Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate

Minutes for meeting of Thursday, October 2, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Location: In person at the Charge on Chamber, Student Union, Room 340

1. Call to Order – 3:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call via Qualtrics
3. Approval of Minutes of September 4, 2025
4. Recognition of In-Person Guests –

   Alexander Cartwright, UCF President

   John Buckwalter, UCF Provost

   Tim Letzring, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

   Joel Cramer, Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence

   Chuck Reilly, Associate Provost for Contract Compliance and Administrator Support

   Adrienne Frame, Vice President, Student Success and Well-being

   Joe Adams, Senior Executive Writer, President's Office

   Spencer Mills, University Communications

   Katy Miller, University Librarian, Faculty Senate Student Success Council Chair

   Panayiota Laliotis, SGA Deputy Chief of Staff

Chair King entertained a motion to reorder the agenda so that the Report of the President, the Campus Climate Report, and the Report of the Provost would be addressed at the beginning of the meeting, allowing the President and Provost to provide their remarks first.

- Motion was seconded and approved.

5. Report from the President, including Campus Climate Report on the Faculty and Staff Experience Survey – President Cartwright shared the following at the meeting:

   a) President Cartwright began by discussing our metrics for preeminence and highlighted that the student success we are seeing is a direct result of the actions of many people on our campus, including academic coaches, advisors, faculty, students, and administrators.

i) It is now up to the BOG to certify these metrics and the state legislature to determine the level of preeminence funding each university will receive

b) The president also shared that preeminence is not our end goal; we want to continue to be seen as a top university

i) For example, there is a BOG goal of moving the FTIC graduation metric to 70% in 2030, and the president shared ways we can meet this metric

ii) Also, he wants us to continue to focus on our goal of being the Premier Engineering, Technology, and Innovation University in Florida and to look for ways that each part of our university can get behind this vision and collaborate together towards this goal

c) The president also showed how UCF was receiving the least amount of funding per student among the SUS universities, but emphasized how we continue to produce strong results with these challenges, including the most engineering and most nursing degrees of any SUS university.

d) The president shared a PowerPoint (attached with these minutes) that went over the Faculty and Staff Experience Survey results and the strengths and challenges UCF needs to focus on

i) Strengths: there were 8 strengths shared in the PPT, and the president noted that multiple questions show support for department chairs and immediate supervisors.

ii) Challenges: the president also highlighted 8 challenges in the PPT slides, focusing on the fact that we have resource constraints and communication & collaboration gaps

iii) The president emphasized that the provost's office is utilizing focus groups and encouraged faculty to participate in these

iv) He shared about UCF's resource barriers (see slides)

(1) Compared to other SUS universities, we have low state funding per student, low faculty per 1000 students, and low administrators per 1000 students

(2) Again, UCF continues to find ways to produce high results (e.g., improving 4-year graduation rates)

v) The president shared that he continues to look for alternative sources of funding

(1) For example, we had a goal of $100 million in annual fundraising by 2027; we raised $126 million in 2025, years ahead of our goal

(2) We have also found resources to make critical updates to our infrastructure, such as our new Nursing building and critical renovations to the Biology and Chemistry buildings.

vi) The president also shared that student to faculty ratio continues to move down (from 31.4 in 2020 to 28.3 in 2024), and he is working to get that even lower

e) The president finished by sharing that UCF has met these challenges and made these strong achievements through careful strategic planning and this is how we will continue to work as we move into our next phase here at UCF

i) We will develop a plan to improve our work environment

ii) It must be an actionable plan

iii) The administration will use focus groups to better understand concerns and encourages faculty to come to these

iv) The administration is working with deans' offices on their college's plans for building community and collaboration, but will also shift focus on what we are doing at the university level to address this challenge

f) The president took questions from the senators

6. Report of the Provost –

Provost Buckwalter shared the following report at our meeting:

a) The provost started by speaking on the return of investment (ROI) for the money spent on students

i) What does it cost to get a degree? It's not just what the student is paying, but what the state is also investing

ii) Echoing what the president shared, the provost reemphasized that UCF has a high rate of graduates for the state funding we are receiving – we are doing a successful job with the challenges of our limited funding

b) The provost also shared how he views his office:

  i) He sees the provost's office as a service unit that makes faculty life better, and if this is not happening, the office will work to make that happen.

  ii) The provost stated that there are times when his office needs faculty to help them

c) The provost also shared that he and his office are going to continue to listen to the faculty

  i) The president and provost have already had listening sessions with several colleges and will continue this until they have visited every college and academic unit

  ii) The provost will also make return trips in the Spring semester to talk about each unit's and UCF's strategic plans

  iii) These strategic plans will guide the university, and while everyone may not agree with every part of the UCF Strategic Plan, they will be able to know that they played a part in helping to create it

d) The provost also stated that they are getting some dormant committees back up and running, and he encouraged faculty to participate on committees

  i) For example, open search committee processes are being used when positions are open

  ii) Two emails were just sent out about open searches underway

  iii) Faculty can nominate themselves or others to serve on these search committees

e) The provost took questions from the senate on university policies about:

  i) Selection of faculty on hiring committees

  ii) Ongoing return-to-office policies and implementation.

