Faculty Senate

Steering Committee

Minutes for meeting of Thursday, April 9, 2026, 3:00 pm
Location: In person in the Charge on Chamber, Student Union Room 340

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics
3. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2026 – Minutes were approved as written.
4. Recognition of in-person Guests –

    Provost John Buckwalter

    Joel Cramer, Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

    Marc Mendonca, Associate Vice President for Research and Scholarship

    Tim Letzring, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
5. Announcements –

    Chair King shared the following announcements:

    - This was the final Steering Committee meeting of the 2025–2026 Senate session.

    Board of Trustees meeting –

    - The BOT will meet on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, in the College of Business. Agenda items include regulation updates, strategic planning, and auxiliary funds for athletics and other purposes.

    General Education Program update –

    - The BOG removed Sociology from General Education courses across the State University System.
    - Chair King is working to ensure similar action does not affect other General Education programs. He shared with ACFS the steps UCF is taking to keep its courses aligned with state statutes.
6. Committee Reports –

    A motion to move Committee Reports next to the agenda was seconded and approved. The following reports were shared:

    a) B&A Committee, Jim Gallo, Steering liaison – No update.

    b) IT Committee, Crystal Maraj, Steering liaison –

    - The committee met on April 7 and reviewed software for evaluations and promotions, including specialized software and a possible path forward.
    - Members asked whether help buttons could be added to the front classroom control tablets or wall panels so instructional support

remains accessible when the controls in the back of the room cannot be reached.

- Members also asked whether classroom-computer QR codes requesting connectivity tests are related to previously reported connectivity issues. Feedback was requested.

c) Personnel Committee, Nicole Lapeyrouse, Steering liaison – No update.

d) Research Council, Linda Walters, Research Council chair – No update.

e) Undergraduate Council, Nicole Lapeyrouse, Steering liaison – No update, but questions were posed to Dr. Letzring:

- Dr. Letzring reported that 94.4% of summer syllabi were posted before the required deadline, thanked those involved, and noted that the process was working well.
- Clarification was requested regarding the pause on approval of AI courses for UCRC. Dr. Letzring indicated courses can be approved when it can be clearly demonstrated that the AI use is connected to the program and does not overlap with another program.

f) Graduate Council, Reid Oetjen, Steering liaison –

- Three committees completed their work. Graduate Appeals handled 15 different appeals and will continue working on appeals under the summer schedule.

7. Report of the Provost –

A motion to move the provost's report ahead of the Chair's report was seconded and approved. Provost Buckwalter shared the following report:

a) Faculty union agreement –

- A tentative agreement has been reached with the faculty union, which will present the agreement to the faculty.

b) Board of Trustees meeting –

- The BOT will consider faculty members who have been recommended for tenure at its meeting the following week.
- UCF faculty and the administration makes tenure recommendations, but the BOT ultimately awards tenure.
- The BOT also considers individuals who are being hired with tenure.
- Provost Buckwalter thanked everyone involved in the tenure process.

c) Spring Commencement –

- More than 10,100 degrees will be awarded: 8,384 undergraduate, 1,564 master's, and 179 doctoral degrees and Ph.D.'s.

d) Vice President for Research –

    - The discussion addressed where UCF research has been, where it is now, and what it will take to more closely resemble an AAU university.

e) BOG removal of Sociology from General Education –

    - Provost Buckwalter expressed that he was very pleased with and impressed by UCF's Sociology Department.
    - He emphasized that the BOG decision is not a reflection of the department's work at UCF.

f) Provost town halls and strategic planning –

    - The provost will continue to host town halls and begin discussing UCF's next strategic plan.
    - Each dean was asked to revisit college and department plans to determine how they can inform strategic planning at all levels of the university.

g) Founders' Day recognition –

    - The provost congratulated several senators on the awards they received.

h) Leadership search updates –

    - The final candidate for Dean of the Graduate School had completed a campus visit.
    - The College of Medicine dean search was launching.

8. Report of the Chair –

Chair King announced that he had decided not to run for Chair again for the 2026–2027 Senate session. He reviewed accomplishments from his four years as Senate Chair:

a) Resolutions –

    - The Senate approved 38 resolutions: 24 Constitution or Bylaw resolutions and 14 standard resolutions. Some highlights were:
        - Constitutional changes updated the amendment process and enabled the Senate to increase from 75 to 100 senators.
        - Bylaw changes added instructional designers and Office of Research faculty to the Faculty Senate.
        - Standard resolutions declared opposition to actions affecting UCF, including:
            - BOG post-tenure faculty review
            - BOG regulations on prohibited expenditures
            - 287(g) ICE agreements

- The Senate approved new SPI questions and processes, an effort that had been underway for approximately 10 years.

b) Other accomplishments –

- UCF leaders were brought before the Senate for reports and questions to support stronger university decisions informed by collective faculty feedback. This included the President and Provost reports and more than 30 administrator topic reports.
- Standard procedures were instituted to strengthen faculty shared governance, including:
  - Using Robert's Rules of Order
  - Developing the Faculty Companion Web course and having meetings with newly elected senators in early Fall
  - College and unit meetings with senators
  - Empowering faculty in each unit to determine how best to allocate their senators
  - Beginning committee staffing with senators at the April Senate meeting to improve efficiency
  - Separating the Steering Committee member role from the Committee on Committees member role.

c) Acknowledgments –

- Chair King thanked Yaneries Walls and Laurie Carroll, senators and Steering Committee members, the administrators with whom he worked to institute changes, and the Senate officers for their support during the past four years.

9. Unfinished Business – None

10. New Business

a) Nominating Committee Update – Bill Self, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported:

- Five candidates were nominated:
  - Chair: Devon Jensen and Jeff Kauffman
  - Vice Chair: Nicole Lapeyrouse and Peter Sinelli
  - Secretary: Daniel Seigler
- Additional nominations may be presented during the next Senate meeting.

b) Agenda for the April 23 Faculty Senate meeting –

- The Constitution establishes the agenda for this meeting.
- The Chair will provide announcements, followed by reports from

the President and Provost.

- Past Chair Self will conduct the officer elections.
- Departments will break out to select Steering Committee and Committee on Committees members.

11. Other Business – None
12. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Daniel Seigler — 04-15-2026

Daniel Seigler — Date

Secretary, Faculty Senate