

Faculty meeting – 17MAR2021

Guest speaker – Dr. Curtis Taylor – discussion of impact of COVID-19 on students. College has established a student task force, engages in discussion of academic challenges faced during pandemic. Big issues - loss of access to infrastructure (taking classes in apartment or home) and technology issues (e.g. poor internet), isolation, lack of extracurriculars, difficulty focusing, general anxiety. College is facilitating surveys with students to identify 'sticking points', for example perceptions of mental health care access, time, social/economic/cultural stigmas. Discussion on how we transition from 'crisis structure' to proactive wellness; faculty need to play a role, make it clear that maintaining mental wellness is accepted and appreciated. Shaima confirmed that Grad Assistants have access to all services offered by the UF Employee assistance program. Ed noted that we plan to present a slide with information on mental health services for students at the next seminar. The UF EAP offers someone to talk to and resources to consult whenever and wherever you need them. All faculty, staff, graduate assistants, non-student OPS employees, housestaff/residents and postdoc associates as well as their household members are eligible to receive services. For more information, visit <https://eap.ufl.edu/>

Safety – Jon Dobson – first draft of new college on-boarding safety checklist was presented to committee today. Research resumption task force is looking for ways to bring new/previously untrained undergraduates into the labs. EPA site visit for week of March 22 has been announced via email. EH&S are looking for feedback on how they're doing with regard to safety inspections and other efforts.

EH&S Feedback survey

https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ESGTY4gGay6wG9

Introduction of Kelly Stalter

Diversity & Inclusion – Ayse Gunduz – IDEA college meeting, website shared on UF diversity; plans for interim person for Antonio Farias at University level is coming together. Plans to discuss IDEA action plan with faculty soon. Possibility of student/faculty awards for allyship? Discussions are happening now.

Teaching minute – Lakiesha Williams and Wes Bolch present on their undergraduate courses.

Administrative update – Shaima Coffey – provided update on replacement research admin, posted job application closes late April; reminder to notify BME team if you are moving capital equipment (included computers) so that asset system can be updated accordingly; discussion of NSF GRF Additional Educational Cost, which will first shift from grad school to college, then department, then PI. Discussion of student organizations and their need to register, according to university policy. Studentinvolvement.ufl.edu has all of the necessary information for registration. Policy for reimbursement for student orgs and others: <https://www.fa.ufl.edu/directives/entertainment/>

Department and college updates – Christine Schmidt – reminder that university has access to email and Canvas site; Faculty success program – Brittany Taylor was selected. Graduate students/faculty need to do IDPs.

Graduate Recruiting – Ben Keselowsky – email sent that first round offers are out. Recommended to follow up.

Amer Soc Biomech is doing an outreach event first week of April. SFB Biomaterials day is on March 26.