



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate

Minutes for meeting of Thursday, April 10, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Location: In person at the Charge on Chamber, Student Union, Room 340

Zoom Recorded Link: [https://ucf.zoom.us/rec/share/h2YE-](https://ucf.zoom.us/rec/share/h2YE-ytvJFHArFYjHdQ2OcJOpkHriKhqLqsZ37db7Yn2S2SxZWWfpx9B3n1Jwuijw.8qK79jqSuJ289v60)

[ytvJFHArFYjHdQ2OcJOpkHriKhqLqsZ37db7Yn2S2SxZWWfpx9B3n1Jwuijw.8qK79jqSuJ289v60](https://ucf.zoom.us/rec/share/h2YE-ytvJFHArFYjHdQ2OcJOpkHriKhqLqsZ37db7Yn2S2SxZWWfpx9B3n1Jwuijw.8qK79jqSuJ289v60)

Passcode: &byR=5s6

1. Call to Order- 3:01 pm
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics: Faculty Senate Chair Stephen King, Faculty Senate Vice Chair Jeff Kauffman, and Faculty Senate Secretary Daniel Seigler.
3. Approval of Minutes of *March 13, 2025- Minutes approved.*
4. Recognition of in-person Guests:

Alexander Cartwright, UCF President

Michael Johnson, UCF Provost

Joel Cramer, Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence

Joe Adams, Senior Communications Director

Joe Harrington, Interim Associate Vice President for Research

Alexander Brawley, Student Government Vice President

5. Announcements

Chair King's Announcements:

- A retirement reception for Provost Johnson will be held on Monday, April 10 at 9:00 a.m. at the UCF Fairwinds Alumni Center.
- Candidates for the provost position will visit campus during the week of April 28; faculty are encouraged to attend.
- FCTL will distribute a survey on potential language regarding AI in course syllabi.

(Please see attachments for full report.)

6. Report of the Provost

Provost Johnson shared the following:

- Congratulated Founder's Day award recipients.
- Shared U.S. News & World Report graduate rankings.
- Two Dean searches underway.
- Post-Tenure Review: 46 "Exceeds Expectations," 8 "Does Not Meet Expectations"; next cohort notified.
- DOGE inquiries require detailed academic data.



Faculty Senate

- Pronoun removal directed by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness for federal compliance.
- Thanked the Senate, noting it may be his last meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

8. New Business

Elections for Faculty Senate Officers:

- Elections Committee Chair Bill Self reported that four nominations were received for Faculty Senate officer positions. Two candidates were nominated for the position of Chair: Stephen King and Devon Jenson. Chair Self opened the floor for additional nominations; none were made. A motion to close nominations and proceed with voting was moved, seconded, and carried. Stephen King was elected Chair with 46 votes; Devon Jenson received 11 votes.
- One candidate, Jeff Kauffman, was nominated for Vice Chair. No additional nominations were made from the floor. A motion to close nominations and vote was moved, seconded, and carried. Jeff Kauffman was elected Vice Chair with 50 votes in favor and 1 opposed.
- One candidate, Daniel Seigler, was nominated for Secretary. No additional nominations were made from the floor. A motion to close nominations and vote was moved, seconded, and carried. Daniel Seigler was elected Secretary with 51 votes in favor and none opposed.

Chair King expressed gratitude for continued support.

Selection of Committee Members:

- Senators from each college convened to select members for the Steering Committee and Committee on Committees.
- These are now separate committees beginning this year.

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment 4:12 pm

Daniel Seigler

Daniel Seigler
Secretary, Faculty Senate

04/24/2025

Date

2025-2026 Faculty Senate Nominee Forums

Stephen King

Forum Zoom Information:

Time: Wednesday, April 9, 4-5pm

Topic: Faculty Senate Chair Candidate Forum

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/92537230624?pwd=YrvSLyNm8bsLQ3WLnCRjLqsc3deMok.1>

Jeffrey Kauffman

Forum Zoom Information:

Time: Wednesday, April 9, 12-1pm

Topic: Faculty Senate Vice Chair Candidate Forum

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/98285345763?pwd=4ObMslalCz07Z4FPjx432L6DQc7MWw.1>

Daniel Seigler

Forum Zoom Information:

Time: Wednesday, April 9, 10-11am

Topic: Faculty Senate Secretary Candidate Forum

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/93022957728?pwd=2m3GmdFJ4REFVvXJBKsnWm0HUHfp3x.1>

Stephen King

Faculty Senate Chair Candidate

Faculty Senate Committees and Leadership Positions:

2025-2026 **Vice Chair**, Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS)

2022-25 **Chair**, Faculty Senate

2021-22 **Vice Chair**, Faculty Senate

2020-22 **Chair**, Health and Safety Crisis Response Committee (aka COVID Committee)

2016-21 **Chair**, Personnel Committee

2015-2025 **Senator**, elected from COM

Associate Professor, Neurobiology Division of the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences in the College of Medicine.