7. Announcements from the Senate Chair –

   The following announcements were shared by Chair King:

   a) AI for All Initiative
      i) https://aiforall.ucf.edu/ is a website with a wealth of useful knowledge
      ii) It has sections for faculty, for students and for staff
      iii) Many AI apps are listed and color coded for easy guidance
   b) Newly formed Faculty Collaboration and Engagement Committee
      i) First meeting is tomorrow – Friday, October 3, 2025
      ii) Chair King is hopeful this committee can help address some of the issues raised in the Presidents report
      iii) In particular, he hopes the committee will be a place where faculty work together to help advance the needs of faculty across campus

8. Report of the Senate Chair –

   The following report was shared by Chair King:

   a) The Chair began his report by emphasizing the importance of faculty involvement in institutional decision-making, noting that several recent developments create a unique opportunity to strengthen the faculty voice in shaping the university's future
      i) For example, the appointment of a new Provost, results from the Faculty and Staff Experience Survey, completion of UCF's preeminence goal, and several major decisions on the horizon
   b) He encouraged senators to promote faculty participation in five key initiatives currently underway:
      i) College of Sciences Dean Search: Over 200 faculty members have submitted nominations for the search committee, reflecting strong engagement and interest in the process
      ii) Faculty and Staff Experience Survey Focus Groups: These are now open, and faculty are urged to take part to help identify and address areas of concern highlighted in the survey results

iii) Interfolio Review: The university is evaluating whether to continue using Interfolio or adopt an alternative platform. The Faculty Senate's Personnel Committee has been tasked with collecting faculty feedback, and senators were encouraged to share their perspectives through their unit representatives

iv) Faculty Hiring Process Improvements: Updates are being developed to streamline hiring procedures and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy. Additional decisions are forthcoming, and faculty have until January 2026 to provide input through the Personnel Committee

v) Strategic Planning: The Faculty Senate Strategic Planning Council is being reactivated to involve faculty more directly in the current strategic plan and in shaping future planning priorities

c) The Chair reminded senators that, while faculty senates in Florida serve in an advisory capacity, active engagement is essential to ensuring that faculty perspectives influence administrative decisions. He encouraged senators to continue fostering participation and to remind colleagues that input is most effective when provided early and consistently.

d) Turning to updates from the Board of Governors (BOG) meeting held on September 10–11 at New College, the Chair highlighted three major areas:

i) New State-Required Syllabus Regulation: A forthcoming BOG regulation will require all State University System (SUS) institutions to post syllabi for all courses at least 45 days before the start of each semester

(1) Discussions between the BOG members and BOG staff clarified that

(a) universities will determine their own syllabus update procedures

(b) "instructional materials" refers only to required and recommended readings or textbooks (not lecture notes or slides)

(c) student assignments have been removed from the required sections of the state-mandated posted syllabi

ii) State Fiscal Outlook: The BOG discussed state budget forecasts projecting a $3.7 billion increase in 2026 followed by decreases of $1.5 billion in 2027 and $6.5 billion in 2028.

(1) The Chair noted that while UCF remains financially stable, this environment may limit recurring state funding and requires careful fiscal planning

(2) He also referenced financial challenges faced by other universities nationwide as a cautionary example.

iii) Free Expression and Civil Discourse: Following the recent campus incident involving the death of Charlie Kirk, the SUS Chancellor issued a directive instructing university presidents to review and enforce policies related to social media and free expression

(1) The Chair stressed the growing importance of maintaining civil discourse in university settings and reaffirmed that the Senate's use of Roberts Rules serves as a protective framework for respectful discussion, even amid differing viewpoints.

e) The Chair concluded by assuring senators that Faculty Senate leadership and the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) will continue to monitor statewide developments and advocate for faculty interests in all relevant discussions

9. Unfinished Business – none.

10. New Business:

a) Resolution 2025-2026-2: Constitution and Bylaw Amendments: Faculty Senate Membership Expansion from 75 to 100 Senators

i) Resolution was approved by Bylaws Committee and the Steering Committee, and this is the 2nd hearing at this meeting, so it can be discussed and voted on at this meeting:

(1) Past Chair Self presented the resolution at the meeting

(2) Motion to approve the resolution was passed

(3) Chair King will be setting up meetings with each college to discuss the change in colleges

b) Resolution 2025-2026-3: Bylaw Amendment: Faculty Student Success Council

   i) This is the first time this resolution is being presented at the meeting, so it was open for discussion only

11. Committee Reports – the following committees shared their reports at the meeting:

   a) B&A Committee – discussed Classroom Scheduling and the Optimizer at their last meeting
   b) IT Committee – discussed IT updates being implemented across campus at their last meeting
   c) Personnel Committee – no report presented
   d) Research Council –

      i) Heard about GEMiNi program – NSF template for mentoring students
      ii) Also looked at a draft policy on research space use by 3rd parties

   e) Undergraduate Council – There is now a change in the academic calendar when catalog changes will be approved

      i) Going forward – changes to the 2026/2027 calendar must be approved by December 2025, and so on.

   f) Graduate Council –

      i) The Graduate Curriculum Committee is chaired by Daniel Paulson. They have met twice and approved approximately 50 course and program additions, revisions, and suspension/deletions (only program deletion is Play Therapy Certificate).
      ii) The Graduate Appeals Committee is chaired by Dan Stephens. The committee continues to face recurring appeals when students are incorrectly advised by a program in ways that conflict with university policy. The committee encourages programs to review their program-level policies to ensure they do not conflict with university policy.
      iii) The Graduate Program Review and Awards Committee is chaired by Reid Oetjen. They are in the process of reviewing Graduate Faculty and Graduate Faculty Scholar nominations. The committee soon will review a dual degree agreement between UCF and Sejong University.
      iv) The Graduate Policy Committee is chaired by David Mohaisen. There currently are five policies open for comment (https://graduatecouncil.ucf.edu/policy-committee) and four policies under review.

