UFF, FEA release recommendations for reopening state colleges, universities

Virtual news conference planned for 1 p.m. today

TALLAHASSEE — Recommendations for reopening state college and university campuses were released today, June 3, by the United Faculty of Florida (UFF) and the Florida Education Association (FEA). The recommendations will be discussed at a virtual news conference at 1 p.m. EDT. Find them attached and online at https://bit.ly/UFF-FEAl UWHigherEdreport.

The recommendations are the work of the UFF/FEA Higher Education Re-Opening Committee, which was organized by UFF and FEA and brings together a diverse group of stakeholders invested in the success of our students. The committee began work on May 21 to develop recommendations in five areas: Ensuring Student Success, Social and Emotional Wellness and Support, Working Conditions, Investment in Our Neighborhood Public Schools, and Public Health and Safety.

“Having noticed that both the governor’s and Board of Governors’ higher education re-opening task forces neglected to include a lot of the actual stakeholders, United Faculty of Florida and Florida Education Association decided to put together a task force of those folks,” said Dr. Karen Morian, UFF president and committee chair. “We included students and parents, community leaders, mental and public health professionals, faculty, former trustees, and a legislative representative. We asked them to begin by reviewing our collection of all of the best recommendations we could find, both nationally and international, and to see what had been missed, and what could be improved upon. The weeks long process has resulted in our recommendations. We hope our final report will be of use to the 40 presidents of our state institutions of higher learning as they work to create their plans, and that they will include faculty and other local stakeholders in the committees formed to develop the best plans possible for a safe and successful fall semester.”

For a list of committee members, see Page 2.

EVENT DETAILS

What: News conference on final recommendations for reopening Florida’s state college and universities

When: 1 p.m. EDT Wednesday, June 3

Where: Virtual, via Zoom

Media registration link: https://floridaea.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2mFc5oPJToCe76VCMHRErQ

Who: UFF President Karen Morian along with FEA President Fedrick Ingram, Vice President Andrew Spar and Secretary-Treasurer Carole Gauronskas

Resources: For background materials and documents from the committee, please visit https://feaweb.org/covid19/reopen/
UFF/FEA Higher Education Re-Opening Committee

Members listed by subcommittee

Committee Chair
- Karen Morian, Ph.D.

Public Health and Safety
- Tiffany Parisi, M.P.H., C.P.H., community crisis & recovery expert
- Deborah Ferrari, R.N., Professor of Nursing – FSCJ
- Kevin Clair, M.S., former health services administrator and public health practitioner
- Laura Earle, D.V.M., Professor of Veterinary Science — EFSC

Student Success
- Marlene Morales, Ph.D., Professor, School of Education — MDC
- Sharon LaSure-Roy, parent of UCF Student
- Meredith Mountford, Ph.D., Associate Professor Educational Leadership — FAU
- Maria Rodriguez, Executive Director, Florida Immigrant Coalition
- Patricia Smith, M.S., Adjunct Professor, Biology — Seminole State
- Romina Montenegro, student at FIU
- Kyleigh Jackson, student at UCF

Social and Emotional Well-being
- Christina Drake, former Polytechnic trustee and faculty
- Tracye Polson, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., mental health professional
- Anne Fisher, Ph.D., Mental Health Counselor — New College
- Lori Shad, trustee, JASMYN
- Jairus Williams, student at FAMU

Safe Learning and Working Conditions
- Elizabeth Key-Raimer, EdS, parent of FIU Student
- Angie Nixon, Director, FSPU — Higher Education
- Irene Lipof, Ed.D., Vice-Chair & Secretary, Board of Trustees, Jackson Health System
- Adela Ghadimi, graduate assistant — FSU
- Elizabeth Ramsay, M.S., President UFMD
- Caitlin Gille, M.S., Associate Professor of Natural Sciences — PHSC

Investment
- Carlos Guillermo Smith, ranking member, House Higher Education & Career Readiness Subcommittee
- Eric Terry, D.B.A., Professor, School of Business — Miami-Dade College
- Kathleen Wilson, former FIU trustee, Vice Provost for Faculty
- Jaffar Ali, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics — FGCU
- Angela Strain, public health advocate

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UFF is the higher education affiliate of the Florida Education Association and represents more than 14,000 full-time faculty, including those at all 12 public universities in Florida, at 15 state colleges and community colleges, and at the private Saint Leo University. UFF also represents more than 8,000 graduate assistants at four public universities in Florida.

The Florida Education Association is the state’s largest association of professional employees, with more than 145,000 members. FEA represents PreK-12 teachers, higher education faculty, educational staff professionals, students at our colleges and universities preparing to become teachers and retired education employees.