UCF | Faculty Senate

Steering Committee

Minutes for meeting of Thursday, September 24, 2026, 3:00 pm
Location: In person in the Charge on Chamber, Student Union Room 340

1. Call to Order – 3:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call via Microsoft Forms
3. Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2026 – Minutes approved as written.
4. Recognition of Guests –

   Kelly Lester, Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence

   Scott Mauro, Director for Academic Affairs Communications, University Strategic Communications
5. Announcements –

   Vice Chair Lapeyrouse shared the following announcements:

   a) Board of Trustees Meeting

      i) The Board of Trustees are meeting today at the Fairwinds Alumni Center.

      ii) Chair Kauffman asked the Senate to note a proposed Board of Trustees Policy on Institutional Neutrality. The policy responds to a proposed update to Board of Governors Regulation 1.001, which would require university boards of trustees to establish policies maintaining institutional neutrality on political and social issues.

   b) Institutional Neutrality Policy

      i) The policy addresses when UCF may speak in its institutional capacity on matters of public concern.

      ii) The policy does not restrict faculty academic freedom in teaching, research, or scholarship.

      iii) The policy does not restrict the personal free expression of faculty, staff, or students acting individually.

      iv) UCF affirms its commitment to lawful free expression and academic freedom.

      v) Faculty governance bodies, including the Faculty Senate, and registered student organizations, including Student Government, may continue speaking on matters of public concern. Statements from these groups should clarify that they reflect the views of the respective body or organization, not an official University position.

   c) Additional Guidance

      i) The Board of Governors Chancellor has been working with the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) to develop an FAQ on the proposed regulation.

      ii) The FAQ is expected after the Board of Governors regulation is approved.

iii) The document is expected to provide additional guidance to students, faculty, staff, and administrators across State University System institutions.

6. Report of the Senate Vice Chair – None

7. Report of the Provost –

Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence Kelly Lester presented the following report on behalf of the provost:

a) Post-Tenure Review

i) The process has increased understanding of the amount of work faculty do at UCF.

ii) The provost's office views the process as a shared responsibility: faculty prepare their packets, which are reviewed by the department chair, dean, provost, and president.

iii) Past results were shared:

(1) 2024/25 – Of all faculty reviewed, 10 did not meet or exceed expectations. Of these, 3 chose to leave UCF and 7 entered a performance improvement plan (PIP).

(2) 2025/26 – Of the faculty reviewed, 23 elected to retire. Of the remaining 138, 61 exceeded expectations, 63 met expectations, and 14 did not meet expectations. Of those 14, 1 case was annulled, 1 faculty member retired, and 12 are currently in PIPs.

iv) Questions about PTR:

(1) What are UCF's metrics compared with other SUS universities? UCF is on par with other institutions.

(2) What has been learned from previous cycles? Expectations for meeting or exceeding expectations have been vague. Faculty Excellence is developing materials to provide a clearer framework.

(3) Can faculty review and respond to their evaluations at each stage? Faculty may submit a response after the chair and dean reviews, before the evaluation moves to the provost.

v) Information was shared about the transition from Interfolio to Faculty Insight - by Academic Analytics.

(1) Faculty training is forthcoming, along with information on how to sign up.

vi) Dean of College of Medicine

(1) An update was shared on the search for the Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Medicine

(2) Three finalists are being brought to campus, and interviews will conclude next Tuesday, September 29.

(3) Feedback on the candidates was requested because the provost considers these UCF leadership positions.

8. Unfinished Business – None

9. New Business
   a) A motion to add a Campus Climate Report on Staff Centralization, presented by Rhonda Bishop, Vice President for People and Workplace Experience, to the October 8 Senate agenda was seconded and passed.
10. Committee Reports –

    The following committees provided reports:

    B&A Committee – Keith Brazendale, B&A Committee Liaison

    IT Committee – Steve King, IT Committee Liaison

    Personnel Committee – Nicole Lapeyrouse, Personnel Committee Liaison

    Research Council – Steven Duranceau, Research Council Member

    Undergraduate Council – Jason Phillips, Undergrad Council Chair

    Graduate Council – Devon Jensen, Grad Council Chair

    All committees except Personnel provided a report.

11. Other Business
    a) A motion to refer the Future Start Date Option for Parking Permits to the Parking and Transportation Committee was seconded and passed.

12. Adjournment – 4:03 p.m.

Daniel Seigler

Daniel Seigler
Secretary, Faculty Senate

10-12-2026

Date

UCF | Faculty Senate

B&A Committee Report:

9/23/2026
First meeting of the year

1. Received an update from Brian Boyd and Chuck Reilly from registrar's office on the optimizer/classroom scheduling process.
    a. Data were presented comparing 2023 to 2026;
        i. 46 general purpose classrooms lost
        ii. Average section up from 63 to 66
        iii. Reduction in 1000 and 2000 level overloaded courses (>95% enrollment)
        iv. Usage up from 48 to 56%
        v. Increase in prime-time room utilization 48% to 56%
        vi. Reduction in single section meeting patterns from 38 to 34%

    b. Work in progress
        i. Launching a tracking system to decrease walking/distance
        ii. Generate a fully functioning faculty-facing website for scheduling and classroom assignments
        iii. Faculty facing document on best practices in the works

Committee Feedback/Discussion: Ongoing major concerns; reality is much different day-to-day, students being dragged to ill-equipped classrooms where faculty can't teach, faculty can't move furniture etc. Chuck and Brian want more data on the issues being raised. Department/College schedulers need a protocol/process to follow, what are the lines of communication? Best practices are needed for ALL stakeholders.