12. Other Business – none
13. Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Faculty Senate

Daniel Seigler　　　　*10/06/2025*

Daniel Seigler　　　　Date
Secretary, Faculty Senate

October 2nd senate meeting- chair announcements and report

Announcements from the chair.

FIRST: I hope you saw the email about the AI for All initiative. There is a website. https://aiforall.ucf.edu/ that has a wealth of useful knowledge. It has sections for faculty, for students and for staff.

I'll point out that many AI apps are listed and color coded. Please check the website out when you have the chance.

Second: Our newly formed
Faculty Collaboration and Engagement Committee
will meet tomorrow for the first time. I am hopeful this committee can help address some of the issues raised in the Presidents report. In particular, I hope the committee will be a place where faculty work together to help advance the needs of faculty across campus

Chair report

First point: Faculty involvement in institutional decisions. One of the faculty concerns identified in the recent Survey is the lack of faculty involvement in institutional decisions. As Faculty Senate chair, I have been working on this exact point with multiple administrators on multiple topics that impact all faculty and all of campus.

I believe that right now there is an alignment of events and data and information that shows just how critical UCF needs significant faculty input into key decisions. UCF, as a University, needs more faculty involvement into key decisions that affect us now and in the future.

What's the alignment of events I mentioned?
1- a new provost,
2- the data from the Faculty and Staff Experience Survey,
3- the completed push to preeminence…..
4- key decisions coming our way, such as our next university strategic plan

This is why I believe right now is the time for everyone, faculty and administration to work to expand the faculty voice on campus.

There are many critical opportunities for you, senators, and by extension, all faculty, to be a part of critical conversations. I'm going to mention five of them for you to consider

1) College of Science dean search:. I've heard over 200 faculty showed interest in nominating someone to be on the search committee… that's WONDERFUL

2) Focus Groups on the Faculty and Staff Experience Survey. They are open RIGHT NOW. Go sign up so you are part of the conversation of what UCF does to address the concerns that were raised earlier today in the president's report.

3) Interfolio: right now the university is evaluating whether we stay with Interfolio or consider an alternative. This topic was given to our Personnel committee from our steering committee and the personnel committee has just a month or two to give our collective faculty input into a decision: do we keep interfoliio? Do we consider an alternative. So all of you, all faculty, go talk to your Personnel committee members from your unit and make sure they know what you think!

4) Improvement to faculty hiring processes on campus. This is a topic that I have championed with the Board of trustees as a place UCF needs to improve.

Right now, the university is finalizing updates to how we hire faculty. Several of these updates will be improvements behind the scenes that remove red tape bureaucracy. Those are great and I think everyone will be supportive.

There are other decisions that still need to be made about faculty hiring, and we only have until the January of 2026 to weigh in as faculty. This is another topic that the steering committee gave specifically to our Personnel committee.

Again all of you, all faculty, go talk to your Personnel committee members from your unit and make sure they know what you think about the options under consideration at the personnel committee!

5) Strategic planning. Achieving preeminence was a crucial goal in the UCF strategic plan that as approved in 2022. But that wasn't our only goal and it is not our final destination. . I am happy to say that I am reviving the Faculty Senate Strategic Planning council so that faculty can be more involved in our current strategic plan and can share ideas for the next strategic plan. The last members of the Strategic planning Council are being identified and the council will meet soon and work together to make UCF the university WE WANT for the future.

My take home message on faculty input: As I mentioned before, RIGHT NOW, we have an opportunity to have our faculty voice be heard. So I need you, the faculty senators, make sure our faculty get involved! Lets give our best ideas and best input into these and other critical decisions coming our way.

I'll share what some of you have told me in person :
"why should I say anything when they make the final decision anyway"
Yes, I agree that the administration does make the final call. In the state of Florida, all of the SUS faculty senates are ADVISORY to the administration.

Let me put this another way: if we **don't get involved**, then the administration will decide things without our input.

If we **don't even show up** or try to give input now, then why should the university administration come back to faculty for the next key decisions?

We need to show the administration that our voice, our ideas, our criticism, is essential to making UCF a better place for all of us

For the remainder of my report I'm going to focus on events at the Board of Governors meeting that occurred September 10th and 11th at the New College campus in Sarasota.

I'll talk about 3 different things of interest:

1st of three topics from the BOG: new state required syllabus

There will be a new BOG regulation requiring all 12 SUS institutions to have syllabi for ALL classes posted 45 days ahead of the semester.

At the ACFS, we had several issues with this, and there are three points where our ACFS chair was able to get public clarification and a key change made that will make this be more manageable for faculty.

1st clarification: what do faculty need to do to update a state required syllabus if there are changes?

Answer: up to each university to set details….but would need to update syllabus in the repository after changes occur so that the following year students have current syllabus information on hand.

2nd clarification: what are the "Instruction materials" that must be given in the state required syllabus?

Answer : instructional materials are required and recommended textbooks and reading materials.

Steve Note: Therefore, teaching materials like PowerPoints, class notes, personal lesson plans, etc do not need to be in the required syllabus.

3rd regulation change: student assignments are no longer part of the regulation, which effectively removes student assignments from the state required portion of the syllabus.

Next topic from the BOG: fiscal predictions for Florida

BOG following state budget forecast w grain of salt:

2026 3.7B increase

2027 1.5B decrease

2028 6.5B decrease

Why is this relevant: the state legislature is unlikely to fund large recurring projects as they worry about the predicted decrease in the state budget, but may fund one-time projects.

