



# Faculty Senate

## Faculty Senate

Agenda for meeting of Thursday, April 11, 2024, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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

*For those unable to make the in person meeting due to travel, location, or health issues, there is a Zoom option:*

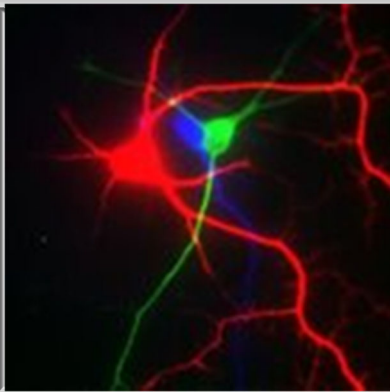
<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/98915877104?pwd=UmlzZ0RNQnJMSkVDS3NUSFNVMUFDUT09>

Passcode: 943049

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics:
3. Approval of Minutes of *March 14, 2024*
4. Recognition of Guests
5. Announcements
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Provost
8. Presentation of the List of Candidates by the Nominating Committee Chair
  - a. Election of Officers for 2024-2025 Senate Year (see meeting materials for candidate information)
9. Establishment of the Steering Committee Members for 2024-2025 Senate Year
  - b. Establishment of the Committee on Committees Members for the 2024-2025 Senate Year
10. New Business
  - a) Senator Staffing on Faculty Senate Committees
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment

# Stephen King

Faculty Senate Chair Candidate



My research focusses on how microscopic molecular motors move critical materials inside all the cells in our bodies. Gene mutations that cause defects in the molecular motors can lead to a variety of human neurodegenerative diseases. My lab studies these motors and the genetic mutations in a variety of experimental systems.

My teaching to graduate and undergraduate students is focused on helping student develop critical thinking skills. I promote student learning in my courses by utilizing a combination of primary literature analyses, laboratory experimentation, and interactive lecture techniques.



## Faculty Senate Committees and Leadership Positions:

- 2022-24 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
- 2015-2016 Member, Personnel Committee
- 2015-2025 Senator, elected from COM

## College of Medicine Leadership Positions

- 2014-15 Past President, COM Faculty Senate
- 2013-14 President, COM Faculty Council
- 2012-13 Vice President, COM Faculty Council

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, and with the upper administration at UCF.

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:

- campus-wide Workday implementation,
- inflationary pressure on our faculty,
- a new advising model to boost graduation rates,
- changes to research space allocation,
- the impact of a new budgetary model on our academic units

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 8 different university administrators,
- \* prioritized our faculty concerns with the administration for fixing Workday,
- \* passed a resolution addressing the BOG Regulation on Prohibited Expenditures,
- \* passed a resolution to change Faculty Teaching Evaluations,
- \* and provided input to the Research Space Allocation Task Force.

Over the past year, I have fostered an excellent working relationship with the members of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Governors, and the Florida Legislature. Within the Board of Trustees, 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. At Board of Governors meetings, I shared the impact that BOG regulations have on faculty and worked to provide solutions for unintended consequences of those regulations. With the legislature, I conveyed how underfunded UCF is relative to other USS institutions and successfully advocated for increased recurring support for UCF.

**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**

## Vice Chair Candidate: Jeff Kauffman

Jeff Kauffman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (MAE), where he also serves as the Aerospace Program Director. He earned PhD and MS degrees in Aerospace Engineering at Penn State and a BS degree in Engineering & Applied Science with an Aeronautics concentration at Caltech. Jeff 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. Ongoing projects range from developing high-bandwidth, high-authority actuators for vibration testing in jet engines to taking inspiration from how mosquitoes eject drops from their wings before flight to discover new ways of decontaminating surfaces. His current research is funded by the Office of Naval Research, NSF, DoD, NASA, and several industry partners.



Jeff enjoys teaching a variety of courses in the MAE Department. He frequently teaches the Mechanical Systems Laboratory, which lets him 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, a REU Site that provides summer research experiences in hypersonics (58 undergraduate students since SU19). He also advises a number of student clubs, and that sometimes leads to interesting situations – on Pi Day this year, he (along with fellow Senator Kurt Stresau!) received approximately 20 shaving cream pies to the face to raise money for several engineering student clubs.

