomas, R. Tomko, K. Ueno, A. Volya, S. Wasman, M. Zhang

The following members were absent. Alternates are listed in parenthesis:

G. Adams, J. Ang, D. Armstrong, C. Ann Baade, E. Bangi, H. Bass, W. Berry, D. Bish, M. Bosworth, M. Bourassa, E. Brookshire Madden, M. Buchler, M. Bukoski, E. Cecil, J. Chanton, I. Chiorescu, E. Coggeshall, E. Coleman, L. DeBrunner, A. Dewan, M. Duncan, D. Eccles, N. Everhart, M. Fuentes, K. Gallivan, A. Gilzene, F.M. Gloth, T. Graban, P. Hoeflich, S. Johnson, K. Jones, A. Khurshid, K. Lee, A. Lemmon, W. Li, T. Liu, P. Maurette, Y. McLane, J. McNulty, V. Mesev, S. Miller, C. Moore, K. Ogle, J. Ohlin, G. Ostrander, N.D. Pifer, M. Porter, I. Quinn, P. Renfro, T. Rhynard, R. Roberts, N. Rogers, E. Ryan, Q. Sand, C. Schmertmann, J. Standley, O. Steinbock, Y. Tang, M. Therrien, G. Tyson, G. Wang, S. Zane, Y. Zhou.

I. **Call to order**

II. **Approval of the minutes, November 15, 2023 meeting**

The minutes for this meeting were not yet available to be approved in this meeting, both November meeting minutes will be approved in January.

III. **Approval of the agenda, November 29, 2023, meeting**

The agenda was approved.

IV. **Report of the Steering Committee – Roxanne Hughes (addendum 1 and 2)**

- Roxanne Hughes read the two resolutions discussed in the previous meeting.
- The first of these resolutions is from the Florida State University Faculty Senate on Board of Governors Regulation 8.005. The resolution reads as follows:

“The Faculty Senate of Florida State University opposes unilateral removal by the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida of any courses from the approved list that satisfy the Social Sciences requirement for General Studies, as proposed in draft Regulation 8.005.

The current list was created with the input of faculty statewide with knowledge and expertise in both the curricular norms and academic goals of the general education requirements. These requirements encompass all critical fields in Liberal Studies and form the basis for interoperability at all colleges and universities in the State University System. The faculty rightly retain the mandate to direct the educational goals of the curriculum statewide. The removal of courses without faculty oversight violates academic freedom and contravenes traditional academic norms that ensure subject matter expertise is an integral part of the process for determining the minimum requirements for a general liberal studies education.

Furthermore, Section 4 of the regulation requires the annual approval of general education requirements at each institution by both the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, which introduces an unprecedented incursion of academic oversight and effectively removes faculty governance as anticipated by our institutional traditions and constitutions. This proposed process would undermine the ability of the State University System to ensure parity in the offerings of each university or college in regard to general education requirements, and it erodes the foundations of shared academic governance that have made our state university system the best in the nation.

- The second resolution is from the Florida State University Faculty Senate on Board of Governors Regulation 9.016. It reads as follows:

“The Board of Governors’ proposed Regulation 9.016 on Prohibited Expenditures, which proscribes the expenditure of state funding on university activities that engage controversial societal issues, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion, threatens constraints on academic and civil discourse that will isolate Florida universities from nationwide norms and deny our students the high-quality education they deserve.

The proposal is based on definitions of "Diversity, Equity or Inclusion," "Political or Social Activism," and "Social Issues" that are unclear and impractical, because they could apply to most of the curriculum across FSU, from the humanities to STEM. The regulation places a burden on faculty so sweeping that we can never execute it with confidence that we are in compliance. The vague and overbroad directives threaten to embroil university operations in violation of other legal and accreditation requirements. The ambiguity it imposes on acceptable topics and forms of research threatens to undermine our status as a world class Research 1 institution and limits our ability to contribute to society through teaching, research, and scholarship. It would trigger cascading negative consequences for the university's relationship with peer institutions, funding partners, the federal government, and accreditors.

WHEREAS the Florida State University Faculty Senate believes the draft Regulation 9.016 creates serious threats to academic freedom, FSU's national standing, the professionalism of the State University System, and our ability to provide the best education for the students of our university and our state, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the BOG to revise it in response to the foregoing concerns and objections.”

- Roxanne Hughes finished reading the two resolutions and opened the floor to questions - none were posed.

V. **University welfare, Robin Goodman, United Faculty of Florida**

- Robin Goodman reminded everyone that the UFF membership drive is still ongoing.
- The drive was last at 51%, putting them at 150 more members to acquire.
- UFF is still bargaining about post-tenure review.

President Bridgett Birmingham called for a recess to transition to the President’s Address.

The Senate meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.

**NEXT FACULTY SENATE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023, 3:05PM**

Many items were skipped on the agenda due to this meeting also being the President's State of the University Address.

- Announcements of the President of the University
- Reports of special committees
- Reports of standing committees
- Unfinished business
- New Business
- Special orders
- Announcements of deans and other administrative officers

Bridgett Birmingham

2/28/2024 | 11:18 AM EST

Faculty Senate President

Resolution from the Florida State University Faculty Senate on Board of Governor's Regulation 8.005

The Faculty Senate of Florida State University opposes unilateral removal by the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida of any courses from the approved list that satisfy the Social Sciences requirement for General Studies, as proposed in draft Regulation 8.005.

The current list was created with the input of faculty statewide with knowledge and expertise in both the curricular norms and academic goals of the general education requirements. These requirements encompass all critical fields in Liberal Studies and form the basis for interoperability at all colleges and universities in the State University System. The faculty rightly retain the mandate to direct the educational goals of the curriculum statewide. The removal of courses without faculty oversight violates academic freedom and contravenes traditional academic norms that ensure subject matter expertise is an integral part of the process for determining the minimum requirements for a general liberal studies education.

Furthermore, Section 4 of the regulation requires the annual approval of general education requirements at each institution by both the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, which introduces an unprecedented incursion of academic oversight and effectively removes faculty governance as anticipated by our institutional traditions and constitutions. This proposed process would undermine the ability of the State University System to ensure parity in the offerings of each university or college in regard to general education requirements, and it erodes the foundations of shared academic governance that have made our state university system the best in the nation.

Resolution from the Florida State University Faculty Senate on Board of Governor's Regulation 9.016

The Board of Governors' proposed Regulation 9.016 on Prohibited Expenditures, which proscribes the expenditure of state funding on university activities that engage controversial societal issues, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion, threatens constraints on academic and civil discourse that will isolate Florida universities from nationwide norms and deny our students the high-quality education they deserve.

The proposal is based on definitions of "Diversity, Equity or Inclusion," "Political or Social Activism," and "Social Issues" that are unclear and impractical, because they could apply to most of the curriculum across FSU, from the humanities to STEM. The regulation places a burden on faculty so sweeping that we can never execute it with confidence that we are in compliance. The vague and overbroad directives threaten to embroil university operations in violation of other legal and accreditation requirements. The ambiguity it imposes on acceptable topics and forms of research threatens to undermine our status as a world class Research 1 institution and limits our ability to contribute to society through teaching, research, and scholarship. It would trigger cascading negative consequences for the university's relationship with peer institutions, funding partners, the federal government, and accreditors.

WHEREAS the Florida State University Faculty Senate believes the draft Regulation 9.016 creates serious threats to academic freedom, FSU's national standing, the professionalism of the State University System, and our ability to provide the best education for the students of our university and our state, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the BOG to revise it in response to the foregoing concerns and objections.