I will also note that just recently the University of Oregon ran into a $29 M dollar hole in their funding and is having to layoff faculty, not fill faculty openings, and take other drastic measures to stay solvent.

They join a growing list of higher education universities and systems that are running into a fiscal cliff all across the country over the past few years.
You may be unaware of just how long this list is:
Large Public Universities and university systems

Penn state $94 M deficit, large program cuts and considering consolidating campuses

University of Wisconsin: structural deficits lead to closing a campus and new high mandatory teaching loads for faculty.

West Virginia: $45 M gap, cutting dozens of programs and majors

UNC system: structural deficits leading to program and faculty cuts

As a UCF Trustee, my number one fiducial responsibility is to make sure UCF does not go bankrupt or otherwise get into extreme fiscal trouble. What may seem like a far-fetched problem is creeping up on other institutions all across the country. So far we are OK here at UCF, but the entire situation, especially when you add federal changes into the fiscal issues, means there is uncertainty in our future fiscal planning and we need to be smart and cautious.

third event from the BOG: the impact of the Charlie Kirk murder on a higher education campus.

Do not discredit the impact this event is already having on free speech on campuses and across the entire country. The SUS presidents have all been directed by the Chancellor of the SUS regarding civil discourse, free expression and debate. I will quote a section of his memo

"…while the right to free expression is paramount it is not absolute. Celebrating or excusing campus violence—and in this case, the murder of Charlie Kirk— by members of our university system will not be tolerated. Such behavior is abhorrent, has the deleterious effects of breeding further violence and undermines efforts to promote civil discourse. Accordingly, Presidents are directed to review policies, procedures and codes of conduct for employees and students regarding social media postings and other related communications and ensure such measures are deliberately enforced."

I will acknowledge the differences between that statement from the BOG Chancellor and the BOG's own statement of Free expression that the UCF steering committee, has been "recommended" to endorse for the last three years.

At the ACFS, we passed a resolution on Free Expression in the SUS…, we specifically called upon the education leaders in the state of Florida to safeguard our educational institutions as bastions of free expression and civil discourse.

I will share that Resolution with all of you when we send out our draft minutes on Monday.

I sincerely hope none of us here push the free speech envelope and find ourselves as a test case for brand new interpretations of the limits of first amendment free speech protections. What we are seeing is that….although people have been allowed to speak freely, ….employers have taken actions based on their viewpoints of that free speech.

You are likely aware of the public doxxing of people, including faculty and staff at State of Florida Universities, that has resulted in firings or forced administrative leave while investigations are occurring.

This is real. I am aware of 5 cases at FAU, and I would not be surprised if other cases become public across the SUS.

So it is on this environment, that I will come back to something we talked about a month ago at our first steering and senate meeting:

how we conduct our faculty senate meetings, using Roberts Rules as a protective mechanism to promote civil discourse even if we vehemently disagree with a different viewpoint being expressed.

I will say in this new free speech environment, adhering to the tenets of civil discourse are more important than they have likely been in our lifetimes.

I want to clearly let you know that the senate leadership and the ACFS is following and providing input where we can on different issues that arise at any time, and this year some unexpected things have already occurred and I do indeed worry what else is going to surprise us.

And on that less than cheery note, I will end my report. Thank you.

UCF

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA


UCF
DARING TO
BOLDLY INVENT
THE FUTURE
FLORIDA'S NEXT-GENERATION
PREEMINENT UNIVERSITY

FACULTY & STAFF EXPERIENCE SURVEY

TIMELINE

- **Phase I: Planning**
  July 2024
- **Phase II: Communications**
  September 2024
- **Phase III: Survey Development**
  October 2024
- **Phase IV: University-Wide Survey Results Shared**
  Fall 2025
- **Phase V: Action Planning**
  Fall 2025 — Ongoing

RESPONSE RATES

overall

51%

SENT TO
5,658

2,895
RESPONDED

faculty

44%

SENT TO
1,967

871
RESPONDED

STRENGTHS

86% The work I do is meaningful to me.

85% In my department, we welcome people from all backgrounds and walks of life.

77% I understand how my job contributes to this institution's mission.

61% I am proud to be part of this institution.

74% My supervisor/department chair makes their expectations clear.

72% My supervisor/department chair is consistent and fair.

71% My supervisor/department chair shows genuine interest in my well-being.

70% My supervisor/department chair supports my efforts to balance my work and personal life.

CHALLENGES

53% The role of faculty in shared governance is clearly stated and publicized.

45% Faculty are appropriately involved in decisions related to the education program (e.g., curriculum development, evaluation).

34% Senior leadership communicates openly about important matters.

33% Senior leadership provides a clear direction for this institution's future.

29% My department has adequate faculty/staff to achieve our goals.

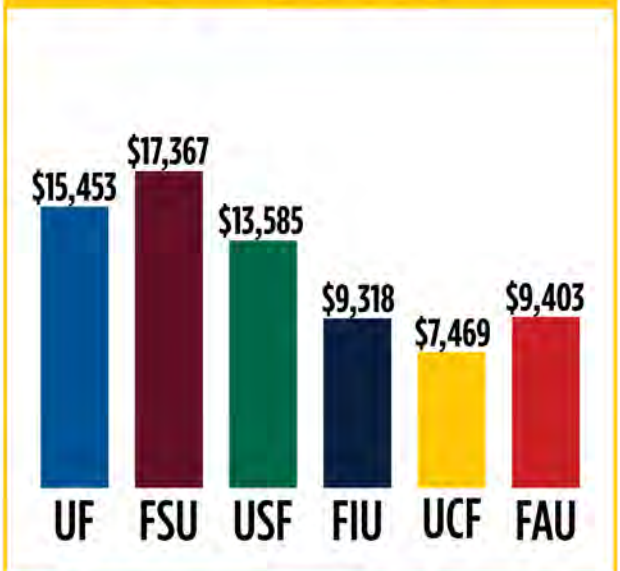
36% I am paid fairly for my work.

