

# **FACULTY CONFERENCE REPORT TO UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

**09/29/21**

## **Thank you, President Morehead and Members of Council**

### **September 2021 Meeting**

The Faculty Conference met on September 24, 2021, via Zoom Meeting. A quorum being present, Laura Bierema, the chair of the Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

As Faculty Conference had been inactive since 2003, I will reiterate 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 was presented and approved:

- The Faculty Conference Steering Committee was re-elected for the 2021-2022 academic year. Two members, Sarah Sumners and Chase Hagood, left UGA over the summer and after consultation with Dr. Bettie St. Pierre, Chair of Statutes and Bylaws, we went back to the 2020 election results to appoint the nominees who stood for the original election with the most votes and added Tony Mallon and Jamie McClung to the FCSC.
- Current Members are Laura Bierema (Chair), Paula Krimmer (Secretary), Tony Mallon, Jamie McClung, Lisa Renzi, and Christine Scartz.
- 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 following motions were introduced, seconded, and approved:

1. A Call for Increased Local Control of Campus Health and Safety Measures, Including Measures Necessary to Address COVID-19.
2. The next four approved motions pertain to USG changes to policy:
  - a. The Demand for Board of Regents to Permit Necessary Discourse and Study of its Proposed Changes to (1) Procedures for Dismissal of Faculty Members, (2) Institutions’ Authority to Grant Tenure, and (3) Post Tenure Review and Annual Review Standards and Process.
  - b. The Faculty Objection to Changes to Institutions’ Authority to Grant Tenure.

- c. The Faculty Objection to Changes to Procedures for Dismissal and Removal of Faculty Members.
  - d. The Faculty Objection to Changes to Post Tenure Review and Annual Review Standards and Process
3. Faculty Statement on Requiring Masks: the FC voted to initiate a faculty petition making a faculty statement on requiring masks.

The full language of these approved motions will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

The floor was then opened for the following report:

1. Report from the COVID Response Committee presented by Janette Hill

The faculty conference is planning on meeting at least once per fall and spring semesters and more as needed. The FCSC is developing a governance structure for full FC approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura L. Bierema  
Chair, Faculty Conference