



Faculty Senate

Steering Committee

Minutes for meeting of Thursday, February 5, 2026, 3:00 pm

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

1. Call to Order – 3:02 p.m.
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics
3. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2025 – Minutes approved.
4. Recognition of Guests

Provost John Buckwalter

Joel Cramer, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Marc Mendoca, Associate Vice President of Research and Scholarship

Rebecca Richards, Vice Provost for Integrated Academic Planning and
Chief of Operations for Academic Affairs

5. Announcements –

Chair King shared the following announcements with the committee:

- a) We are in our final meetings of the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate session this means that today is the last meeting to introduce Bylaw resolutions and our March Steering meeting is the last meeting to introduce all other resolutions
- b) Elections
 - i) Shared how many senators each college or similar academic unit was apportioned for the upcoming senate session. (details found in the chairs report)
 - ii) Shared how each college or academic unit will allocate senators within their own units. (details found in the chairs report)
- c) All elections are on schedule to be completed by March 1st as required by our Bylaws.

6. Report of the Senate Chair –

Chair King shared the following report with the committee:

- a) Chair King's recent travel to Tallahassee –
 - i) Met and conveyed messages to state officials:
 - (1) UCF is doing great work in spite of funding challenges
 - (2) the need for more state funding to support the UCF academic mission
 - ii) Advisory Council of Faculty Senates and BOG meetings
 - (1) Overall, good meetings

(2) H1-B Visas: the BOG has proposed a regulation for a one year moratorium for H1B visas for new employees

7. Report of the Provost –

Provost Buckwalter shared the following report with the committee:

a) UCF Day at the Capitol

- i) The provost had the privilege go with the President and legislative team to Tallahassee
- ii) The legislators and staff are always very welcoming, and he heard them say they recognized that UCF is doing what they would like to see a state university do – he took that as a positive but is hesitant to say this will lead to the funding UCF is requesting
- iii) The provost also shared that President Cartwright did an excellent job in talking about all of the UCF community, but especially the way he talked about the incredible work the faculty are doing
- iv) The provost also shared how great it was to see the students there representing UCF

b) H1B Visa

- i) The provost said that the question of whether this is going to be H1B's only or all the visas was answered, and no, this was just H1B.
- ii) He appreciated the BOGs openness to gathering more data, and he shared that the strongest voice was the student representative from FSU – the representative did a great job at stating the importance of these visas to bringing talent to the SUS
- iii) Also, they are not talking about current people already here with H1Bs, only new applications – this should bring some comfort to those already here

c) Discussion around sociology courses in GE curriculum

- i) The provost also talked about the new BOG approved sociology syllabus
- ii) Faculty from FSU and other campuses helped put this syllabus together that is preapproved for GE sociology courses – something that you could use that is verified as being compliant with statutes.
 - (1) There is no mandate to use the syllabus or open resources – it just that this material is what we know is vetted and compliant with the law
 - (2) You can supplement that material – you can use all of it, none of it, part of it
 - (3) If you use it, you know you will be compliant with law, if not, there is another process for vetting what you decide to use
- iii) This isn't the BOG forcing this, this is just a tool to help keep sociology part of undergraduate curriculum

d) Workday – faculty have the ability to delegate some of their input responsibilities when supervising students

e) University announcements – have a lot of online programs that are doing very well. Thank you to the faculty for making this happen

- f) Leadership searches
 - i) COS dean search – candidate will be coming on campus soon – please participate; your input is valuable (no matter where you are on campus)
- g) The provost took questions on:
 - i) Workday delegation
 - ii) Sociology syllabus and curriculum

8. Unfinished Business – no unfinished business of the committee

9. New Business –

The committee took up the following new business during this meeting:

- a) Formation of the Nominating Committee
 - i) Past Chair Bill Self was nominated for and accepted the position of nominating committee chair
 - ii) Senator Gallo and Senator Walters nominated to serve on the committee
- b) Senate Agenda for February 19
 - i) Motion was made, seconded, and approved to move Senate Agenda next on the agenda
 - ii) Motion to add UCF Budget and Finances presented by Provost Buckwalter and Acting Vice President and CFO Bert Francis to the next Senate meeting was seconded and approved
- c) Resolution 2025-2026-7: Bylaw Amendment: Steering Committee Composition, Duties and Responsibilities of the Steering Committee, and Related Areas of the Bylaws
 - i) Motion to forward resolution to the full senate was seconded
 - ii) Motion to amend the following in the resolution:
 - (1) Strike the following on Lines 29 and 30: “the total number of” and “no greater than one-fifth (20) of the total number of senators (100) and” and
 - (2) Strike “b. Additional seats shall be allocated in descending order of academics unit size until all seats are filled” and replace it with “Units with at least 10 Senators will have one additional representative on the Steering Committee.”
 - Amendment to change 10 Senators to 6 failed
 - Amendment to change 10 Senators to 15 failed
 - (3) Amendments pass
 - iii) Vote passed to approve the resolution as amended.

10. Committee Reports –

- a) B&A committee, Jim Gallo, Steering liaison
- b) IT committee, Crystal Maraj, Steering liaison
- c) Personnel committee, Nicole Lapeyrouse, Steering liaison
- d) Research Council, Linda Walters, Research Council chair
- e) Undergraduate Council, Nicole Lapeyrouse, Steering liaison

f) Graduate Council, Reid Oetjen, Steering liaison

All committees provided reports at the meeting.

11. Other Business –

Suggestion was made to invite Vice President Rhonda Bishop for a future climate report

12. Adjournment – 4:33 p.m.

Daniel Seigler

01/10/2026

Daniel Seigler

Date

Secretary, Faculty Senate

Feb 5th steering committee chair announcements and report

First announcement,

We are getting near the end of the 2026-2027 senate session, with just two more full Senate meetings as well as two more steering meetings. For those new to steering, our last full senate meeting will be in March. We have our last steering meeting in early April. The late April senate meeting on April 23rd is the first meeting of the NEXT senate session, and when we will have our senate officer elections for next year.

Being near the end of the current 2025 session affects the resolution process:

This is last meeting for bylaws resolutions, we have one on the agenda. If approved today, it will be on the agenda for discussion at February senate meeting and on the agenda for the March meeting for action.

If a bylaws amendment does not get approved today, there isn't enough time for it to be brought for a vote until the fall 2026 senate meetings

Standard resolutions can be brought forward at the March steering meeting, with debate and action at the march Senate meeting,
Election update

Second announcement:

Election update:

Apportionment at 85

	Faculty	Senators	
COS	392	17	COS
CAH	291	14	CAH
CECS	281	13	CECS
CCIE	195	9	CCIE
COM	158	7	COM
CBA	126	6	CBA
CHPS	120	5	CHPS
CON	73	3	CON
ROSEN	61	3	ROSEN
LIB	34	2	LIB
CREOL	29	2	CREOL
DDL	21	2	DDL
OFF RES	20	2	OFF RES
TOTAL	1801	85	TOTAL

Allocation of how senators are chosen in units

ROSEN	all at large
DDL	all at large
LIB	all at large
CREOL	all at large
OFF RES	all at large/ but from different units
CAH	2/unit rest at large
CON	1/unit rest at Large
CHPS	1/unit rest at Large
CBA	1/unit rest at Large
CCIE	1/unit rest at Large
CECS	1/unit rest at Large
COS	1/unit rest all proportional
COM	1/unit, BSBS +1, 1 at large not BSBS

On Jan 30th, the end of the third week of the semester, all colleges and units were given the information about the number of senators apportioned to their unit, as well as information on the exact departmental and/or at large elections to hold

All units are on track to finish votes by March 1st, as required by the Bylaws

If there are further questions about the elections, please reach out to me or Yaneries

Chair Report:

I'll provide an update of my actions and those of vice chair Kauffman in Tallahassee last week

Monday and Tuesday of last week I was with several trustees, the president, and the provost. We met with key legislative and executive branch leaders, doing our best to help convince them that UCF is doing some wonderful things for the state, including graduating the most nurses, the most engineers and technology grads, and taking in the most transfer students of any university in the SUS.

As part of our message we forcefully conveyed the results of the state's own DOGE report which show UCF is woefully underfunded on a per student basis relative to the other SUS universities.