55% The facilities (e.g., classrooms, offices, laboratories) adequately meet my needs.

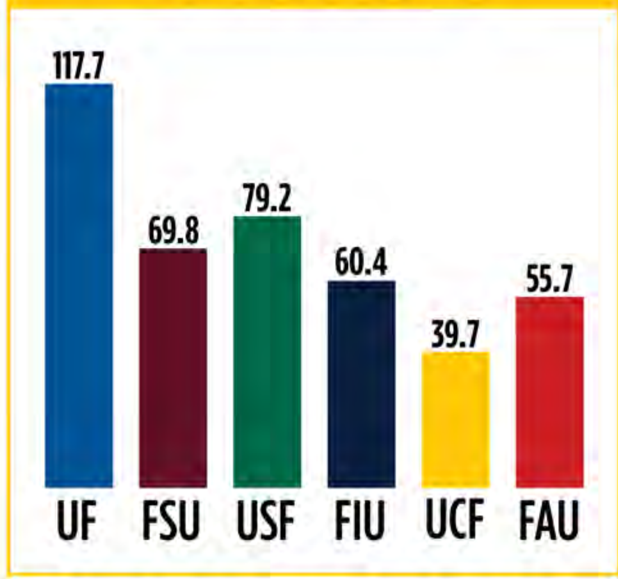
47% I am provided the resources I need to be effective in my job.

