



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate

Agenda for meeting of Thursday, January 22, 2026, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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

Zoom Link:

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/92804160763?pwd=hOnvbpjhVFo86fz9iSsinVe9g0OXQq.1>

Passcode: 058583

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics:
3. Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2025
4. Recognition of Guests
5. Announcements
6. Report of the Senate Chair
7. Report of the Provost
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
 - a) Resolution 2025-2026-5: Bylaw Amendment Allocation of Senators
 - i) Proposed amendment to Resolution 2025-2026-5
(this resolution is for discussion only)
 - b) Resolution 2025-2026-6: Strategic Utilization of Auxiliary Funds to Support UCF's Research Mission
(this resolution is open for debate and vote)
10. Report of the President
11. Committee Reports

B&A Committee- Campus Climate Report Replacing Committee Report
IT Committee- Crystal Miraj, IT Committee Steering Liaison
Personnel Committee- Matthew Mosher, Personnel committee chair
Research Council- Steve Duranceau, Vice Chair Research Council
Undergraduate Council- Jason Phillips, UPCC committee chair
Graduate Council- Reid Oetjen, Grad Council Steering Liaison
12. Campus Climate Report
 - a) Research Enterprise Update
 - i) Winston Schoenfeld, Vice President for Research and Innovation
13. Other Business
14. Adjournment

Resolution 2025-2026-5: Bylaw Amendment: Allocation of Senators within Academic Units

Whereas, each spring, Senate-recognized academic units receive an apportionment of Senate seats and must determine how those seats are allocated within the unit; and

Whereas, current *Faculty Senate Bylaws* require academic units to vote on an internal allocation system every year, even when the same system is repeatedly reaffirmed; and

Whereas, mandatory annual votes often delay Senator elections and unnecessarily compress the election timeline when no change to the allocation system is desired; and

Whereas, units should retain the ability to review and change their internal allocation system when faculty interest exists; therefore

Be It Resolved, that Section II.C of the *Faculty Senate Bylaws* be amended by replacing the second paragraph with the following:

Each academic unit shall, by majority vote of its faculty, establish a system for the internal allocation of its apportioned Senate representation (e.g., at the academic unit level, by department, by proportional department size, by a combination of methods, or other comparable systems). Upon approval, the allocation system shall remain in effect in subsequent years unless a new allocation vote is properly authorized and conducted as provided in *Bylaws, Section II.D.*

Be It Further Resolved, that the *Faculty Senate Bylaws* be amended with a new Section *II.D* as follows:

D. Authorization and Completion of a New Allocation Vote

A new allocation vote may be authorized under two conditions. First, a request for a new allocation vote shall be authorized upon email or written petition by at least one-third of the academic unit's Senators, or by at least ten percent of the general faculty of the academic unit. Second, the Faculty Senate Chair, or any Senator from the academic unit, may formally request that the academic unit consider whether to initiate a new allocation vote. Such a request shall proceed to a full allocation vote only if authorized by at least one-third of the academic unit's Senators, or by at least ten percent of the general faculty of the academic unit. Only requests meeting one of the above authorization thresholds shall proceed to a faculty allocation vote.

To ensure completion of allocation votes in advance of spring Senate elections, all authorized requests for allocation votes intended for the spring election cycle must be finalized and submitted to the Faculty Senate Office within one week of the spring semester release of the academic unit's apportionment data. Allocation vote requests

35 may also be initiated and authorized at any time during the summer or fall semesters for
36 future election cycles.

37 All allocation votes shall be conducted in coordination between the Office of the Faculty
38 Senate and the leadership of the academic unit. The Faculty Senate Chair shall certify
39 all allocation votes. Final results of all allocation votes shall be reported to the Faculty
40 Senate Steering Committee.

CURRENT BYLAWS

Section II.

Senate membership

A. General Eligibility

Those defined as members of the general faculty in *Bylaws, Section 1.A* shall be eligible to be elected to the Faculty Senate. Visiting faculty, regardless of their rank or duration of appointment, are not eligible to serve on the Faculty Senate.

B. Apportionment

The Faculty Senate shall be composed of one hundred elected members equitably apportioned among and representing the academic units of the University of Central Florida in accordance with the following apportionment criteria.

Apportionment will be made only once each year, based on the number of individuals who are members of the general faculty and are listed as faculty on official records of the university on the first day of the spring semester of that year.

Each academic unit will have a minimum of two representatives, and no academic unit may have more than 1/5 of the total number of members in the Senate. The number of elected members of the Faculty Senate will be apportioned among the academic units as follows:

Number of Senators = 100	Number of general faculty in an academic unit in the university

The number of senators representing an academic unit will be determined by rounding the above calculated value to the nearest whole number. Librarians who are not part of the University Libraries unit are counted as part of their colleges' faculty.

