



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate

Minutes for meeting of Thursday, September 10, 2026, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order – 3:01 p.m.
2. Roll Call via Microsoft Forms
3. Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2026 – minutes approved as written.
4. Recognition of Guests

John Buckwalter, UCF Provost

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

Kelly Lester, Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence

Marc Mendonca, Associate Vice President for Research and Scholarship

Dwayne Jones, SGA Vice President

5. Announcements –

Chair Kauffman shared the following announcements:

- a) Provost's Report will take place along with the Campus Climate Report.
- b) Chair Kauffman reviewed Robert's Rules of Order as a guide for meetings, debate, questions, and discussion.
- c) Chair Kauffman invited faculty to attend the next Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, to be held in the FAIRWINDS Alumni Center on 9/24/26 – See the [BOT Meeting page](#) for more information about times and online viewing options.
- d) The [Board of Governors \(BOG\) meeting](#) occurred this past week (September 2 & 3) at Florida Gulf Coast University – See Chair's report below for more on this meeting.

6. Report of the Senate Chair – Chair Kauffman shared the following report:

- a) Provided an overview of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS), a statewide faculty forum with two voting members from each of the 12 State University System institutions.
 - Chair Kauffman and Past Chair King represent UCF. Kimberly Dunn is ACFS Chair and Steve King is Vice Chair. The ACFS Chair serves on the Board of Governors.
- ii) Key ACFS issues include AI, curriculum requirements, federal education proposals, presidential searches, PBF metrics, and proposed BOG regulations. The council also works to build positive relationships with peers, BOG members, and the chancellor.



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- iii) Six proposed BOG regulations are open for public comment, covering institutional neutrality, faculty disclosure of AI use, performance-based funding, tuition and fees, general education, and exceptions to the 120-credit-hour degree requirement.
- 7. Unfinished Business – None
- 8. New Business – None
- 9. Committee Reports –
 - B&A Committee- Peter Sinelli, B&A Committee Chair
 - IT Committee- Glenn Martin, IT Committee Chair
 - Personnel Committee- Stephen Holmes, Personnel Committee Chair
 - Research Council- Linda Walters, Research Council Liaison
 - Undergraduate Council- Jason Phillips, Undergrad Council Chair
 - Graduate Council- Devon Jensen, Grad Council ChairAll committees shared their reports at the meeting.
- 10. Campus Climate Report and Provost's Report –

Provost Buckwalter provided campus updates and an overview of UCF's budget.

 - i) Faculty Senate Recognition – Recognized Senate members for their service and commitment to the university.
 - ii) Board of Governors / Market-Rate Tuition – Reported that the BOG is reconsidering how market-rate graduate programs are established and managed, including whether tuition rates for existing programs may be adjusted.
 - iii) Introduction of Dr. Lester – Introduced Dr. Lester, who summarized her team's work and invited Senate members to contact her.
 - iv) College Visits – Plans to continue routine college visits to support open communication, including the Colleges of Sciences and Graduate Studies shortly.
 - v) College of Medicine Dean Search – Finalists are expected on campus in early October. Faculty across the university were encouraged to participate and provide feedback.
 - vi) Football Game Operations – Thanked faculty for their flexibility. Two additional Friday home games are scheduled, and the university plans to reduce the campus population and close buildings before game-day activities.
- b) Budget Update (See include PowerPoint):
 - i) University Budget Overview – Reviewed the university's budget and major funding sources, including E&G, carryforward, auxiliary funds, sponsored research, financial aid, technology, student activity, and athletic fees.



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- ii) Prior-Year Budget Review and Investments – Reviewed increased costs, operational savings, and strategic investments, including faculty salary increases.
- iii) Faculty Senate Questions and Discussion – The Provost addressed the following budget-related topics:
 - Faculty Salary Increases – The recent 3% increases were funded by individual colleges, not central university funds. Future salary increases will depend on available funding.
 - Research and Physical Plant Operations – Members requested a future presentation on the budgets for research operations and the physical plant.
 - Long-Range Budget Planning – Planning for possible state budget deficits or funding reductions will be guided by legislative priorities.
 - Balanced Budget, Debt, and Surplus Funds – The university is balancing its budget and meeting debt obligations. State funds cannot be transferred to the UCF Foundation because it is a private organization.
 - Performance-Based and Preeminence Funding – The Provost expressed confidence in UCF's performance under anticipated metrics and noted that preeminence-related goals remain beneficial, including timely degree completion.