RESOURCES

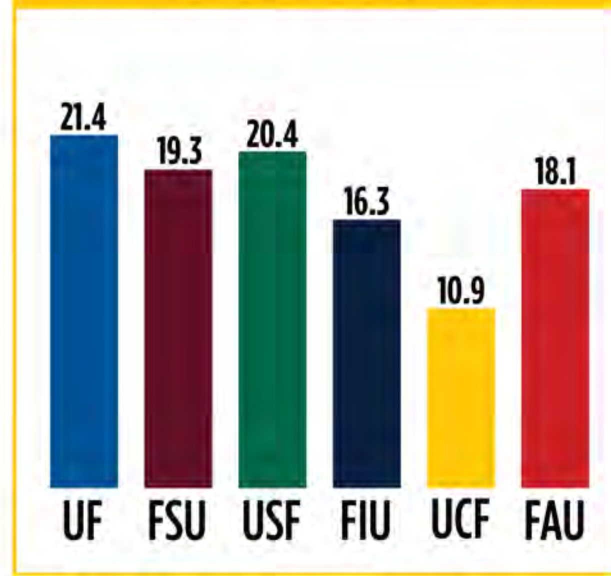
STATE FUNDING PER FTE STUDENT



FACULTY PER 1,000 STUDENTS

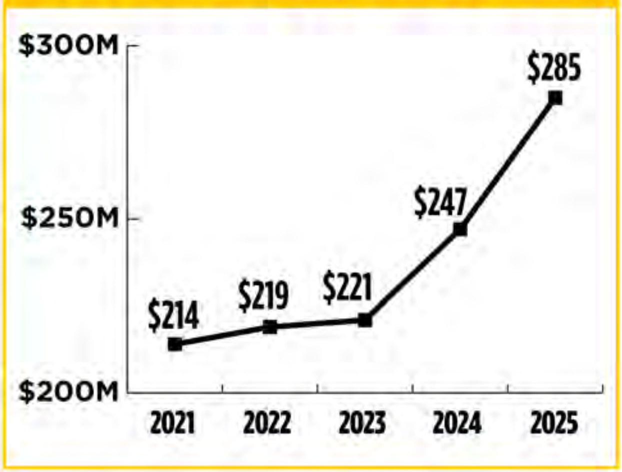


ADMINISTRATORS PER 1,000 STUDENTS

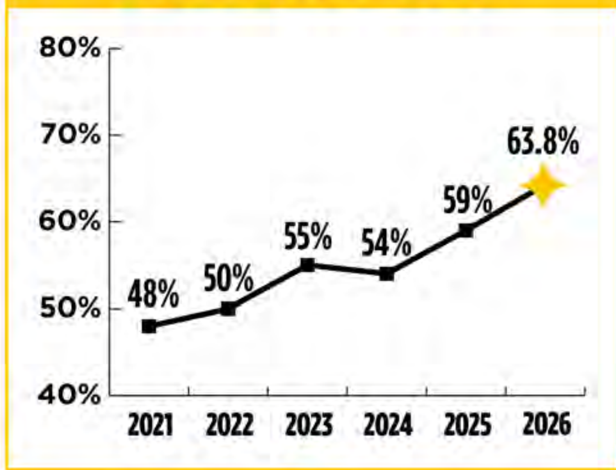


ACHIEVING OUR GOALS

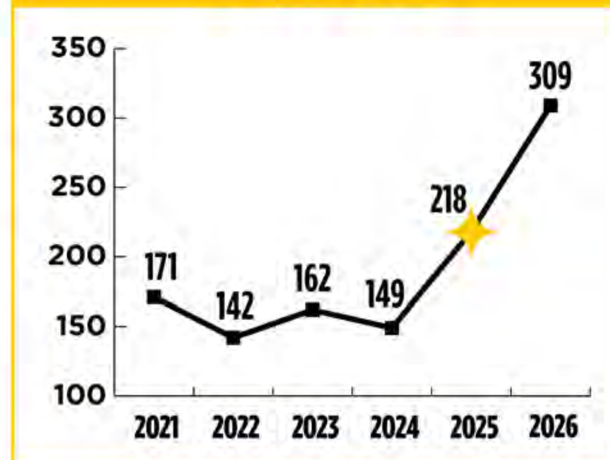
RESEARCH EXPENDITURES



4-YEAR GRAD RATE

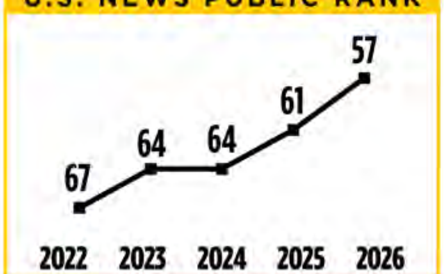


POST-DOCS



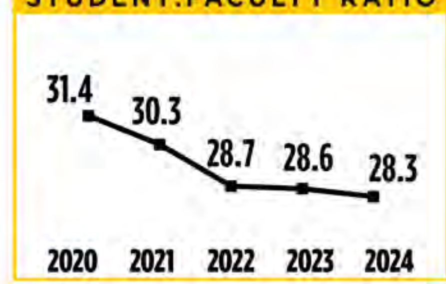
FUNDRAISING

U.S. NEWS PUBLIC RANK



INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY

STUDENT:FACULTY RATIO



FACULTY & STAFF EXPERIENCE SURVEY

FOCUS GROUP SIGN-UP

Resolution 2025-2026-2 Constitution and Bylaw Amendments: Faculty Senate Membership Expansion from 75 to 100 Senators

Whereas, Article II.A of the Constitution of the Faculty of the University of Central Florida establishes the membership of the Faculty Senate as seventy-five (75) elected members; and

Whereas, increasing the size of the Faculty Senate from seventy-five (75) to one hundred (100) would improve representation and shared governance by more accurately reflecting the growth and breadth of the university's faculty; and

Whereas, implementing a 25-seat expansion in a single year would result in an imbalance in the Senate's staggered election cycle, causing 35 senators to be elected in one year and 65 in the next, placing uneven burdens on academic units and creating volatility in Senate membership and year to year overlap; and

Whereas, phasing in additional seats over two years (10 seats in 2026 and 15 seats in 2027) will establish a long-term, balanced system in which approximately 50 senators are elected each year, preserving balance and stability across academic units; therefore

Be It Resolved, that Article II.A of the Constitution and Section II.B of the Bylaws shall be amended to state that the Faculty Senate shall be composed of one hundred (100) elected members; and

Be It Further Resolved, that all formulas and language in the Bylaws that currently use seventy-five (75) as the total number of senators shall be updated to use one hundred (100); and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Faculty Senate shall implement a phased expansion as outlined in the Proviso below, and this Proviso, in its entirety, shall be added below the list of *Constitution* and *Bylaw* amendments until such time as the Proviso conditions are completed after spring 2027 senate elections.

> *<u>Proviso on Phased Senate Membership Expansion</u>:*
>
> *Even though the apportionment provisions stated in Article II.B of the Constitution and Section II.B of the Bylaws describe how Senate seats should be divided and calculated, the total number of elected Faculty Senate members shall be increased in two phases:*
>
> *<u>Phase 1</u>: In spring 2026, the number of elected senators shall be increased from 75 to 85. The 10 additional seats shall be apportioned among academic units using the existing formula and constraints in the Constitution and Bylaws.*

<u>Phase 2</u>: In spring 2027, the number of elected senators shall be increased from 85 to 100. The 15 additional seats shall likewise be apportioned using the existing formula and constraints in the Constitution and Bylaws.

The full apportionment system using a base of 100 senators shall take effect with the spring 2027 elections.

All elected senators shall be subject to the regular eligibility, election, and term procedures as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 2025-2026-3
Bylaws Amendment: Faculty Senate Student Success Council

Whereas, student success encompasses a broad array of departments, programs, initiatives, and policies that require administration and faculty working together to help our students complete their studies and prepare for the future; and

Whereas, the faculty at UCF have a critical role in guiding and enhancing the success of our students as they take classes and progress through degree programs; and

Whereas, the Faculty Senate Student Success Council that was created in Spring of 2023 had a large membership, with 36 council members, of which only 12 were faculty; and

Whereas, the original Duties and Responsibilities of the Faculty Senate Student Success Council included areas that were already the focus of other Faculty Senate committees; and

Whereas, the voting members of the Faculty Senate Student Success Council have considered and debated how changes to the Council Bylaws could enhance the consideration and open discussion of issues and ideas between faculty and the Vice President for Student Success and Well-Being; therefore

Be It Resolved, that the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate Student Success Council be amended as detailed below:

1. Duties and Responsibilities

a. To promote the development and implementation of programs, policies, including admission policies, and practices that help students succeed in their academic pursuits and personal wellbeing.

b. To advise and assist the Division of Student Success and Well-Being (SSWB), and other relevant councils/committees/units/ departments/ individuals in developing student success and well-being focused initiatives and recommending actions to meet student success goals.

c. To review and monitor the performance and progress of state performance-based funding, preeminence, and other strategic student success metrics that are important for UCF and its students.

d. To serve as an advisory and recommending body for the Faculty Senate on strategies and procedures that relate to student success and well-being.

e. To support and collaborate with programs, units, initiatives and offices across UCF to help facilitate student success and well-being efforts.