AMENDED BYLAWS

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C. Nomination and Election of Senators

Senators representing an academic unit shall be elected by a vote of the general faculty of that academic unit. Each academic unit shall decide on a mechanism for conducting elections (e.g., college assembly, paper or electronic ballot) as guided by *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest edition). Visiting faculty, regardless of their rank or duration of appointment, are not eligible to vote.

Each academic unit shall, by majority vote of its faculty, ~~decide on a system of internal allocation of Senate representation; e.g., at academic unit level, by department, by proportion to department size, by a combination of department and academic unit representation, etc. Each academic unit shall annually inform the chair of the Faculty Senate of the details of such allocation and any subsequent changes in it.~~

No later than the fourth week of the spring semester, the Office of the Faculty Senate will provide each academic unit with a list of faculty eligible for election to the Faculty Senate and the number of seats to be filled. On receiving this information, the academic unit will conduct an election.

An open call for nomination, including self-nomination, is expected.

Each academic unit will report election results to the Office of the Faculty Senate no later than March 1. In order to provide a current list of alternate members of the Senate, each academic unit will also forward the number of votes cast for each candidate for any election. If an alternate is needed, the alternate with the highest number of votes from the most recent election shall serve. If no alternate is provided, or no alternate can serve, a special election must be held. The chair of

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All allocation votes shall be conducted in coordination between the Office of the Faculty Senate and the leadership of the academic unit. The Faculty Senate Chair shall certify all allocation votes. Final results of all allocation votes shall be reported to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Proposed Amendment to Resolution 5: Bylaw Amendment: Allocation of Senators

Original Bylaw Amendment

22 A new allocation vote may be authorized under two conditions. First, a request for a
23 new allocation vote shall be authorized upon email or written petition by at least one-
24 third of the academic unit's Senators, or by at least ten percent of the general faculty of
25 the academic unit. Second, the Faculty Senate Chair, or any Senator from the
26 academic unit, may formally request that the academic unit consider whether to initiate
27 a new allocation vote. Such a request shall proceed to a full allocation vote only if
28 ~~authorized by~~ at least one-third of the academic unit's Senators, or ~~by at least~~ ten
29 percent of the general faculty of the academic unit. Only requests meeting one of the
30 above authorization thresholds shall proceed to a faculty allocation vote.

Amendment to the Bylaw Amendment

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23 new allocation vote shall be authorized upon email or written petition by at least one-
24 third of the academic unit's Senators, or by at least ten percent of the general faculty of
25 the academic unit. Second, the Faculty Senate Chair, or any Senator from the
26 academic unit, may formally request that the academic unit consider whether to initiate
27 a new allocation vote. Such a request shall proceed to a full allocation vote only if
28 ~~authorized by~~ supported by a vote of at least one-third of the academic unit's Senators,
29 or by a petition of at least ten
30 percent of the general faculty of the academic unit. Only requests meeting one of the
31 above authorization thresholds shall proceed to a faculty allocation vote.

Resolution 2025-2026-6:

Strategic Utilization of Auxiliary Funds to Support UCF's Research Mission

Whereas, the University of Central Florida's 2022–2027 *Unleashing Potential* strategic plan identifies a near-term goal of achieving preeminence within the Florida State University System and a longer-term goal of attaining research and academic outcomes comparable to institutions in the Association of American Universities (AAU); and

Whereas, UCF has now exceeded the performance metrics for preeminence, positioning the institution to intensify its progress toward AAU-level research productivity, competitiveness, and impact; and

10 **Whereas**, sustaining and expanding UCF's research enterprise depends on continued
11 investment in its faculty, including retaining highly productive researchers, recognizing
12 exceptional scholarly achievement, and fostering future research productivity; and

13 **Whereas**, further progress toward AAU-level research outcomes requires parallel
14 investment in research capacity, including the recruitment and support of additional
15 research-focused faculty, modern laboratory space, advanced instrumentation, and
16 strategically prioritized research areas; and

17 **Whereas**, a recent analysis of university auxiliary units, each providing essential
18 campus services without reliance on state funds, identified the potential for substantial,
19 flexible resources that could be directed toward UCF's most mission-critical priorities;
20 and

21 **Whereas**, Board of Governors Regulation 9.013 authorizes, for a three-year period, the
22 transfer of auxiliary funds to university athletics programs. However, these nonrecurring
23 auxiliary funds could also be spent in impactful ways in support of the academic goals of
24 the strategic plan; therefore

25 **Be It Resolved**, that the Faculty Senate strongly urges the provost, president, and
26 Board of Trustees to prioritize the use of auxiliary funds to support the academic goals
27 of the strategic plan, including strategic research investments that directly accelerate
28 UCF's trajectory toward AAU eligibility and national research prominence, recognizing
29 that early, targeted investment in the research mission compounds in impact over time;
30 and

31 **Be It Further Resolved**, that should any portion of auxiliary cash balances be allocated
32 to non-research purposes, the university ensure at least a dollar-for-dollar matching
33 investment from auxiliary funds in the long-term growth of UCF's research portfolio.