

FACULTY CONFERENCE REPORT TO UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

04/21/21

December 2020 Meeting

The Faculty Conference met on December 2, 2020, via Zoom Meeting. A quorum being present, Elizabeth St. Pierre, the chair of the Statues and Bylaws Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

The description of the Faculty Conference in the University Council Bylaws. The bylaws state:

“The Faculty Conference shall provide a forum for the discussion of issues of concern to the University Faculty. It is composed of all elected University Council faculty members and those faculty members of the University Council who are appointed by the Executive Committee. It shall elect a chair and a secretary. Meetings can be called by the chair or upon petition of 10 members of the Conference.”

The following action items were presented and approved:

- Laura Bierema was elected as Chair of the Faculty Conference
- Sarah Sumners as elected a Secretary of the Faculty Conference
- Formation of a FC Steering Committee composed of 6 members, including the Chair and Secretary and 4 additional elected members, 2 non-tenure track and 2 tenure track faculty members.
- The Steering Committee’s duties are to set the agenda for and call meetings of the Conference and to refer items or suitable actions to the University Council Executive Committee or other committees of the Council.

The floor was then opened for the following reports:

- Report from the UGA representative to the University System of Georgia Faculty Council presented by Barbara Biesecker
- [Report from the COVID Response Committee](#) presented by Janette Hill

The following discussion items were introduced and detailed in FC Minutes:

- Discussion of the role of the Faculty Conference in faculty governance at UGA
- Discussion of 2021 Spring/Summer/Fall policies and plans re COVID-19

FC Steering Committee Election, Spring 2021

Nominations were solicited for the remaining Steering Committee Members and an election held earlier this semester. The additional four Steering Committee Members include:

1. Chase Hagood, Member
2. Lisa Renzi-Hammond, Member
3. Paula Krimer, Member
4. Christine Scartz, Member

April 2021 Meeting

The Faculty Conference met on April 15, 2021, via Zoom Meeting.

With only 69 members present out of the 84 needed for quorum, no action items were presented to the Faculty Conference for consideration.

- A proposal to re-elect the Steering Committee of the Faculty Conference for Academic Year 2021-2022 was presented. This item will be presented to members for electronic vote via email at a later date.

The floor was then opened for the following reports and agenda items:

- Janette Hill and Annette Poulson provided highlights from the March 30, 2021 [COVID Response Committee](#) meeting. The following discussion items were introduced:
- UGA mask and vaccine mandates were discussed. **Action:** That the Steering Committee draft a statement on behalf of FC to be voted on electronically for continued masking and social distancing.
- A conversation was initiated about assessing the research climate at UGA. **Action:** The Steering Committee will be making recommendations for providing input on this issue.
- A third issue was about UGA divesting from fossil fuel holdings. **Action:** The member is in the process of identifying strategic ways to bring this matter to the attention of the university community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura L. Bierema
Chair, Faculty Conference