My *service* experience since coming to UCF in 2011 has included multiple leadership positions.

I believe faculty need a strong voice in shared governance, and I am willing to speak up for all Faculty with Department Chairs, with Deans, Upper Administration, and at the State level.

As senate chair, my top priority is to address faculty concerns and work with the administration to find solutions that strengthen faculty success. Some of the significant issues all our faculty have faced this past year and continue to face include:

- ⇒ uncertainty about state and federal changes in higher education,
- ⇒ inflationary pressure on our faculty
- ⇒ changes to how we advise and coach our students
- ⇒ delays in hiring and onboarding faculty, staff, and students
- ⇒ concerns about how faculty are being evaluated
- ⇒ changes to research space allocation

In senate this past year, these critical issues were discussed in an open manner with the president, the provost, and those administrators with the direct knowledge and understanding of the issues.

In addition to those major issues that are facing all faculty, I also want to be sure that other faculty concerns are identified and being taken care of. Over the past year the senate leadership has met individually with the senators from each of the academic units to hear about concerns and ideas that may not have been raised at committee or full senate meetings. I have also listened to individual faculty concerns and addressed those concerns through the senate and its committees.

My role as chair included guiding our discussions and debates to help the will of the majority come through, while at the same time giving each individual senator the opportunity to be heard. Over the past year, the senate:

- ⇒ discussed critical faculty issues with 9 different university administrators
- ⇒ had tutorials on use of Leganto and our existing interactive dashboards
- ⇒ received updates on hiring procedures and space utilization
- ⇒ learned how UCF responds to hurricanes and other emergencies
- ⇒ gave feedback on changes to advising and the GEP program
- ⇒ passed a resolution to increase compensation for GRAs
- ⇒ passed resolutions to update SPI questions and their usage in faculty evaluations

As the newly elected vice chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, I represent the faculty from across the Florida SUS at Board of Governors meetings and to the state legislature. I shared the impact that new laws and BOG regulations have on faculty and worked to provide solutions for unintended consequences of those laws and regulations.

I continue to foster an excellent working relationship with the Board of Trustees, where I am the visible and vocal voice in support of our faculty. I worked diligently to educate our Trustees about UCF faculty: how we teach, what tenure means, the vast array of research and scholarship areas we have, how we help serve the entire UCF community, and what resources faculty need.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue to lead our faculty through the difficult times we will face in the upcoming year.

Faculty Senate Chair Candidate

Dr. Devon Jensen

Candidate for Chair, Faculty Senate
University of Central Florida

Biography & Statement of Interest

As a higher education leader with over two decades of academic and administrative experience, I am honored to be considered for the role of Chair of the UCF Faculty Senate. Currently serving as Associate Professor in Higher Education Leadership and previously as Associate Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, my work has centered on advancing the academic mission of our university through shared governance, innovative program development, and institutional collaboration. Reflecting this reality, just a few weeks back, I taught a lesson in one of my master's classes that focused on the institutional impacts of shared governance and Higher Education Finance.

Throughout my career at UCF and in prior roles, I have championed initiatives that promote academic quality, transparency, and student success. At UCF, I have overseen large-scale projects including the implementation of the SLATE admissions system, the deployment of Quali for graduate curriculum management, and the creation of analytics enrollment dashboards through Power BI and tableaux. This has been all with an emphasis on data-informed decision-making and inclusive planning. While serving as Associate Dean within the College of Graduate Studies, I was the administrative lead over the Graduate Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Policy Committee supporting the Faculty Senate's efforts to maintain integrity, accountability, and relevancy of the graduate student environment.

As a previous member of the Faculty Senate Executive Board (Georgia Southern University) and previously serving as an administrator supporting UCF's Graduate Council, I understand the value and responsibility of the Faculty Senate as the voice of the faculty. I believe in the power of shared governance not simply as a procedural necessity but as a principle that strengthens our academic integrity, encourages collaborative leadership, and ensures a broad spectrum of voices are meaningfully heard in shaping our future.

If elected as Chair of the Faculty Senate, my 4 goals are to:

1. Advance Shared Governance at UCF: As I have taught in many of my classes, shared governance remains the cornerstone of academic institutions, yet in the current climate of economic uncertainty, political pressure, and institutional restructuring, faculty roles in governance are increasingly under scrutiny or bypassed. You can consider the case at Western Virginia University in 2023 as an example of this. As such, the Chair's leadership role is to facilitate transparent and inclusive deliberations within the Senate and advocate for faculty voices in institutional decision-making, especially on strategic planning or academic priorities. To support this, research shows that institutions with robust shared

governance models foster greater trust, higher faculty morale, and more resilient academic ecosystems (Kezar & Eckel, 2004; AAUP, 2021).

