



Faculty Senate

Steering Committee

Agenda for meeting of Thursday, January 8, 2026, 3:00 pm

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

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

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/94825335687?pwd=dgAWd6FaDT0XrN1gPlcKKBDGWi50UO.1>

Passcode: 404310

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics
3. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2025
4. Recognition of Guests
5. Announcements
 - a) Website Election Module: <https://webcourses.ucf.edu/enroll/CLRRMX>
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
 - b) Resolution 2025-2026-6: Strategic Utilization of Auxiliary Funds to Support UCF's Research Mission
 - c) Senate Agenda for January 22
 - i) Winston Schoenfeld, Vice President for Research and Innovation
 - d) Steering Committee Bylaws: Potential Amendments
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
11. Other Business
12. 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.

Resolution 2025-2026-6:

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

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

7 **Whereas**, UCF has now exceeded the performance metrics for preeminence,
8 positioning the institution to intensify its progress toward AAU-level research
9 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, creating an immediate and
23 consequential decision point for how UCF will deploy available non-recurring auxiliary
24 resources; 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 for strategic research
27 investments that directly accelerate UCF's trajectory toward AAU eligibility and national
28 research prominence, recognizing that early, targeted investment in the research
29 mission compounds in impact over time; and

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

SECTION II.

Senate Membership

C Nomination and Election of Senators

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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.

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SECTION IV.

Meetings of the Senate

I Resolution

As the elected body of the general faculty, the Faculty Senate may formulate its opinion upon any subject of interest to the university and adopt appropriate resolutions. Resolutions addressing those areas of authority legally reserved to the president and Board of Trustees are advisory. **A Resolution must be on the agenda of a Senate meeting and be provided in the meeting materials at least one week before a Senate meeting for final action on the Resolution.** Each resolution adopted by the Faculty Senate is forwarded to the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs who shall act upon the recommendation within 60 days. The provost and vice president for Academic Affairs shall have veto power over any resolution by the Senate. The veto or denial with rationale shall be communicated in writing to the Faculty Senate and the chair of the Faculty Senate. The Senate, by a two-thirds majority vote, may appeal to the president any resolution vetoed. A subsequent veto or denial by the president shall be communicated in writing to the Faculty Senate and to the chair of the Faculty Senate within 60 days. The Senate, by a two-thirds majority vote, may appeal to the Board of Trustees any action so vetoed. A decision by the Board of Trustees is final.

SECTION VI.
Senate Operational Committees

A. Steering Committee

1. Composition. TO BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY
2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Steering Committee.
 - a. To serve as the "executive committee" of the Faculty Senate.
 - b. To act on behalf of the Senate on matters declared by the chair of the Faculty Senate to be of an emergency nature. Any action taken in this respect by the Steering Committee shall be reported by the chair of the Faculty Senate to the members of the Faculty Senate at or before the next regular meeting. The Senate shall then review such action. The chair of the Faculty Senate will give the members of the Senate advance notice of the emergency meeting of the Steering Committee, if feasible.
 - c. To serve as an advisory body of the chair of the Faculty Senate on any matter which the chair of the Faculty Senate brings before **the Steering Committee**. Meetings of an advisory nature need not be announced or reported to the Faculty Senate either before or after they occur.
 - d. **To monitor Senate elections, Senate Officer elections, and academic unit allocation votes, and ensure that the Office of the Faculty Senate maintains all election and vote records.**
 - e. To develop Faculty Senate agendas. **Additional** items may be added to the agenda at any meeting of the Senate under new business by majority vote. **Final action on any resolutions added to the agenda during a meeting cannot be taken prior to the next Senate meeting.**
 - f. To consider resolutions forwarded by Senate committees and to forward them to the full Senate or refer them back to the Senate committee.
 - g. **To appoint from its membership liaisons to each of the Senate operational committees and curricular councils. Liaisons shall report on committee or council activities at Steering Committee meetings.**
[old h] To act as a committee on amendments to the Constitution and the Bylaws.
 - h. To periodically review Senate operational, curricular, and joint committees and councils. Creation of new committees and changes in any committee's charter, membership, or duties and responsibilities shall be conveyed to the Faculty Senate for consideration as amendments to the *Bylaws*.
 - i. To serve as a faculty advisory body to the president of the university and to the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs when requested.
 - j. To act in executive session when the Faculty Senate is not in session. **In this capacity, a majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum.** All recommendations made as the Senate's "executive committee" shall be reported to the Senate and be subject to review and approval by the Faculty Senate.

- k. To request information from any member of the faculty or administration and invite any such person to meet **with the Steering Committee and/or the full Faculty Senate** for consultation or advice on matters within its jurisdiction.

- l. To establish ad hoc committees to facilitate its work.