There was strong support for the mission and the results UCF gets... I am not sure if or how that may turn into financial support for UCF in the coming year.

Then on Wednesday and Thursday of last week Vice chair Jeff Kauffman and I were at the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates meeting and the Florida Board of Governors meeting. The meetings were generally uneventful, which is actually a big plus compared to other meetings in the past few years where restrictive actions were discussed by the BOG and forced upon state universities.

The most important aspect of the meeting I want to convey to you is about H1B visas for new university hires.

If you have followed the press, Governor Desantis called for a permanent ban on H1Bs for state employees, including higher ed faculty as well as possible halt to renewal of H1Bs for those state employees.

The BOG has come out in support of higher Ed, but still mindful of the Governors intent. There is a current regulation up for comment that would put a moratorium on new H1Bs for any university employees until Jan 5th 2027. Incidentally, that is Governor Desantis's last day in office. The BOGs moratorium would automatically expire on that day.

Furthermore, the BOGs regulation has zero effect, no action on current H1B holders employed at state universities.

The faculty BOG Governor and the student BOG governor made extremely strong cases of how damaging this moratorium would be, and the ensuing discussion of the moratorium gave a glimmer of hope that some additional exceptions or carve outs may be possible. One thing the new Chair of the BOG requested was more data on current and past H1B holders, as well as the impact this could have on key areas of faculty hiring and growth in strategically critical areas.

Its with that in mind that I sent my email on Monday of this week asking faculty to weigh in on the impact this moratorium could have on university hiring and the ability of Florida to be a leader in higher education in the country. I hope you and your colleagues that may see the benefits of the H1B program are able to comment as directed in the email. The more the BOG understand about this issue, the more likely they may temper the moratorium when they make a final decision on the regulation change.

Can I count on anything? Absolutely not... but I believe there is a chance our actions can improve the situation for us.

1 **Resolution 2025-2026-7: Bylaws Amendment:**

2 **Steering Committee Composition, Steering Committee Duties and Responsibilities,**
3 **and Related Areas of the Bylaws**

4 **Whereas**, The Faculty Senate Steering Committee is the executive committee of the
5 Faculty Senate and as such plays critical roles in setting the agenda for Faculty Senate
6 meetings, overseeing Senate elections, approving resolutions, steering topics to particular
7 Faculty Senate Committees, and acting for the Senate during emergencies; and

8 **Whereas**, because the number of senators in the Faculty Senate is expanding from 75 to
9 100 over a two-year period, there will be a change in the composition of the Steering
10 Committee; and

11 **Whereas**, the current Bylaws state that the total membership of the Steering Committee is
12 20% of the Faculty Senate membership and is allocated according to the formula shown in
13 Section VI.A.1.b; and

14 **Whereas**, in light of an expanding Faculty Senate and concomitant expanding Steering
15 Committee membership, the Steering Committee evaluated the Bylaws regarding its
16 composition and duties and responsibilities to identify where updates to the Bylaws would
17 better reflect current practice and provide the representation needed for the Steering
18 Committee's duties and responsibilities; and

19 **Whereas**, the analysis of the Steering Committee Bylaws identified other areas of the
20 Bylaws that fail to clearly delineate duties or responsibilities of the Steering Committee
21 from those of the entire Faculty Senate; therefore

22 **Be It Resolved**, that the Steering Committee *Bylaws in Sections VI.A.1-4* be replaced with
23 the text below:

24 **A. Steering Committee**

25 1. Composition.

26 The Steering Committee is composed of the chair of the Faculty Senate, the vice
27 chair, the secretary of the Faculty Senate, and the immediate past chair of the Senate.
28 In addition to the current officers and the immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate,
29 senators on the Steering Committee shall be apportioned as provided below. Steering
30 Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of senators present and
31 voting within each of the academic units. There shall be no voting by proxy.

- 32 a. Each academic unit will have one representative on the Steering Committee.
33 b. Units with at least 10 Senators will have one additional representative on the
34 Steering Committee.
35 c. In the event of a vacancy on the Steering Committee, the senators of that
36 academic unit shall elect a replacement from amongst its membership.