2. Membership

The voting members of the Faculty Senate Student Success Council shall consist of at least one faculty member from each academic unit (selected by the Committee on Committees), at least two of whom are current members of the Faculty Senate.

The regularly invited ex officio (non-voting) members of the committee will include, 2 students (nominated by the President of UCF Student Government), the vice president for Student Success and Well-Being, the Vice President for Access & Community Engagement or designee, one representative of the Student Success and Well-Being Executive Team (selected by the vice president for Student Success and Well-Being), one representative from the College of Graduate Studies (appointed by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies), and one representative from the Office of Undergraduate Studies (selected by the senior vice provost of academic affairs or designee).

The vice president for Student Success and Well-Being (or designee) shall invite others from SSWB or other entities to participate in meetings when their presence is germane to the topics of discussion for a particular gathering.

The chair and vice chair shall be elected annually from the council's faculty membership. Terms of service shall be two years, staggered.

CURRENT	PROPOSED
1. Duties and Responsibilities	1. Duties and Responsibilities
a. To promote the development and implementation of programs, policies, including admission policies, and practices that help students succeed in their academic pursuits and personal wellbeing.	a. To promote the development and implementation of programs, policies, including admission policies, and practices that help students succeed in their academic pursuits and personal wellbeing.
b. To advise and assist the ~~University Student Success Steering Committee, the vice president for Student Success, the vice provost and dean of the College of Undergraduate Studies, the dean of the College of Graduate Studies, and other relevant committees, units, and individuals~~ in developing student success initiatives and recommending actions to meet student success goals.	b. To advise and assist the Division of Student Success and Well-Being (SSWB), and other relevant councils/ committees/ units/ departments/ individuals in developing student success and well-being focused initiatives and recommending actions to meet student success goals.
c. To review and monitor the performance and progress of state performance- based funding, preeminence, and other strategic student success metrics that are important for UCF and its students.	c. To review and monitor the performance and progress of state performance- based funding, preeminence, and other strategic student success metrics that are important for UCF and its students.
~~d. To support and collaborate with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and the Center for Distributed Learning to create professional development for faculty to facilitate student success.~~	
e. To serve as an advisory and recommending body for the Faculty Senate on strategies and procedures that relate to student success.	d. To serve as an advisory and recommending body for the Faculty Senate on strategies and procedures that relate to student success and well-being.
f. To support and collaborate with ~~professional advising offices~~ across UCF to help facilitate student success.	e. To support and collaborate with programs, units, initiatives and offices across UCF to help facilitate student success and well-being efforts.
~~g. The chair of the Faculty Senate Student Success Council will serve as a member on the University Student Success Steering Committee.~~	

CURRENT

2. Membership

The Faculty Senate Student Success Council shall consist of at least one faculty member from each academic unit (selected by the Committee on Committees), at least two of whom are current members of the Faculty Senate~~,~~ the vice president for Student Success ~~(ex officio), one representative from the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, four students, with at least one undergraduate student, one graduate student, and one international student (nominated by the president of the Student Government Association~~), one representative of the Student Success ~~&~~ Well-Being ~~Leadership Council Team~~ (selected by the vice president for Student Success~~), one representative from UCF Global (appointed by the vice provost for Academic Affairs),~~ one representative from the College of Graduate Studies (appointed by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies), and one representative from the ~~College~~ of Undergraduate Studies (selected by the ~~vice provost and dean of the College of Undergraduate Studies). A representative from the professional advising office for each college or unit may serve as a non-voting committee member. The senior vice president for Student Success (or designee) shall identify additional ex officio members, making every effort to ensure that areas relating to student success are represented.~~

The chair and vice chair shall be elected annually from ~~its~~ faculty membership. Terms of service shall be two years, staggered, ~~except for the student members, who shall serve for one year.~~

PROPOSED

2. Membership

The voting members of the Faculty Senate Student Success Council shall consist of at least one faculty member from each academic unit (selected by the Committee on Committees), at least two of whom are current members of the Faculty Senate.

The regularly invited ex officio (non-voting) members of the committee will include, 2 students (nominated by the President of UCF Student Government), the vice president for Student Success and Well-Being, the Vice President for Access and Community Engagement or designee, one representative of the Student Success and Well-Being Executive Team (selected by the vice president for Student Success and Well-Being), one representative from the College of Graduate Studies (appointed by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies), and one representative from the Office of Undergraduate Studies (selected by the senior vice provost of academic affairs or designee).

The vice president for Student Success and Well-Being (or designee) shall invite others from SSWB or other entities to participate in meetings when their presence is germane to the topics of discussion for a particular gathering.

The chair and vice chair shall be elected annually from the council's faculty membership. Terms of service shall be two years, staggered.

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B&A Committee Report:

The B&A committee's first charge from the Steering Committee is to "provide faculty feedback into the Classroom Assignment Optimizer, and suggestions for future usage."

I (B&A Chair) began by gathering information about the process. I first met with the staff in my department and COS who coordinate course scheduling and classroom assignments to learn more about the process they follow, and to understand unit and college needs and goals when assigning classroom space. I then met with staff in the registrar's office who runs the Classroom Assignment Optimizer to learn her prespective on how the program operates and what the RO needs to efficiently deliver classroom assignments to colleges and units.