11. Other Business – None

12. Adjournment – 4:24 p.m.

Daniel Seigler

Daniel Seigler
Secretary, Faculty Senate

09-15-2026

Date



FACULTY SENATE

CAMPUS CLIMATE REPORT

2026-27 Budget Update

September 10, 2026

University Operating Funds – Colors of Money

COLOR OF MONEY	SOURCE, ACTIVITIES, CONSTRAINTS
Education & General (E&G) - Operating	General revenue (taxes), lottery, tuition, differential tuition, and out of state fees. Primarily used for general instruction, research, public service, plant operations and maintenance, furniture, fixtures, equipment, student services, libraries, administrative support, and other enrollment-related operations of the university.
Education & General (E&G) – Carry forward	Unexpended E&G funds at year-end. Interest or investment earnings on carryforward funds are also considered E&G and must only be used for non-recurring operating activities.
Auxiliary Enterprises	These activities must be self-supporting. Revenue generated must cover all expenses, including salaries, utilities, and payments on debt (bonds). Includes some statutory fees (orientation, late payment, late registration, etc.)
Sponsored Research	Represents activity of grants provided for specific purposes. The funds must be spent for the intended purpose.
Student Financial Aid	Includes activity from loans, scholarships, grants, and financial aid fees collected from students. Funds must be spent on aid. A portion of the financial aid fee is allowable for administrative costs that support financial aid administration.

University Operating Funds – Colors of Money

COLOR OF MONEY	SOURCE, ACTIVITIES, CONSTRAINTS
Student Activities	Supports student government, clubs, and operation of the Recreation & Wellness Center and the Student Union. Revenue sources include the Activity & Service fee, and income from Student Union and Recreation & Wellness Center.
Technology Fee	Technology fee paid by students. The revenue from this fee shall be used to enhance instructional technology resources for students and faculty.
Concessions	Represents expenditure of funds from vending and the pouring rights contract.
Intercollegiate-Athletics	Includes the revenues and expenditures associated with maintaining the UCF NCAA sports programs. Revenues sources include athletics fee, ticket sales, game guarantees, corporate sponsorships, NCAA distribution, and private support and gifts.
Faculty Practice Plan	Supports the clinical and education missions of the UCF Medical School. Clinical faculty must have a practice to remain current in the field of medicine, while simultaneously teaching medical students. Revenue source is primarily derived from clinical revenues for patient services.
Self-Insurance Plan	The UCF College of Medicine program provides comprehensive professional and general liability protection in connection with delivery of health care services.

Total University Operating Budget (FY26 vs. FY27, in millions)

Budget Entity	2025-26 Final	% of total	2026-27 BOY	Inc/(Dec) Over PY	% of total
Education & General (E&G)	\$ 754.9		\$ 755.7		
College of Medicine (E&G)	48.1		48.6		
2026-27 Increase to Non-resident fee (amendment)			5.9		
Education & General Subtotal	\$ 803.0	33.9%	\$810.2	\$ 7.2	32.5%
Auxiliary (e.g., Housing, Materials & Supplies Fees)	462.0	19.5%	466.4	4.4	18.7%
Contracts & Grants (C&G)	293.8	12.4%	330.1	36.3	13.3%
Activity & Service Fee (SGA Budget)	23.6	1.0%	28.0	4.4	1.1%
Student Financial Aid	561.5	23.7%	617.3	55.8	24.8%
Technology Fee	12.8	0.5%	9.7	(3.1)	0.4%
Intercollegiate Athletics	107.3	4.5%	115.3	8	4.6%
Faculty Practice Plan	72.7	3.1%	74.0	1.3	3.0%
Concessions & Self-Insurance	2.0	0.1%	2.0	0	0.1%
State Programs					
Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities	12.5	0.5%	14.5	2	0.6%
Center for Community Schools	20.1	0.8%	23.6	3.5	0.9%
Total	\$ 2,371.3	100%	\$ 2,491.1	\$ 119.8	100%

BALANCING ACT – Impact on E&G Budget

Costs Increase

\$ 23.5 million increase in fringe benefit chargeback.

\$2.8 million towards need based aid per differential tuition statute.

\$2.1 million bargained salary increases (P&T, Faculty Awards, and Police union increase).

Savings through Operational Realignment

\$12.0 million in Academic Affairs, including the Divisions of Research and Student Success and Well-Being

\$5.2 million realignment in Colleges due to changes in enrollment

\$5 million in eliminated commitments from the operational excellence investment pool.

\$7.0 million across non-academic administrative units.

\$6.0 million Student Financial Aid awards funded from another recurring source

Reduction strategies and ongoing budgetary review will require leaders to prioritize examining how we organize our work and identifying where existing resources can be directed toward our people, student success, research, and the priorities that will shape UCF's future.

REINVESTING IN OUR PRIORITIES

\$ 23.2 million investing in our people.

\$0.7 million towards Campus Safety and Security operating budget.

\$1.6 million to help provide a competitive wage for our Graduate Teaching Assistants.

\$1.0 million towards Risk Management & Insurance Program.

\$1.4 million in new academic offerings in Engineering.

\$0.3 million towards supporting STEM courses (FIEA and STEM Honors).