2. Support Academic Excellence and Innovation: Many universities, including UCF are being challenged to redefine or expand educational relevance through interdisciplinary programs, stackable credentials, online learning, and career pathways within the perspective of upholding educational rigor. Within this context of evolving educational structures and modalities, it would be needed that the Chair of faculty senate ensure that faculty oversight of curriculum remains strong and that we have relevant Senate discussions around AI integration in teaching and research, digital transformation, and future-facing academic priorities. I have personally seen the reality of this through our own Graduate Curriculum Committee that is working hard to uphold the integrity and relevancy of our course and program offerings. As I have taught within my Higher Education Retention Strategies class that National organizations like AAC&U, CGS, APLU are calling for institutions to evolve programmatically while preserving academic standards making the Senate's role in curricular governance even more essential.

3. Ensuring Faculty Morale and Faculty Well-Being: Current national higher education realities have intensified concerns around faculty workload, burnout, contingent labor, and representative populations in academia. My experience and research suggest to me that the Senate Chair must lead with compassion and a commitment to faculty health and well-being. This can be accomplished through prioritizing issues related to faculty well-being, and ensuring inclusive decision-making and the fair allocation of resources, recognition, and support across disciplines and ranks. I am drawn to the 2023 Chronicle of Higher Education report on faculty burnout revealing that 68% of faculty felt their workload was unsustainable underscoring the need for faculty advocacy at the governance level.

4. Enhancing Institutional Transparency: Time and experience has helped me to understand that both Administration and Faculty are working toward the common good of the institution. We want it to be a successful and thriving place. Within these intentions, mistrust can easily arise when major institutional decisions are made without clear communication or perceived consultation. A central responsibility of the Faculty Senate Chair is to serve as both a pathway and protector of transparency. Reflecting on my HE Organizational Theory class, we discussed General Systems Theory and Cybernetics leading to the understanding that a vibrant system needs spaces to look for both consistencies and inconsistencies in practice. This leads me to believe that our Chair needs to be someone willing to build trust with administrators while holding space for critical words when dissenting positions occur.

The current higher education landscape calls for thoughtful, strategic leadership framed within collaboration and academic values. I believe my experience in graduate education, policy development, curriculum oversight, university governance, and university-wide strategy, and finally as an academic in Higher Education Leadership who has studied and

taught for over two decades on how universities operate and are led, positions me well to lead our Faculty Senate with both empathy and effectiveness.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to serve our faculty community.

Dr. Devon Jensen

Associate Professor, Higher Education Leadership
University of Central Florida

Supporting References:

AAC&U. (2023). *Academic freedom, equity, and innovation: Faculty roles in student success and institutional transformation*. Association of American Colleges and Universities. <https://www.aacu.org/publication/academic-freedom-equity-and-innovation>

American Association of University Professors. (2021). *Statement on shared governance*. Retrieved from <https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-government-colleges-and-universities>

The Chronicle of Higher Education. (2023). *The burnout factor: Examining faculty stress and institutional responses in higher education*. <https://www.chronicle.com/report/the-burnout-factor-2023>

Council of Graduate Schools. (2021). *Graduate education for the public good: A framework for program innovation*. <https://cgsnet.org/publication/graduate-education-for-the-public-good>

Kezar, A., & Eckel, P. D. (2004). *Meeting today's governance challenges: A synthesis of the literature and examination of a future agenda for scholarship*. *The Journal of Higher Education*, 75(4), 371–399. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00221546.2004.11772267>

Vice Chair Candidate: Jeff Kauffman

Biography: Jeff Kauffman is an Associate Professor and Associate Chair in charge of undergraduate programs in the Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department. He conducts broad research in the areas of structural dynamics and adaptive structures, with particular emphasis on multifunctional and energy-efficient structures for vibration reduction, structural morphing, and energy harvesting. His projects, funded by NSF, ONR, DoD, NASA, and industry partners, range from developing high-bandwidth, high-authority actuators for vibration testing in jet engines to taking inspiration from how mosquitos eject drops from their wings before flight to discover new ways of decontaminating surfaces.



Jeff enjoys teaching a variety of courses, especially the Mechanical Systems Laboratory. There he gets to interact with students and enjoy their “aha!” moments in the smaller lab setting. He is fortunate to advise a fantastic research group with a great mix of graduate and undergraduate students who keep him on his toes. With Ali Gordon, he is the co-director of HYPER, an NSF REU Site that provides summer research experiences in hypersonics (73 undergraduate students since 2019). Beyond UCF, Jeff is an AIAA Associate Fellow and Chair of the Adaptive Structures Technical Committee. He frequently writes the committee’s annual “Year-in-Review” article for *Aerospace America*, which lets him highlight and advertise the research his colleagues are doing.