Action Item: Best Practices Document to be developed and shared with the committee in the spring for feedback.

2. B&A Priorities 2026-2027 to be tabled for October meeting as we ran out of time.

I.T Committee Report:

Summary for meeting of Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Committee met for about an hour. Minutes of April 7, 2026 meeting approved. Committee reviewed topics of interest of noteworthy fall semester topics, including classroom upgrades (new projectors, new microphones, Ditto screen sharing, touch panel Help buttons), LibTech (now known as Tech Lending and Support) and the transition issues from the summer, a review of Simple

Syllabus, and a discussion of new UI design on myUCF (driven primarily by an update for Accessibility Requirements). Mr. Bill Poirier (CIO) also mentioned potential changes coming for identity management (perhaps using Okta), and a discussion was had regarding UCF reclaiming the Google Workspace Enterprise for ucf.edu (including a potential addition as a campus offering).

Personnel Committee Report:

There are no committee updates for Personnel.

Research Council Report:

There are no committee updates for Research Council as the Council has not yet met. They will have their first meeting September 28.

Undergraduate Council Report:

There are no committee updates for UPCC.

Grad Council:

Report of the Graduate Council

September 23, 2026

The graduate council consists of:

- **Graduate Policy Committee**
- **Graduate Curriculum Committee**
- **Graduate Program Review and Awards Committee**
- **Graduate Appeals Committee**

Graduate Policy Committee

The Graduate Policy Committee has met 2 times since the beginning of the 2026/27 academic year.

- The Sept. 23rd meeting involved the charge and committee details by the Dean of the College of Graduate studies.
- We reviewed 4 previous policies that were open to public comment.
- One consent agenda item was considered and passed approval.

Graduate Curriculum Committee

The Graduate Curriculum Committee has met 2 times since the beginning of the 2026/27 academic year.

- The September 9 meeting was a charge to the committee and details were provided on how to review curriculum agenda items.
- September 23rd meeting involved items from
    - CECS – 3 course revisions and 2 track revisions
    - Optics and Photonics – 2 track reactivations
    - College of Sciences – 1 track addition and 1 track revision
    - College of Nursing – 2 program suspensions and 1 track termination
    - College of Medicine – 2 course additions
    - College of Health Professions and Sciences – 1 course addition
    - CECS – 1 program termination, 1 course addition, 7 track revisions, 9 course additions, 1 track addition

Graduate Program Review and Awards Committee

The Graduate Program Review and Awards Committee has met 2 times since the beginning of the 2026/27 academic year.

- The first meeting of the committee on Sept. 9 was the charge and details on the operation of the committee
- The September 22 meeting involved the review of
    - The review of a MOU of understanding between UCF – Rosen College and Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, South Korea. After suggestions from the committee on improvements and clarifications to the MOU, it was approved
    - The review of 34 faculty from Optics and Photonics for Graduate Faculty Status and to serve as dissertation chair. 33 received Graduate Faculty Status, 33 received approval to serve as dissertation chair, 1 was excluded from review as the materials were incorrectly submitted.

Graduate Appeals Committee

The Graduate Appeals committee met 2 times over the summer and one time this Fall term. The September meeting recently occurred but we are still waiting for approved meeting minutes before details can be reported out.

June Meeting
Consent Agenda
15 submissions (15 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
Petitions Reviewed (23)
GSP30D
1 submission (1 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPCER
4 submissions (2 approved, 2 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPOTH
6 submissions (5 approved, 0 denied, 1 tabled)
GSPLTM

6 submissions (6 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPLTD
2 submission (2 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPTRM
1 submission (0 approved, 1 denied, 0 tabled)
GSP7YR
3 submission (2 approved, 1 denied, 0 tabled)

July Meeting

Consent Agenda
24 submissions (24 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
Petitions Reviewed (16)
GSPTRD
1 submission (1 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPW50
1 submission (1 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPCER
2 submissions (2 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPOTH
15 submissions (12 approved, 3 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPLTM
12 submissions (4 approved, 0 denied, 0 tabled)
GSPLTD
6 submission (5 approved, 1 denied, 0 tabled)

Appeals Committee Legend:

Code	Meaning	What is being petitioned
GSPTRD	**Petition more than 50% – Doctoral**	Permission for a doctoral student to exceed the normal limit on transfer credit applied toward the doctoral program. The current Graduate Petition Form uses this wording; older committee records describe it as exceeding the allowable transfer hours into a doctoral program. (College of Graduate Studies)
GSPW50	**Waiver of ½ of minimum degree requirements at the 6000 level**	An exception to the requirement concerning the proportion of graduate degree coursework that must be at the 6000 level. Historical UCF Appeals minutes explicitly define the code this way. (Graduate Council)
GSPCER	**Exception to graduate certification policy**	The current petition form uses this broader description. Historically, UCF reported this category as **graduate certificate course**

Code	Meaning	What is being petitioned
		substitution, so its scope/label appears to have evolved. (College of Graduate Studies)
GSPOTH	**Other**	A catch-all for graduate petitions that do not fall into one of the specifically coded petition categories. (College of Graduate Studies)
GSPLTM	**Late transfer credit – Master's**	A petition involving master's transfer credit being requested outside the standard timing/process. The current Graduate Petition Form explicitly identifies this code. (College of Graduate Studies)
GSPLTD	**Late transfer credit – Doctoral**	The corresponding late-transfer-credit petition for a doctoral program. (College of Graduate Studies)