To understand administrative goals and perspectives, we hosted Chuck Reilly, Associate Provost and Brian Boyd, University Registrar at the September 24 B&A committee meeting. Chuck and Brian explained the administration's objectives as part of the university's broader effort to understand and maximize how we use space across campus. For classroom assignments, this includes the new block scheduling scheme with 75 minute class periods and employing the Optimizer program to streamline the assignment process. Faculty discussed their concerns, which included faculty and student commute time between back to back classes, classroom assignments far removed from unit offices, inappropriate classrooms assigned for course which require special facilities or equipment, and other matters. Chuck and Brian acknowledged these issues, but reminded us that it was our first time using the Optimizer and we have learned a lot about how to improve it. Moreover, now that these issues have been identified, they can be accommodated by reprogramming the optimizer to consider more variables in classroom assignments.

For our next step, I will work with Brian and Chuck to identify the most significant variables that the optimizer must consider, and to develop a set of procedures that units and colleges can use to communicate these variables completely and far enough in advance for the RO to program them into the system. We will review a draft of these procedures with Chuck and Brian and the full committee at our October B&A meeting, and once they are finalized, provide this to the senate.

I.T Committee Report:

Information Technology Committee

Summary for meeting of Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Committee met for about 45 minutes. Minutes of April 1, 2025 meeting were approved. Heard UCF IT update from Ms. Cherie Herrin on networking infrastructure updates (primarily to campus and between buildings on campus). Enhancing networking (switches) within buildings will be a large and expensive project. UCF IT also is working to further enhance the Service Desk. Early discussions on video conference (Teams, Zoom, Tegrity) was held with the committee speaking very favorably of Zoom. myUCF dashboard update on September 29, 2025. Committee also raised issues with forced reboots across campus and last minute communication issues. Suggestion to include briefing the IT Committee to the UCF IT Governance document. The committee will meet monthly unless a topic warrants bi-weekly meetings.

Personnel Committee Report:

We have met once and primarily discussed faculty compensation and morale in light of the 0% raise offered by the administration this year. Additionally, faculty should know that they retain their UCF email address after retirement so long as they check it annually, and emeritus faculty are invited to Founders day. Further, all faculty are invited to participate in the Big 12 academic program, even if they are not awarded a fellowship.

Research Council Report:

Met on 9/8/25 with 2 agenda items:

1. Graduate Studies shared their new graduate student mentoring program called Gemini that is closely aligned with the new required NSF graduate student mentoring plans.

2. Reviewed and commented on draft policy document on, "Use of Research Space by Third-Parties and UCF Employees for Non-UCF Purposes".

Next meeting is scheduled for 10/6/25.

Undergraduate Council Report:

The Undergraduate Council reported a change in the calendar for approving new programs, courses, etc. for the effective date they are added to the next academic catalog. All new proposals must successfully complete the approval process by December to be included in next year's academic catalog. There will be some flexibility this year with the compressed time-frame. This change will ensure that all new programs, courses, and changes are communicated to stakeholders (e.g. Academic Success coaches and advisors) so that students going through fall advising will have the most complete and up-to-date information. More other questions, comments, and feedback, please direct those to Tim Letzring.

Grad Council:

Graduate Policy Chair - David Mohaisen

The Graduate Policy Committee has met twice and elected Sarah Norris as Vice Chair

The Graduate Policy currently has **five** polices for comment posted at https://graduatecouncil.ucf.edu/policy-committee/

UCF Faculty Senate

Graduate Faculty and Graduate Faculty Scholars
Program of Study
Provisional / Restricted Graduate Status
Restricted Graduate Status
Transfer Credit

and **four** policies taht are currently under review:

Conferral of Master's Degrees for Students in Doctoral Degree Programs (MAW)
Dismissals
Special Leave of Absence
Student Responsibility to Keep Informed

Graduate Curriculum Committee - Daniel Paulson
The Graduate Curriculum Committee has met twice

CON: 4 course continuations, 5 deletions, 2 revisions.
CECS: 3 course revisions, 3 additions, 1 program revision.
CCIE: 8 course revisions (mix of minor and substantive), 3 deletions, 3 program revisions (including MPA and Public Finance & Econ Dev. certificate), 1 program suspension, 1 program dropped (Play Therapy cert), 1 course addition.
CBA: 1 program revision (MBA online electives).
CAH: 1 program revision (course substitution).
COS: 3 course revisions, 2 program revisions (Clinical Psych & Sociology).
COM: 1 course revision; 4 course additions tabled for next meeting.

Graduate Appeals Committee - Dan Stephens
Chair Dan Stephens - Met 9/11 & 10/2

The Council continues to face recurring appeals when students are misadvised by programs in ways that conflict with university policy—most often being told dissertation hours can count as electives. This leads to failed graduation audits, leaving students to take unplanned courses or file appeals. We recommend programs audit their policies for consistency with university requirements to prevent this recurring issue. Aside from this, no pressing petition issues have arisen, though the Council managed a high volume of cases over the summer (40 in June, 27 in July). Addressing the policy alignment problem should help reduce future petitions.

Graduate Program Review and Awards Committee - Reid Oetjen
Chair: Reid Oetjen
Met on 9/12 & 9/26

Stephen Eikenberry was elected as vice Chair
The committee is in the process of reviewing faculty renominations for Graduate Faculty and Graudate Faculty Scholar and has completed the review of faculty in Psychology and Rosen College of Hospitality.
The committee will be reviewing a dual degree agreement between UCF and Sejong University.
Lastly, the committee will be reviewing the faculty re-appointments for the College of Sciences- Nicholson School of Communication and Media; Sociology and the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs