

ARTICLE 21

OTHER EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

21.1 Professional Meetings. Employees should be encouraged to and may, with the approval of the supervisor, attend and/or make presentations at professional meetings, conferences, and activities. Subject to the availability of funds, the employee's expenses in connection with such meetings, conferences, or activities shall be reimbursed in accordance with the applicable provisions of State law and rules and regulations having the force and effect of law.

21.2 Office Space. Each employee shall be provided with office space that may be on a shared basis when appropriate individual office space is unavailable. The parties recognize the desirability of providing each employee with enclosed office space with a door lock, air conditioning/heating, office equipment commensurate with assigned responsibilities, and ready access to a telephone, computer and the Internet. When an employee reports in writing to his or her supervisor a condition which the employee feels represents the lack of one or more of the preceding provisions, the supervisor shall reply to the concern, in writing, within fourteen (14) days of receipt. Each employee shall, consistent with building security, have reasonable access to the employee's office space and laboratories, studios, music rooms, and the like used in connection with assigned responsibilities; this provision may require that campus security provide access on an individual basis. Before an employee's office location is changed, or before there is a substantial alteration to an employee's office to a degree that impedes the employee's work effectiveness, the affected employee shall be notified, if practicable, at least one (1) month prior to such change.

21.3 Safe Conditions. Whenever an employee reports a condition which the employee feels represents a violation of safety or health rules and regulations or which is an unreasonable hazard to persons or property, such conditions shall be promptly investigated. The appropriate administrator shall reply to the concern, in writing, within fourteen (14) days of receipt, if the employee's concern is communicated in writing.

21.4 Limitation on Personal Liability.

(a) In the event an employee is sued for an act, event, or omission which may fall within the scope of Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, the employee should notify the president's office as soon as possible after receipt of the summons commencing the action in order that the University may fulfill its obligation. Failure to notify the employer promptly may affect the rights of the parties.

(b) For information purposes, the following pertinent language of Section 768.28(9), Florida Statutes, is reproduced herein.

No officer, employee, or agent of the state or any of its subdivisions shall be held personally liable in tort or named as a party defendant in any action for any injury or damage suffered as a result of any act, event, or omission of action in the scope of his or her employment or function, unless such officer, employee, or agent acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety or property.

21.5 Travel Advances. The University will, to the extent permitted by State law and rule, provide travel advances, upon request, of up to eighty (80) percent of budgeted expenses for authorized travel of longer than five (5) consecutive days.

21.6 Working Papers Rights. Consistent with law, the provisions of Article 18, and the legitimate interests of the University, employees shall have the right to control of their personal correspondence, notes, raw data, and other working papers.

21.7 Protection for Whistleblowers. Employees are notified that Section 112.3187, Florida Statutes, provides protection to whistleblowers and delineates their rights and responsibilities.

21.8 Copies of the Agreement. The University shall provide the UFF with 500 copies of the ratified Agreement, shall provide a copy to each employee, and shall provide a copy to each new employee upon hiring. In addition, the University shall provide an electronic copy of the ratified Agreement and all Supplements to the UFF.

21.9 Instructions. The university shall provide instructions to employees regarding their responsibility for maintaining copies of emails in order to comply with the “Public Records Act,” Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.