Candidate Statement: I appreciate the importance of effective service. Perhaps like many of us, I started out in department/college roles and have taken on roles of greater responsibility over time. Among other committees, I served on the UPCC since 2016 (chair since 2021), was elected to the Senate in 2020, joined Steering in 2022, and was honored to serve as the Vice Chair this year. This experience has made me much more aware of how different units approach problems, and how the Senate can help find solutions. I have worked with Chair King to help advocate for faculty and to brainstorm ideas to address faculty concerns.

Perhaps the most important role of Vice Chair is to chair the Committee on Committees. This year I worked closely with each unit’s representative and the Senate Office to identify faculty for the 30+ Senate committees and councils, ensuring our voice is strong. We also collaborated to fill vacancies throughout the year and provide support to the committee chairs. These committees are where a significant portion of the Senate’s work actually happens, so effective advocacy there can have a tremendous impact on university policy. The role will be especially important this year with the new Committee on Committees membership. I also have represented UCF on the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, meeting with our counterparts from other SUS institutions and advocating for our interests with the Chancellor and Board of Governors. These experiences have fostered a heightened appreciation for the role of the Senate as an institution and for the importance of shared governance in achieving the university mission.



Danny Seigler is an Associate Lecturer and Director of the Master of Research Administration program in the School of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida. With over a decade of academic experience at UCF, he has demonstrated a deep commitment to faculty governance, student success, and institutional service.

Dr. Seigler earned his Ph.D. in Public Affairs, MPA, and BA in Public Administration from UCF, establishing a lifelong connection to the university and its mission. His research focuses on social media responsiveness in the public sector, citizen trust in government, and online engagement strategies. His work has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals and presented at national and international conferences.

Beyond research and teaching, he has been an active participant in faculty leadership. He currently serves on the UCF Faculty Senate and its Steering Committee as the Senate Secretary. His previous service includes membership on the Faculty Senate Graduate Council Appeals Committee and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee.

His dedication to faculty advocacy and shared governance makes him an excellent candidate for Faculty Senate Secretary. In this role, he aims to enhance communication, transparency, and efficiency in Senate operations, ensuring that faculty voices are heard and represented in university decision-making.

As a proud UCF Knight and dedicated alumnus, he views this opportunity as another way to give back to the institution that has shaped his academic and professional journey. His passion for UCF's mission and commitment to its faculty and students make him eager to serve and contribute to the university's continued success.

He looks forward to continuing his service to the UCF community and would be honored to serve as Faculty Senate Secretary.

2025-2026 officer elections, steering & C-on-C selections, and senator committee staffing

1. SENATE-WIDE OFFICER ELECTIONS

*Done by Qualtrics survey of all senators- **have an electronic device ready.***

Election of Chair

Election of Vice Chair

Election of Secretary

2. ACADEMIC UNIT STEERING ELECTIONS

All units except COS will select: **a single Steering Committee member** from their unit senators.

COS will select: **two Steering Committee members** from COS senators.

-Done by caucusing among unit members, and having an election, if needed.

-Zoom breakout rooms for each unit are set up if needed, they will not be used if all members are present in person.

3. ACADEMIC UNIT COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

All units will select: **a single Committee on Committee member** from their unit senators.

-Done by caucusing among unit members, and having an election, if needed.

-Zoom breakout rooms for each unit are set up if needed, they will not be used if all members are present in person.

4. ACADEMIC UNIT SENATOR STAFFING OF COMMITTEES

Senator staffing of Faculty Senate committees

Each senator is required to be on one senate committee. The recommendation is to have each senator be on a single senate committee, which allows non-senate faculty from the unit to serve on committees as well. Different units can adapt as needed based on the number of faculty they have, and the interests of their faculty. Senators will caucus together and decide which senators will fill which vacant seats, making sure that every senator is on a senate committee.

Senators from each unit will be given their own unit's **Committee Status Sheet.**

The top section shows committee vacancies that are **highlighted yellow.**

The middle section shows unit faculty that have committee terms in progress.

Current senators from the unit that have terms in progress are **in bold red text.**

The bottom section shows those committee seats that are concluding over summer.

Current senators from the unit that are finishing terms are **in bold text.**

-The goal today is for each unit to identify the committees that **current senators** will serve on and to share that information with the Faculty Senate Leadership.

-Done by caucusing among unit members and having discussions on what is best.

-Zoom breakout rooms for each unit are set up if needed, they will not be used if all members are present in person.

NOTE: use the Faculty Senate website <https://facultysenate.ucf.edu/committees/> to see:

- the predetermined weekday and time that each committee meets in the coming year,*
- the requirements for faculty members (tenured, associate level or higher, etc), and*
- the duties and responsibilities of each committee.*