Faculty Senate Minutes
September 24, 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 at 3:30pm with President Lukowicz presiding.

Members in attendance
Lisa Ann Blankinship, Miranda Bowie, Keli Brothers, Amy Butler, Corey Cagle, Victoria Casson, Freda Coleman-Reed, Melissa DeFoor, Brian Dempsey, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Einar Gudmundsson, John Gulledge, Lisa Harrington, Drew Henderson, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Lorie Johnson, Kelly Latchaw, Melanie Looser, Stacy Lukins, Tom Lukowicz, Kimberly Minges, Ashley Molina, Andrea Nate, Brent Olive, Gary Padgett, Michael Pretes, Candice Quinn, Suzanne Reese Mills, Rampa Sankeerth, Matthew Schoenbachler, Justin Scott, Hunter Waldman, John Paul White, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao, Rui Zhou

Members not in attendance
James DaSambiagio-Moore, Stephanie Montgomery, Chris Purser

I. Recognized Proxies
Mr. Alex Pate for Sen. Rausch
Mr. Patrick Shremshock for Sen. Linder
Dr. Heejoon Park for Sen. Gollapalli

II. Recognize guests
Dr. Michael Floren
Dr. Sara Johnson

III. Approval of the Agenda
A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by Sen. Latchaw. None opposed. Motion passes.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from August 27, 2026 meeting
A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sen. Latchaw with a second by Sen. L. Graham. None opposed. Motion passes.

V. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President
President Kitts provided updates:

- "Making History Together" (documentary) premiere at Norton Auditorium at 7pm on 9.24.26.
- The Board of Trustees (BoT) resolution of 9.18.26 reaffirms our current system of review for tenure and non-tenured positions.
- From the State Finance Office, one time funding is down to $600M (A&T Fund) and $300M (Supplemental Fund) but no other decreases are expected in the budget for next FY2027.

- November elections (11.3.26) will greatly impact higher ed in Alabama as the governor proposes the annual budget, appoints all BoT members, and serves as the president of our BoT. Both gubernatorial candidates request an end of sales tax on food items which would decrease the Educational Trust Fund by $250M.
- A question was asked regarding uneven campus engagement. It was noted that not all departments have the same hours on campus due to their various teaching, research, and service commitments so departmental hours will vary. Any specific concerns should be related to the respective department chair then the dean's office, and finally Academic Affairs.
- An update regarding the new Music and the Arts facility: At present, the University has $15M bonded and can commit a total of $35M to a new Center for the Arts. Consultation with SOTA leaders has a projected cost at $50M. The University is continuing to look for funding sources. Before a Center for the Arts can begin, the new Engineering building would need to be 75% complete.
- Questions related to parking, specifically accessible parking, should be sent to the President's Office.

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

Provost Smith provided the following updates:

- Enrollment numbers are 10-11k for the 5th year with a 6% increase compared to Fall 2025.
- New faculty positions are being posted almost daily.
- The SCOBT Dean search is currently reviewing applications.
- The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) will host a teaching styles workshop on 9.30.26.
- The University does not place graduation over education and meeting academic standards. Faculty should do all reasonable activities to support student learning with the end goal of student education.
- FS President Lukowicz and Ms. Julie Taylor will meet on 10.1.26 to discuss the issue of course number changes within DegreeWorks.

VII. Remarks from Dr. Tom Lukowicz, Faculty Senate President

FSP Lukowicz reminded Senators that the BoT has approved an associates degree for students with 60hr of credit. More information about the three workforce based associate degrees can be found on the UNA website.

VIII. Reports

a. Standing Committees

i. Faculty Affairs – No report
ii. Academic Affairs – No report
iii. Faculty Attitude Survey – Please see Item IX. Unfinished Business a. Faculty Attitude Survey.
iv. Faculty Handbook Oversight Committee – No report

IX. Unfinished Business

a. Faculty Attitude Survey (Dr. Michael Floren) – The Faculty Attitude Survey (FAS) is providing the same data as previous versions. The FAS committee recommends that something should be done with the information that the survey provides. Suggestions were made regarding publishing survey content and soliciting faculty feedback. Dr. Floren will take these back to the committee. As a reminder the FAS serves two purposes: 1) to evaluate the faculty attitude toward various components of the University and 2) to bring forth actionable items for improvement. Discussion
Motion: A motion to release the FAS open ended comments to President Kitts, Provost Smith, and the College Deans was made by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. Latchaw. Discussion. [Vote: 32Y:0N:3Abs] Motion Passes. Motion to revisit was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by Sen Latchaw. Discussion. A new motion (Sen. A. Graham, Sen. Latchaw) was made to release the quantitative data and a general overview of the open ended questions to President Kitts, Provost Smith, and the College Deans. [Vote:29Y:0N:6Abs] Motion passes.
Motion: A motion to make public the quantitative data and general overview of open ended comments from the FAS was made by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. Pretes. No discussion. [Vote: 27Y:0N:3Abs] Motion passes.
For those wanting to see the FAS results in detail, FS President Lukowicz will make them available by appointment.
b. Ad hoc committee updates – None. Faculty Senate is only allowed to work on a) the FAS, 2) Items coming from Shared Governance, and 3) Post Tenure Review guidance. Please note that items can be submitted directly to Shared Governance.
c. Parking update – Data was provided as to the number of faculty, accessible, and student parking places. The issue seems to be students parking in faculty lots. FS Pres. Lukowicz has met with Student Government Association (SGA) President Matt Hanback. The SGA is currently investigating potential means to alleviate parking stress and updated communications as to when lots/ deck are full. Parking updates could potentially include gated decks (access with Manecard) and parking counters similar to those found in airports. Both cost money so price may be an issue.

X. New Business

a. Post Tenure Review – The post tenure review taskforce will hold listening sessions in October. Faculty are encouraged to attend a session.
b. Board of Trustees update – We are currently in compliance with Act2026-432 but our language needs to be brought up to the State's new expected standards. While changes will be coming, this is more in the wording rather than a major overhaul of the entire system.

XI. Information Items

a. COLA – FS Pres. Lukowicz asked about the rationale for a COLA this year. The budget allowed for the COLA to be moved up one year early.
b. The Academic Honesty workgroup is hosting a listening session on 9.29.26 at 1pm in Stevens 440.

XII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Sen. Coleman-Reed and seconded by L. Graham. Senate was adjourned at 4.38pm.