

The Blog

Shared governance is working together

Shared governance: What is it and how do we know if it exists at the University of Florida?

These are questions I face as I push for college and academic unit task forces to evaluate and better implement faculty input in academic decision making at UF.

The American Association of University Professors asserts that, in a top-tier research institution, faculty should have primary responsibility in forming academic policy. Administration is responsible for implementation of those policies, budgeting and operations.

This means faculty should be setting policy around issues of curriculum, tenure and promotion standards, academic freedom, graduation criteria, sabbaticals, creation and discontinuation of academic programs, and long-range planning. Likewise, administration should be implementing the policies of the unit, developing and managing resources, overseeing the budget, representing units to external constituencies, and providing vision for long-range planning. Neither should be excluded from the other, and transparency and collaboration should be incorporated in all aspects of university governance.

Do we have shared governance at UF?

In some units, yes. In others, no. On some matters of academic policy, yes. In others, no.

Global changes take time. Faculty at times will fail to rise to the challenge, especially when governance detracts from teaching and research. And administration at times will fail to realize that faculty input can lead to better results.

Shared governance only works if we all take ownership of the university's mission. It depends on all constituencies sitting at the table and resolving differences in good faith and with true collaboration. Faculty must assert their right to participate but they also must prove that they can put UF's best interests before their own.

I have no doubt our faculty can do that.



Danaya Wright

Danaya Wright
Faculty Senate Chair

Top of Page

RTS bus routes make on-campus travel a breeze

It's early in the morning. You hop on a bus headed for the University of Florida campus, where you work or attend classes. At the end of the day, you board another bus leaving campus that will take you home.

The life of a commuter can be much more complex than that simple back and forth. And in that complexity, the commuter's life can be made much less complicated.

For example, did you know that throughout the day buses are constantly running across campus that could take you to a meeting, an appointment or even to lunch and then back to work again?

Of the 33 bus routes operated by Regional Transit System throughout Gainesville and Alachua County, nine are specifically dedicated to serving the UF campus. Buses on campus generally run every nine to 12 minutes from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. After 7:30 p.m., buses operate every 30 minutes. RTS also offers late-night and weekend service, and ridership is free with a Gator 1 card.

Many UF employees and students don't



Kristen Bartlett

RTS helps faculty, staff and students reach their on-campus destinations with nine bus routes serving the University of Florida.

use the bus to get around campus simply because they don't know where they can go. Lica Gilley, an executive secretary in the Student Health Care Center, frequently walks from her office in the infirmary on

Fletcher Drive to Shands Medical Center.

"I would love to take the bus if I knew the routes better," Gilley said. "I have wanted to ride the bus sometimes when I need to go down to Shands, but trying to figure out the bus route was just way too complicated."

The routes are not as difficult as they seem and some are self-explanatory. For instance, the 126 East/West circulator covers the campus from east to west. Running every 10 minutes, the route makes more than 15 stops from 10th Street to the Southwest Recreation Center.

The 122 North/South Circulator cuts UF in half and runs along prominent roads like Gale Lemerand Drive and Newell Drive on its way from the Student Service Center (the Hub) on Stadium Road to the Veterinary Science building on Shealy Drive.

You can plan your own route easily by finding an RTS guide, which is available on buses, the Reitz Student Union or the Hub information center. Or you may visit the RTS Web site at www.go-rt.com for more information.

By Cory Frederick

Students to cast ballots for 47 open Senate seats

Today and Wednesday, University of Florida students voting at polls in 21 locations across campus will elect 47 new senators in the 94-seat student senate.

"A lot of people wonder how they can get involved, how the process works. This is it. This is how you get your voice heard," said Brian Aungst, supervisor of elections and a second-year law student who has been involved with student government since his freshman year at UF.

Thirteen of the 47 open seats are for on-campus residence hall representatives. The remaining seats are for representatives of students living off-campus and other on-campus areas. Polling locations are assigned based on where a student lives.

In a change from last year's electronic balloting, Aungst said this year will see the

return of optical scan paper ballots. "Last year, we had so many technical problems that cannot be prevented," Aungst said, adding the paper ballots will be easier to count and will eliminate confusion at the polls.

