

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 9, 2026

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama's Faculty Senate (FS) convened in Wendell W. Gunn University Commons 330 and via MS Teams Video Conferencing at 3:30pm with President Carter presiding.

Members in attendance

Jackie Allen, Lisa Ann Blankinship, Sidney Blaylock, Miranda Bowie, Charles Brooks, Keli Brothers, Danny Burton, Corey Cagle, Justin Carter, Freda Coleman-Reed, James DaSambiagio-Moore, Jenny Dawson, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Einar Gudmundsson, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Lorie Johnson, Kelly Latchaw, Mark Linder, Melanie Looser, Tom Lukowicz, Ashley Molina, Stephanie Montgomery, Andrea Nate, Brent Olive, Gary Padgett, Michael Pretes, Steven Puckett, Chris Purser, Candice Quinn, Robert Rausch, Suzanne Reese Mills, Matthew Schoenbachler, Darlene Townsend, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao, Rui Zhou

Members not in attendance

Argie Campbell, Ravi Gollapalli, Jason McCann, Justin Scott

I. Recognized Proxies

Dr. Sarah Hood for Sen. Beverly

II. Recognize guests

Dean Ryan Zayac, CASE

III. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was amended and approved as amended.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from March 12, 2026 meeting

Item VIII, bullet point 2 was amended. The minutes were approved as amended.

V. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President

President Kitts provided updates:

- AL State Legislative Session and Budget – Budget bills have passed leaving UNA a 6% recurring budget increase (\$61 million for FY2027). The new budget amount leaves UNA in a good place for filling open lines, promotion and merit pay, and planning for the next COLA.
- HB580 – HB580 is currently before Senate [later to be passed on 4.10.26].
- HB565 (performance-based funding) – includes a pool of \$65 million for all Alabama colleges. Performance metrics will be used to determine the amount of funding awarded beginning in FY2029.
- Pine Street upgrades – Pine Street restriping will begin once construction on the stadium and La Grange Hall have ended. The road will become three lanes (1 north bound, 1

south bound, 1 turn lane) between Irvine Ave and Mattielou Street Crosswalks will be increased to four total during this section of Pine Street.

- Washington, D.C. visit - Sen. Britt was thanked for help in securing \$6 million in funding for SCOBT and ACONHP. A meeting with Rep. Aderholt provided opportunity to share needs for support of the new Center for the Arts and Pine Street project.
- UNA Speaker's Bureau – Over 50 faculty have already signed up. The targeted audience includes civic groups, local businesses, and the media. More information is available on the [Speakers' Bureau website](https://www.una.edu/media-relations/speakers-bureau.html) (<https://www.una.edu/media-relations/speakers-bureau.html>).

VI. Remarks from Dr. Brien Smith, Provost/ EVPAA

Provost Smith provided updates on faculty opportunities, University successes, and the upcoming rebranding event scheduled for Summer 2026.

- The Center for Teaching and Learning is currently accepted Faculty Fellows and Faculty Presenters. Additionally, applications are open for the IRB chair position.
- Lydia Uptain (Biology and Chemistry) received the Goldwater Scholarship and Jali Gann (Teaching, Learning, and Leadership) received the AY2026/2027 Fulbright Award.
- UNA's new brand will release on July 7, 2026. More information will be forthcoming.
- Hadrian facility (Cherokee, AL) will bring \$2billion in private investment funding and 1,000 jobs to the area. This is a great potential partner for UNA for internships and talent placement.
- Spring 2026 census was 3.18.26 with more than 10,122 students enrolled.

VII. Remarks from Dr. Justin Carter, Faculty Senate President

FSP Carter shared with the Senate updates on the onboarding process for Shared Governance/ Senate orientation, Senate elections, and HB580 take-aways.

- Shared governance and Faculty Senate leadership are currently working to form an orientation for incoming committee members and Senators. Please share ideas for content with FSP Carter.
- It is election season for Shared Governance positions and replacement senators for those that are rotating off of Senate service.
- HB580 senate discussions have revolved around similar concerns expressed in Faculty Senate. Some language and structure changes are expected.

[Agenda updated: **VIII. Remarks from Jason Allen Cochran** – Postponed due to a date mix up. More information forthcoming.]

VIII. Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Faculty Affairs (Sen. Hodges) – No report
- ii. Academic Affairs – No report
- iii. Faculty Attitude Survey (Sen. Purser) – FAS had low participation. A group will be formed to determine ways that participation can be increased for the FAS 2027.
- iv. Faculty Handbook Oversight Committee (Sen. Lukowicz) – No report

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. 3.2.2 Faculty Workloads and Teaching loads – A motion to discuss the proposal was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by Sen. Latchaw. Discussion. Motion to vote on 3.2.2 and forward to COAD was made by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. Lukowicz. [Vote: 15Y: 6O]. Motion passes and 3.2.2. will be sent to COAD.
A second motion to form a summer work group to review the long-term effect and application of the policy was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by Sen. Schoenbachler. This committee's membership should rely on heavily upon the most affected departments. [Vote: 28Y:2O:0Abs] Motion passes.

X. New Business

- a. 2.5.2 Non-Tenure Track and 2.6.4 Procedure for Promotion and/or Tenure – A motion was made by Sen. A. Graham to discuss these items and seconded by Sen. Lukowicz. Discussion. A motion to accept the policy was made by Sen. Coleman-Reed with a second by Sen. L. Graham. [Vote: 36Y:1N]. Motion passes.
- b. Discrimination and Harassment Policy – A motion to discuss the policy was made by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. A. Graham. Discussion. Correction: pg. 10 Sect. E “is” should remain rather than the proposed change of “are”. A motion to approve as amended was made by Sen. Linder and seconded by Sen. Gudmundsson. [Vote: 33Y:0N:0Abs] Motion passes.
- c. Title IX Procedure – A motion to discuss was made by Sen. L. Graham with a second by Sen. A. Graham. Discussion. A motion to approve the new policy was made by Sen. Montgomery with second by Sen. L. Graham. [Vote: 31Y:1N]. Motion passes.
- d. Nomination Committee nominations – FSP Carter asked for volunteers/ self-nominations to serve on the Nominations. Sen. L. Graham, Sen. Latchaw, Sen. Padgett, and Sen. Linder volunteered.

XI. Information Items

None

XII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by Sen. Blaylock. Senate was adjourned at 5.02pm.