Beyond UCF, Jeff is quite active in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), where he recently was elected an Associate Fellow. He is the Chair-elect of the Adaptive Structures Technical Committee; he currently is the Vice Chair there and previously served as Secretary. Through that committee, Jeff has twice organized the community’s portion of the annual *AIAA SciTech Forum*, the primary conference for aerospace engineering each year. He also has enjoyed writing the committee’s annual “Year-in-Review” article for the *Aerospace America* magazine, as it affords him the opportunity to highlight and advertise the research his colleagues are doing.

Jeff appreciates the importance of effective service and has been active across the university. He co-wrote the proposal to start the PhD program in Aerospace Engineering at UCF and helped grow it to 73 students since its inception in FA19. He chaired the College Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Committee, served on the University Honors Committee, and has led several search committees. He has served on the Undergraduate Council (UPCC specifically) since 2016 and as chair since 2021. Jeff was elected to the Faculty Senate in 2020 and joined Steering in 2022. He served on the ad hoc committee that led to the current Faculty Senate Student Success Council. 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.



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**School of Public Administration**

528 W. Livingston Street, Suite 446  
Orlando, FL 32801

March 27, 2024

Dear Faculty Senate and nominating committee,

I formally accept the nomination for the position of Secretary for the UCF Faculty Senate. First and foremost, I am deeply honored and humbled by the trust my colleagues have placed in me with this nomination. As a UCF Alumnus, a member of the UCF faculty for the past 14 years, and a senator for the past 2 years, I have a strong connection to and deep passion for UCF and the impact we make locally, nationally, and internationally. If allowed to serve in this role, I will be committed to contributing my passion, expertise, and unwavering dedication to the Faculty Senate and the academic community we represent.

Allow me to take a moment and share a personal philosophy that guides my actions here at UCF. Early in my career, during my time at Publix, I encountered the following statement from Publix's founder, George Jenkins: "Publix will be a little better place or not quite as good because of you." This simple yet powerful message resonated deeply with me. It underscores the impact we have on those around us, and while it may seem cliché to hear, I truly do want UCF to be a better place, and this will be my guiding philosophy as your secretary.

As the Senate Secretary, I recognize the critical role this position plays in facilitating communication between faculty members, senators, and administration, and I pledge to uphold the highest standards of accuracy and efficiency in all my responsibilities. Here are some additional key principles that I commit to during my service:

- **Transparency and Accessibility:** Open communication and timely distribution of meeting minutes and relevant documents.
- **Attention to Detail:** Meticulous documentation of proceedings during Senate meetings.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Advocating for our academic community alongside fellow senators and leaders.
- **Leveraging Technology:** Effective use of digital tools.
- **Faculty Advocacy:** Listening to faculty concerns and promoting policies for academic excellence and student success.

Beyond the guiding philosophy and principles shared above, I do bring a strong foundation of leadership and service with me to this position. Over these past two Senate sessions, I have gained valuable insights into our Senate's operations, challenges, and opportunities, and serving on the steering committee this past year has allowed me to collaborate closely with colleagues, ensuring effective governance and decision-making. In addition to the steering committee, I am actively involved in the graduate council, appeals committee, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Council, and

student success council. These roles have given me valuable insights into campus activities that involve the faculty senate.

In addition to my leadership experience above, I also bring a commitment to effective governance and communication within our academic community. I have chaired four honors undergraduate thesis committees and served on three dissertation committees. Currently, I serve as the Program Coordinator for our School's Master of Research Administration program, and until this past year, I oversaw our School of Public Administration internship program. During my undergraduate years at UCF, I held the position of Senate Secretary for the UCF Student Government Association, where I managed similar duties and responsibilities to this role, and I have held two Vice President positions for the American Society for Public Administration Central Florida Chapter.

In closing, I express my gratitude for this opportunity to serve. I am excited to contribute to the shared governance of our university and to uphold the values that define the UCF Faculty Senate.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Seigler". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Daniel J. Seigler  
Associate Lecturer and Master of Research Administration Program Director  
UCF School of Public Administration  
College of Community Innovation and Education