

Faculty Senate Plenary Meeting

Feb 18, 2026

Children's & Women's

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Attended in Person (23):** Abeynanda, Gayan; Baughn, Christina; Brock, Casey; Brower, Greg; Cutchen, William; Fesenmeier, Michael; Getch, Yvette; Lohar, Bhushan; Macdonald, Rebecca; Minton, Bonnie; O'Connor, Tracy; Pavelescu, Andrei; Pramanik, Paramahansa; Rabideau, Brooks; Robertson, Justin; Selwyn, Candice; Streeter, Donna; Swofford, Jim; ter Horst, Eleanor; Vrana, Laura; ;Walker, Sean; Wilbert, Arik; Wu, Charles (Kuan-Sheng)

**Attended on Zoom (19):** *Zoom Report lost, but 19 people (verified FS members at the time) were actively engaged and voting during the meeting.*

**Excused (6):** Davis, Sara; Davis, Tara; Fleck, Lorie; Frye, Doris; Holliday, Nicolette; Shaw, Christy

**Preliminary Business**

This meeting was called to order ~3:05 p.m. with the VP of the Faculty Senate Christina, Laura Vrana, presiding. Quorum (which is 34 senators this month) was met.

**Approval** of November 2025 Minutes (34 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions)

**Approval** of December 2025 Agenda (33 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstentions)

**President's Report:**

Laura Vrana updated us that:

**FS-CAD dialogue:** regular meetings between Beans and standing leadership of the Faculty Senate are in the works with scheduling and logistics to be determined.

**T&P:** Two working committees Deans & some Chairs plus some form of representation from FS. In other words, FS was promised a guaranteed voice in the room with some chairs and deans in these discussions.

There was some discussion on the floor as to whether we should hold off with FS1030 (below) until the Deans and Chairs have ironed out the new T&P guidelines. In the end, the decision was made not to wait, as the process could take a long and undetermined amount of time.

### Guest:

- **Deborah Browning & Allen Broome** filled in for Natalie Fox who could not attend
  - Deborah and Allen emphasized the importance of Children's and Women's Hospital as the only academic children's hospital and maternal care center.
  - Highlighted were the neonatal and pediatric emergency department. Cub Crew is the integrated peds/neonatal air and ground transport team that provides ability to quickly transport children and infants from surrounding communities.
  - Also mentioned was pediatric/women's IR which is under construction currently and will be available summer 2027. This will be a big step toward level two trauma designation in the future.
  - Children's and Women's is proud of the strong collaborative relationship with the College of Nursing at University of South Alabama.

### Old Business:

- Handbook: Policy Discussion and Updates
  - Updated policy ( 1030)
    - The policy was passed with two friendly amendments from the floor. The main difference after the friendly amendments was to return to the request that external reviews will be provided anonymized by otherwise unedited. Each amendment was first voted upon separately and past by a large margin, however a few no's and abstention were registered.
      - 1st friendly amendment to handbook revision: 37 approved, 3 no, 3 abstain
      - 2nd friendly amendment to handbook revision: 39 approved, 1 no, 2 abstain
      - 2nd friendly amendment to handbook revision: 40 approved, 1 no, 1 abstain
    - Final Document after all friendly amendments have been included: [UPDATED FS1030 Proposed Changes to USA promotion procedures CAD Revisions.docx](#)
- Report/Presentation from ad hoc Committee on Updating the FS Bylaws
  - The revisions were presented to the fully body, so that they can be voted on in the next meeting
    - [bylaws2026feb \(ad hoc committee recommendations\) - FINAL.docx](#)
  - Request was made also to revise the bylaws such that, in the future, all hybrid voting is preceded by a discussion board.

Reports from Committees (those in writing can be found in the attachments linked here: )

- Evaluation (Clay Davidson) - *in writing*
- FacDev&Ment (Tracy O'Connor) - *in writing*
  - *First Mentoring in the Moment workshop - Grant Writing had 10 attendees & good discussion. Next one will be on post-grant logistics, then will be a meeting with the Ombudswoman.*
  - *The Committee is also working with ILC to gather more ideas for the Fall.*
- FacSal&Ben (Geoffrey Hudson) - *in writing*
- Res&CreatAct (Rebecca Thomas)
  - We were reminded about the Research Mixer to come.

- Sust&EnvirQual (Dalton Fox) - *in writing*
- Teach/Learn&Tech (Casey Brock) - *in writing*
- UnivPlan&Dev (Sean Walker) - *in writing*
  - We were reminded about the post-party after the April Plenary.
- UnivPol&HandBk (Donna Streeter)
  - *We were reminded to make sure that the new policy on Teaching Effectiveness Evaluations has been published & to find out who's developing the criteria in our caucuses to see if we can be involved.*
- Wellbeing&Ret (Caitlyn Hauff)
- *Bylaws Review Committee [ad hoc] (Candice Selwyn)*

Reports from Caucus Leaders (those in writing can be found in the attachments linked here: )

- A&S (Eleanor ter Horst) -*nr*
- CAHP (Casey Brock) - *in writing*
- CEPS (Caitlyn Hauff)
- SoC (Clay Davidson )
- COM (Greg Brower)
  - The caucus is excited to get new leadership confirmed and on board
- CON (Elizabeth Vandewaa) - *nr*
- ENGR (Brooks Rabideau) - *nr*
- LIB (Tracy Cole) - *in writing*
- MCOB (James Swofford) - *nr*
- SIM (Robin Bates)

Reports from University Committees:

**University Committee on Undergraduate Research:** [Rebecca Thomas](#) reported that a lot of useful information was disseminated about UG research and SURF and that she'll update FS on those in time to come.

New Business

Adjournment

*Minutes prepared by Alexandra C. Stenson (FS Secretary) with assistance from Deborah Browning (regarding the minutes for our guests' presentation).*