3. Meetings

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

4. Quorum

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

5. Subcommittee of the Steering Committee

a. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall be formed at the Steering Committee meeting prior to the March Senate meeting at the latest. This committee consists of the Senate past chair, who shall serve as chair of the committee, and two other Steering Committee members. If the immediate past chair is not available, the Steering Committee must elect a faculty member to serve in this role. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall preside over the election of Faculty Senate officers. For nomination procedures, see *Bylaws, Section III.B.*

Steering Committee Composition Possibilities- A starting point for our discussion

1. Composition. (CURRENT SYSTEM) 24 members 2027 +

The Steering Committee is composed of the chair of the Faculty Senate, the vice chair, the secretary of the Faculty Senate, and the immediate past chair of the Senate. In addition to the current officers and the immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate, the total number of senators on the Steering Committee shall be no greater than one-fifth (20) of the total number of senators (100) and apportioned as provided below. Steering Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of senators present and voting within each of the academic units. There shall be no voting by proxy.

- a. Each academic unit will have one representative on the Steering Committee.
- b. The apportionment of the remaining seats of the Steering Committee (after the provision in *Section VI, A.1.a* is implemented) shall be derived as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of general faculty from each academic unit with 5 or more senators}}{\text{Total number of general faculty from all academic units with 5 or more senators}} \right) \times \text{remaining number of vacant seats}$$

- c. Vacant seats shall be allocated in descending order of the calculation in *Bylaws, Section VI.A1.b* until all seats are filled.
- d. In the event of a vacancy on the Steering Committee, the senators of that academic unit shall elect a replacement from amongst its membership.

2026: 4 officers plus 17 additional; 2x COS, CAH, CECS, CCIE, 1x 9 other units

2027: 4 officers plus 20 additional; 3x COS, 2x CAH, CECS, CCIE, COM, CBA/CHPS, 1x 7 other units

2 Composition. (CURRENT SYSTEM but CAP @ 2 MAX) 24 members 2027 +

The Steering Committee is composed of the chair of the Faculty Senate, the vice chair, the secretary of the Faculty Senate, and the immediate past chair of the Senate. In addition to the current officers and the immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate, the total number of senators on the Steering Committee shall be no greater than one-fifth (20) of the total number of senators (100) and apportioned as provided below. Steering Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of senators present and voting within each of the academic units. There shall be no voting by proxy.

- a. Each academic unit will have one representative on the Steering Committee.
- b. Vacant seats shall be allocated in descending order of academic unit size.
- c. In the event of a vacancy on the Steering Committee, the senators of that academic unit shall elect a replacement from amongst its membership.

2026: 4 officers plus 17 additional; 2x COS, CAH, CECS, CCIE, 1x 9 other units

2027: 4 officers plus 20 additional; 2x COS, CAH, CECS, CCIE, COM, CBA, CHPS, 1x 6 other units

3 Composition. (CAP AT 15 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS) 19 members 2027 +

The Steering Committee is composed of the chair of the Faculty Senate, the vice chair, the secretary of the Faculty Senate, and the immediate past chair of the Senate. In addition to the current officers and the immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate, there shall be fifteen (15) additional senators on the Steering Committee. Steering Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of senators present and voting within each of the academic units. There shall be no voting by proxy.

- a. Each academic unit will have one representative on the Steering Committee.
- b. Vacant seats shall be allocated in descending order of academic unit size.
- c. In the event of a vacancy on the Steering Committee, the senators of that academic unit shall elect a replacement from amongst its membership.

2026: 4 officers plus 15 additional; 2xCOS, CAH/CECS, 1x all other units

2027: 4 officers plus 15 additional; 2xCOS, CAH/CECS, 1x all other units

4 Composition. (1 MEMBER PER UNIT) 17 members 2027 +

The Steering Committee is composed of the chair of the Faculty Senate, the vice chair, the secretary of the Faculty Senate, and the immediate past chair of the Senate. In addition to the current officers and the immediate past chair of the Faculty Senate, each academic unit will have one representative on the Steering Committee. Steering Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of senators present and voting within each of the academic units. There shall be no voting by proxy.

- i. In the event of a vacancy on the Steering Committee, the senators of that academic unit shall elect a replacement from amongst its membership.

2026: 4 officers plus 13 additional; 1x all 13 units

2027: 4 officers plus 13 additional; 1x all 13 units

Data from Nov 9 2025 faculty count

	2026 spring	2026 summer
COS	390	390
CAH	296	296
CECS	285	285
CCIE	198	168
COM	155	155
CBA	126	126
CHPS	120	150
CON	73	73
Rosen	59	59
Library	35	35
CREOL	28	28
DDL	25	25
Off Research	24	24

STEERING MEMBERSHIP

SUS	Officers plus...
UCF	1 per unit PLUS = 20% senate
FAMU	1 per unit
FIU	1 per unit
FAU	6 elected
FSU	7 elected
UF	3 elected plus committee chairs
FGCU	committee chairs
UNF	committee chairs
USF	committee chairs
UWF	committee chairs
FL Poly	NA-too small
New C	NA-too small