Each year, student government allocates \$12.6 million, collected from student activity and service fees, for on-campus services such as printing labs, free bike repair and RTS transportation. Funds also go to student organizations and intramural sports.

"If you want a voice in how the money is spent, it is important to vote," Aungst said.

Elections are held twice a year at the beginning of each semester. For more information, visit the student government Web site at www.sg.ufl.edu.

By Panagiota Papakos

Happenings

Following is a sampling of upcoming major happenings at the University of Florida.

For other calendar listings, visit the Web at calendar.ufl.edu.

Today

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Benefits Fair offering information about available benefits programs and options to UF faculty and staff, Reitz Student Union Grand Ballroom

7:30 p.m., College of Fine Arts Faculty Recital featuring vocals by Ronald Burrichter, University Auditorium

Oct. 1

10 a.m., Reading discussion, "1185 Park Avenue: A Memoir" by Anne Roiphe, Hillel Library

Oct. 2

5 p.m., Talk by Syrian Ambassador Imad Mustapha titled "Syria: Challenges and Crisis"

Oct. 9

7:30 p.m., College of Fine Arts Recital featuring saxophonist Pat Meighan, University Auditorium

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Williams Elementary School. Contact: 352-392-5089, ext. 215

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In Focus

Community Campaign director leaving after 13 years of success

In the 14 years Jim Morgan has been director of business services at the University of Florida, he has overseen a number of high-profile projects from negotiating contracts with Pepsi and Starbucks to revamping Gator Dining Services. Perhaps one of Morgan's biggest projects has been one that is also closest to his heart: the UF Community Campaign.

"I think they gave it to me because I was such a pain," Morgan said of his involvement with the fundraising campaign. "I was always right there with suggestions and ideas."

Morgan has been executive director of the Community Campaign since 1993. In that time, he has been instrumental in helping to raise close to \$10 million to aid nonprofit agencies that serve Alachua County and its surrounding areas. In 2005, the campaign topped \$1 million for the first time in its 14-year history. This year, Morgan said the goal is to raise \$1.2 million.

The Community Campaign is nearly a yearlong process that begins in December when agencies make their applications for

aid and culminates in September and October when UF faculty and staff are asked for pledges. Employees may choose to donate to one or more of the 79 area nonprofit agencies whose applications were approved by Morgan and his steering and planning committees. Donations may be made through payroll deduction or by check, cash or direct bill, with the funds being paid out to agencies on a quarterly basis.

This year's campaign will be the last with Morgan at the helm. In mid-January, Morgan will retire to Homosassa, where he and his wife of 35 years, Sharon, have built a river house. Morgan said he hopes retirement will find him golfing, fishing and spending time with his new granddaughter Taryn.

He also has a new pet project – an Australian Labradoodle (Labrador-poodle mix) puppy by the name of Foster.

As for the Community Campaign, it is uncertain who will take the reins.

"No one is really sure where UFCC is going to go in January," he said. "It will be interesting to see what happens."



Kristen Bartlett

Jim Morgan, director of business services at the University of Florida, has been at the helm of the Community Campaign for 13 years. He will retire from UF in mid-January.

The UF Community Campaign runs through Oct. 6. For more information on how you can help, visit the Web at www.ufcc.ufl.edu.

By Mindy Morris

Seen & Heard

UF librarians answer call for help

University of Florida librarians Iona Malanchuk, Peter Malanchuk, Betsy Simpson and Priscilla Williams were among 900 librarians from across the United States who heeded the American Library Association's call to help restore and reorganize Katrina-devastated libraries in New Orleans. The volunteers sorted, organized and distributed thousands of donations to university, school and public libraries during the ALA's annual conference in June.

Florida Blue Key to recognize faculty

Florida Blue Key will hold its Education Celebration annual Homecoming event from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 27, in the Keene Faculty Center. The event recognizes distinguished faculty who have been nominated by their peers through a formal nomination process that includes approval by the faculty member's college dean or university vice president. Jimmy Cheek, senior vice president of agriculture and natural resources, will present the awards. Lunch is provided. Contact Kate Wallace at akate@ufl.edu with questions or for additional information.

