

# University Faculty Senate Minutes

January 26, 2026  
Online Zoom meeting

Note: due to technical difficulties, no audio recording or full transcript is available for this meeting. Summary minutes are provided below. Meetings are open and any faculty member may attend. If you wish to attend, email a member of Senate leadership for the Zoom link.

## Senators in Attendance

Tim Dooley (Acting Senate Chair), Kenneth Elgersma (Faculty Chair), Shelley Price-Williams (Parliamentarian), Allison Pattee, Alexandra Kogl, Andy Berns, Barbara Cutter, Cathi Bowler, Dayna Miller, Dawn Mollenkopf, Erika Bass, Eva Chen, Evette Edmister, Jeff Morgan, John Preseton, Julie Kang, Karen Breitbach, Matt Weedman, Melanie Hill, Nick Bailey, Randall Harlow, Rebecca Dickinson, Reza Lahroodi, Rob Hitlan, Scott Giese, Susan Moore, Syed Kirmani, Mark Hecimovic, and Tom Hall.

## Senators not in Attendance

Jimmy Reyes, Mohammed Rawwas, and Ronnie Chen.

## Call to Order at 3:30 PM

## Call for Press Identification

None Present

## Introduction of Guests

Regular Guests: Mark Nook, José Herrera, Chris Martin, Amy Nielsen, Deirdre Heistad  
Other Guests: Tim Bakula, Director of Financial Aid, Office of Enrollment Management;  
Mary Black, Dean, CHAS

## Courtesy Announcements

### Comments from President Nook

President Nook shared that there is a lot of activity in the state legislature this year relating to higher education. He discussed the Governor's budget proposal, which he related was generally positive and included funds for the neighboring states initiative and also a 1.5% increase to general funds. He cautioned that that still left us with a 1.5% deficit. He shared good news about enrollment, particularly as it concerns the neighboring states initiative.

### Comments from Provost Herrera

Provost Herrera spoke about his upcoming trip to Des Moines, meeting with the BOR, 3-year degrees and Work + programs, but ceded most of his time to Deirdre Heistad, who spoke about [Workforce Alignment](#) progression.

Dr. Heistad asked that we pay attention to developing news surrounding the effort, and called our attention to the move by UI to begin looking at program cuts. Senator Harlow asked questions concerning data about programs which were incomplete and wished to know how we will communicate the full story. Senator Dooley requested that as recommendations from the BOR were operationalized, that we commit to shared governance, and that there be transparent communication and an opportunity for all stakeholders to have a say in the process.

#### Comments from Faculty Chair Elgersma

Faculty Chair Elgersma asked for volunteers from the Senate to serve on the Regents Award Committee. This is not a large time commitment and is a chance to celebrate the positive contributions of our finest faculty members.

#### Comments from United Faculty President Martin

UF President Martin reminded us about the upcoming speaker Greg Greubel, an alumni who is a Constitutional lawyer on Academic Freedom and the First Amendment, speaking Wednesday, Jan. 28, 4 p.m.

#### Comments from NISG President Webster

NISG Webster had another commitment and had to leave the meeting early.

#### Comments from Acting Senate Chair Dooley

Chair Dooley welcomed faculty back to the new semester and encouraged us, despite all of the disruption going on in higher education and society at large, to continue to encourage our students and find joy in helping them grow and navigate their world.

### Minutes for Approval

Motion to Approve Minutes from December 1, 2025

MOTION: Elgersma / Kogl (26 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

### Docketed items:

#### [1677 Consultation: Financial aid policy changes](#) (Tim Bakula)

Tim Bakula highlighted which of the major financial aid loan limits have stayed the same and which have changed as a result of recent federal legislation, which goes into effect in summer 2026. A high-level summary and some details are provided on their [website](#), and Tim also offered to come speak with departments, advisors, etc who might be interested in learning more.

#### [1678 Consultation: Piloting curricular changes](#) (Deedee Heistad)

Interim Associate Provost Heistad talked about efforts the University Curriculum Committee is undertaking this semester to pilot a method allowing select, “urgent” curricular proposals to be moved forward in the spring semester for BOR approval in the spring (instead of waiting until fall). She described a few different ways that proposals might be considered “urgent” and therefore eligible for this path. There are two proposals they are piloting right now. They will be in Leepfrog at the beginning of February, and brought to Faculty Senate at the end of February so they can move forward for BOR approval this spring. The outcomes of this effort are two-fold:

moving these two specific curricular proposals forward, and developing policies / regulations for this process in the future. Faculty Chair Elgersma asked how this process will maintain the rigor of the curricular process while increasing speed. Dr. Heistad responded that because this will be limited to a few exceptions, UCC will be able to focus more attention on these proposals, and they might actually receive more scrutiny than other proposals through each step of the process.

#### 1679 Emeritus request: Tim Linqvist

Senator Bowler relayed to the Senate that Tim Linqvist is known and loved by many, many students in their department, and the students and faculty alike will miss his presence. She recommended that the emeritus request be approved.

Motion to Approve emeritus request

MOTION: Bass / Moore (24 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain)

### New Business

No new business raised

Motion to adjourn: Bass / Elgersma

**Adjournment** at 4:45 PM

### Zoom Transcription of Chat

2026-01-26 15:31:06 From Mary Black to Everyone:

Mary Black is here as a guest.

2026-01-26 15:31:15 From Timothy Bakula to Everyone:

Tim Bakula-guest speaker

2026-01-26 15:41:20 From Deirdre Heistad to Everyone:

[https://www.iowaregents.edu/media/cms/1125\\_ITEM\\_15\\_\\_2025\\_Workforce\\_Alignm\\_668118EFF428.pdf](https://www.iowaregents.edu/media/cms/1125_ITEM_15__2025_Workforce_Alignm_668118EFF428.pdf)

2026-01-26 16:27:47 From Timothy Bakula to Everyone:

<https://admissions.uni.edu/financial-aid/2026-2027-financial-aid-updates>