- 37 2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Steering Committee.
- 38 a. To serve as the “executive committee” of the Faculty Senate.
- 39 b. To act on behalf of the Senate on matters declared by the chair of the Faculty
- 40 Senate to be of an emergency nature. Any action taken in this respect by the
- 41 Steering Committee shall be reported by the chair of the Faculty Senate to the
- 42 members of the Faculty Senate at or before the next regular meeting. The
- 43 Senate shall then review such action. The chair of the Faculty Senate will give
- 44 the members of the Senate advance notice of the emergency meeting of the
- 45 Steering Committee, if feasible.
- 46 c. To serve as an advisory body of the chair of the Faculty Senate on any matter
- 47 which the chair of the Faculty Senate brings before the Steering Committee.
- 48 Meetings of an advisory nature need not be announced or reported to the
- 49 Faculty Senate either before or after they occur.
- 50 d. To monitor Senate elections, Senate Officer elections, and academic unit
- 51 allocation votes, and ensure that the Office of the Faculty Senate maintains all
- 52 election and vote records.
- 53 e. To develop Faculty Senate agendas. Additional items may be added to the
- 54 agenda at any meeting of the Senate under new business by majority vote. Final
- 55 action on any resolutions added to the agenda during a meeting cannot be taken
- 56 prior to the next Senate meeting.
- 57 f. To consider resolutions forwarded by Senate committees and to forward them to
- 58 the full Senate or refer them back to the Senate committee.
- 59 g. To appoint from its membership liaisons to each of the Senate operational
- 60 committees and curricular councils. Liaisons shall report on committee or
- 61 council activities at Steering Committee meetings.
- 62 h. To periodically review Senate operational, curricular, and joint committees and
- 63 councils. Creation of new committees and changes in any committee's charter,
- 64 membership, or duties and responsibilities shall be conveyed to the Faculty
- 65 Senate for consideration as amendments to the *Bylaws*.
- 66 i. To serve as a faculty advisory body to the president of the university and to the
- 67 provost and vice president for Academic Affairs when requested.
- 68 j. To act in executive session when the Faculty Senate is not in session. All
- 69 recommendations made as the Senate's "executive committee" shall be reported
- 70 to the Senate and be subject to review and approval by the Faculty Senate.
- 71 k. To request information from any member of the faculty or administration and
- 72 invite any such person to meet with the Steering Committee and/or the full
- 73 Senate for consultation or advice on matters within its jurisdiction.
- 74 l. To establish ad hoc committees to facilitate its work.

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3. Meetings

77 The Steering Committee will normally meet two weeks prior to the regular
78 Faculty Senate meeting, at the discretion of the chair of the Faculty Senate, who
79 will chair this committee.

80 4. Quorum

81 A quorum for meetings of the Steering Committee shall consist of a majority of
82 the voting members.

83 and;

84 **Be It Further Resolved**, that Bylaws Section II.C add the following sentence after the last
85 line of the current text:

86 The Office of the Faculty Senate shall maintain all election records.

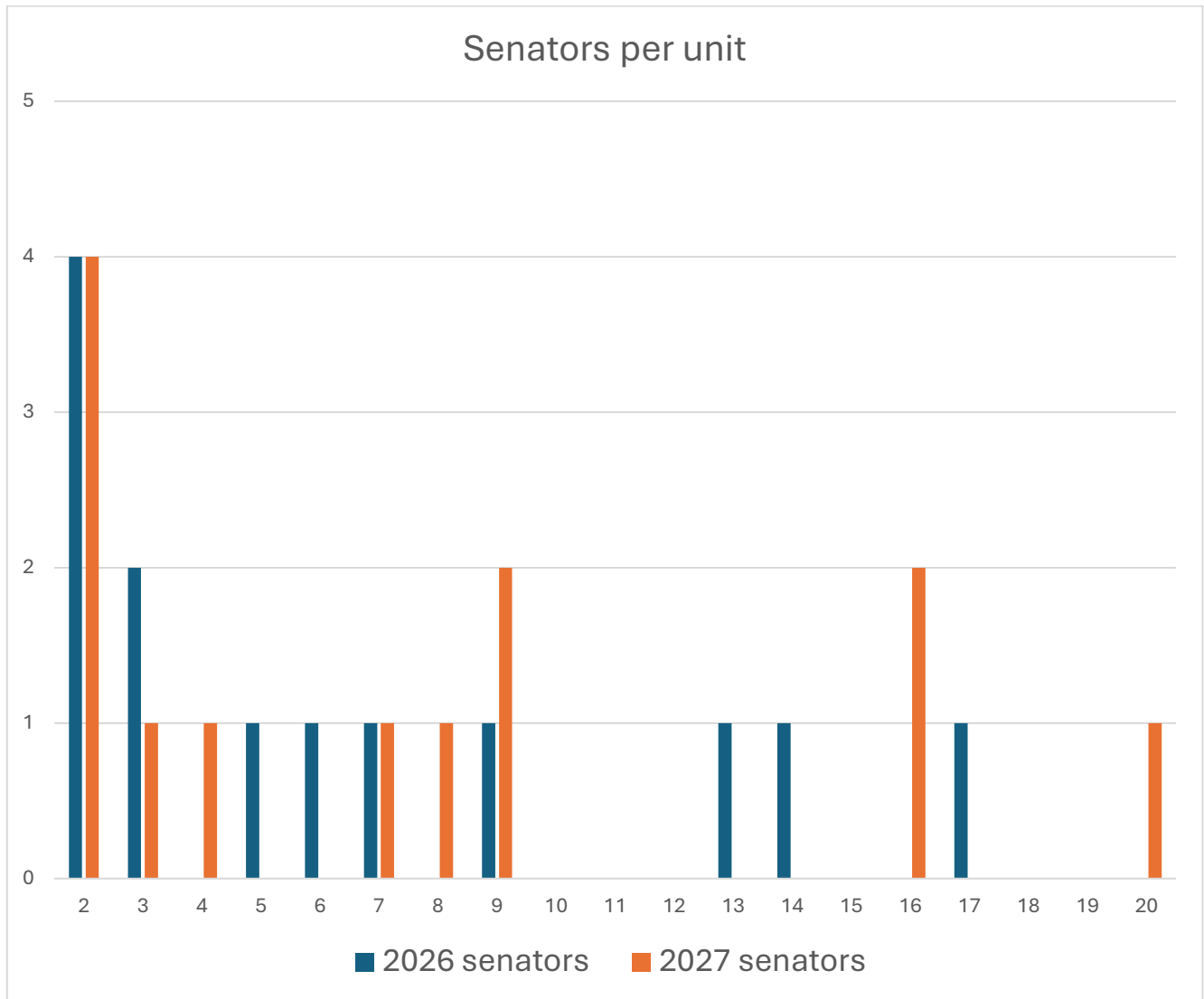
87 and;

88 **Be It Further Resolved**, that Bylaws Section IV Meetings of the Senate .I Resolution be
89 amended to state:

90 I Resolutions

91 As the elected body of the general faculty, the Faculty Senate may formulate its opinion
92 upon any subject of interest to the university and adopt appropriate resolutions. Resolutions
93 addressing those areas of authority legally reserved to the president and Board of Trustees
94 are advisory. A Resolution must be on the agenda of a Senate meeting and provided in the
95 meeting materials at least one week before a Senate meeting for final action on the
96 Resolution. Final action on any resolutions added to the agenda during a meeting cannot be
97 taken prior to the next Senate meeting. Each resolution adopted by the Faculty Senate is
98 forwarded to the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs who shall act upon the
99 recommendation within 60 days. The provost and vice president for Academic Affairs shall
100 have veto power over any resolution by the Senate. The veto or denial with rationale shall be
101 communicated in writing to the Faculty Senate and the chair of the Faculty Senate. The
102 Senate, by a two-thirds majority vote, may appeal to the president any resolution vetoed. A
103 subsequent veto or denial by the president shall be communicated in writing to the Faculty
104 Senate and to the chair of the Faculty Senate within 60 days. The Senate, by a two-thirds
105 majority vote, may appeal to the Board of Trustees any action so vetoed. A decision by the
106 Board of Trustees is final.

This chart shows the number of senators per each college or unit for 2026, when we have 85 senators, and for 2027, when we have 100 senators.





Faculty Senate

B&A Committee Report:

The January 2026 meeting included:

A report from Vice Provost Richards on the Provost's Budget Revitalization Committee's work. This committee is charged with making recommendations of the budget model. Robust discussion ensued and questions were answered. The committee's work is ongoing with the expectation of recommendations for change by the end of spring. Two faculty representatives serve as members of this committee which meets every other week. VP Richards will attend our meetings and provide updates.

Following up, B&A Committee members were asked about the status of housekeeping, from previous office trash pickup timing and restroom attention concerns. No members reported seeing/using the QR code system proposed to help resolve issues. Jean Davis indicated she would follow up on the QR stickers/signage with Amy Childs (housekeeping & facilities).

Following the January meeting Jean contacted and met with Amy Childs. She reported a delay in the roll-out of QR code stickers and signage to report trash pick-up or restroom attention needs. The delay was due to logistics (printing delay, reporting form issue). So, they are rolling out in the QR code solutions in February. Amy Childs was invited and agreed to attend the next B&A meeting to report on and discuss progress.

I.T Committee Report:

Committee met for about 40 minutes. Minutes of December 2, 2025 meeting were not approved as quorum was not reached. Discussion was held on updates to the campus network infrastructure (focus on between buildings) and overall IT governance. The committee will develop a document of areas of interest (e.g. promotion systems, teaching, managing research funds, research software, online meetings) to drive coordination between the committee and UCF IT. Mr. Bill Piorier (CIO) announced a new Deputy CIO will be starting soon and a new CISO is now in place.

Personnel Committee Report:

The committee is concerned that Paige Borden will not have the faculty salary study data available to us by our February meeting, making it unlikely for an official senate response this academic year.

The interfolio committee has received mixed feedback on it. Staff are in favor of interfolio, faculty would prefer an alternative. All options have flaws. The committee urged faculty excellence to investigate what would be involved in developing our own solution in house, which could then potentially be marketed to other universities to offset its cost.



Faculty Senate

The new hiring policy will be revised to include a form that requires faculty consent to move ahead with any 'panel' based searches (panels include directors and are removed from sunshine laws).

Research Council Report:

Research Council met on 1/26/26. Dr. Marc Mendonca and Joshua Rooney, both from Office of Research, helped facilitate a discussion on improving our next round of UCF SEED grants.

Undergraduate Council Report:

UPCC has been asked to put a hold/pause on considering any new proposals for certificates, degrees, etc. for AI while university leadership work through "how to avoid duplication." This came up in UCRC, so Matthew may have a better explanation than I offered. The committee also voted to invite Harrison Oonge to speak about the current status of articulation agreements to the UPCC once a year. The committee will have no role or step in the approval process, so this will be a purely informative action.

Grad Council:

Graduate Policy Committee – David Mohaisen

Met January 21, 2026

- **University Policy 4-412: Student Academic Appeals (Golden Rule)**
 - Review of the policy that governs how students can formally appeal academic decisions and the procedures and standards used to evaluate those appeals.

- **Certificates**
 - **Minimum Grade Requirement**
 - Consideration or clarification of the minimum grade students must earn in courses to successfully complete a certificate.
 - **Accelerated Master's Exception**
 - Discussion of an exception policy for students in accelerated master's programs, allowing greater flexibility in how certificate requirements apply within accelerated degree pathways.

Graduate Curriculum Committee – Daniel Paulson

Met on January 14, 2026

- **Extensive curriculum revisions** (especially prerequisites, descriptions, and credit hours).
- **Many courses renumbered or moved to lower levels** (notably Anthropology shifting 6000/7000-level courses to 5000-level).
- **Expansion of accelerated BS–MS tracks** in Engineering and Sciences.
- **Major restructuring of Nursing DNP programs** and reductions in Communication Sciences MA credit hours.
- **Multiple new AI-related courses and certificates** proposed (some tabled).



Faculty Senate

- **Several programs suspended or consolidated** (e.g., Interdisciplinary Studies, Education PhD tracks).
- Introduction of “**Master’s Along the Way**” tracks in several PhD programs.

Appeals Committee – Daniel Stephens
Committee met today (February 5, 2026)

No update.

Program Review and Awards Committee – Reid Oetjen
No update, but the next meeting is tomorrow, February 6, 2026 in which the committee will be finalizing graduate student and faculty awards.