Florida Museum of Natural History

"Biodiversity: A Biologist's Perspective" exhibit featuring scientific illustrations by UF botany doctoral student Camila Pizano on display through Dec. 10

Galleries

"Dressed and Adorned: The Art of Costume" exhibit featuring a selection of costumes on display through Nov. 3 at Grinter Gallery



"Jim Roche's Motorcycle Maps" on display through Nov. 9 at University Gallery



Josh Wickham

Up close and personal

University of Florida student Cat Smith watches a dragonfly devour a skipper butterfly in the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory at the southwest corner of UF's main campus. Smith was participating in the Perspectives in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation class. The teaching laboratory, comprising 60 acres of woods and wetlands, enables students to observe a variety of ecosystems.

Harn Museum of Art

"American Matrix: Contemporary Directions for the Harn Museum Collection" on display through Oct. 29

Phillips Center

Oct. 5
7:30 p.m., UF Symphony Orchestra presents "Carmina Burana"

Oct. 11

7:30 p.m., Mikel Rouse "The End of Cinematics"

Oct. 13-14

7:30 p.m., Dance Alive National Ballet presents "Carmina Burana"

Real estate research earns UF high rankings

The fall 2006 issue of Real Estate Economics ranks the University of Florida the eighth-most influential university in real estate research and cites David Ling, UF's William D. Hussey Professor of Real Estate, the seventh-most influential individual real estate researcher. The rankings are based on how often UF research is reported in leading real estate journals. The latest rankings cover publications from 2000 to 2004 and place UF in front of such well-known real estate programs as the University of Wisconsin and the University of Southern California.

Newsletter focuses on computer security

The Information Technology Security Team now has a publication for faculty and staff that aims to promote a more secure computing environment at the University of Florida. The online publication, which is posted at the beginning of fall, spring and summer C semesters, features a number of topics related to computer security issues, including encryption, identity theft and privacy concerns. The publication may be viewed at <http://infosec.ufl.edu/itsnews/fall06/index.shtml>.

Oct. 14

11 a.m., "Dorothy the Dinosaur's Dance Party Designed" arranged and produced by The Wiggles

O'Connell Center

Oct. 10-11
"Sesame Street Live: Super Grover! Ready for Action" performs three shows: 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Oct. 10; and 7 p.m., Oct. 11

Academic Calendar

Oct. 6-7
Homecoming, no classes



Note This

UF to close offices for Homecoming

Most offices across the University of Florida campus will be closed on Friday, Oct. 6, in honor of Homecoming. No classes will be held that day except for those in the College of Medicine and Levin College of Law. Health Science Center clinics in the College of Medicine and the College of Veterinary Medicine as well as the College of Nursing Archer Clinic will remain open.

UF marquees open to publicize events

Two electronic informational marquees on the corners of University Avenue and Gale Lemerand Drive and Southwest 34th Street and Hull Road are available to University of Florida groups and organizations to post general information and promote UF-sponsored events. No brand names are allowed in the messages, which must have a broad appeal to the campus community or the general public. To submit an event announcement, send an e-mail with the name, date and location of the event to bbird@ufl.edu or direct questions to Bob Bird at 392-9092.

Fellowship program aids graduate students

The deadline for graduate students to apply for a 2007 Jacob K. Javits Fellowship is Friday, Oct. 6. The fellowship program provides aid to master's or doctoral students in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Eligibility is limited to students who have yet to complete their first year of graduate study or who are entering graduate school in the academic year 2007-2008. Applicants also must be eligible to receive a federal grant, loan or work assistance as determined by the Federal Student Aid Processing System. Awards are granted for one year and may be renewed up to three years depending on a student's academic progress and availability of funds. For additional information and application forms, visit the Web at www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/applicant.html.

Did you know...

Library West has 68,909 compact bookshelves? Lined end to end, the shelves would cover 39 miles, the distance from Gainesville to Ocala.