

Faculty Senate Plenary Meeting

Mar 18, 2026

MCOB 265

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Attended in Person (31):** Abeynanda, Gayan; Bates, Robin; Brock, Casey; Dasgupta, Santanu; Davis, Tara; des Neiges Léonard, Marie; Ellzie, Joel; Fox, Dalten; Frye, Doris; Giles, Rebecca; Hudson, Geoffrey; O'Connor, Tracy; Pavelescu, Andrei; Pramanik, Paramahansa; Pennywell, Gwendolyn; Rabideau, Brooks; Robertson, Justin; Selwyn; Candice; Shaw, Christy; Shea, Allyson; Stenson, Alexandra; Streeter, Donna; Swofford, Jim; ter Horst, Eleanor; Vrana, Laura; VandeWaa, Elizabeth; Walker, Sean; Wassenaar, Christina; Wilbert, Arik; Wu, Charles (Kuan-Sheng); Thomas, Rebecca

**Attended on Zoom (18):** Baughn, Christina; Bokhari, Amber; Carmichael, Bishop; Cole, Tracy; Cutchen, William; Daniel, Casey; Davis, Sara; Dzwonkowski, Brian; Fesenmeier, Michael ; Gavrilita, Christina;;Godang, Romulus; Hauff, Caitlyn; Liebertz, Scott; Lohar, Bhushan; Minton, Bonnie; Pancione, Kirsten; Salvitti Fermin, Mariarita; Williams, Katie

**Excused (3):** Getch, Yvette; Brower, Greg; Huang, Jingshuan

**Unexcused (18):** Bunch, Jaclyn; Capasso, Tom ; Coronado, Yun; Davidson, Clay (Cordell); Fleck, Lorie; Grelet, Simon; Holliday, Candice; Holliday, Nicolette; Huang, Ying (Johnson); Macdonald, Rebecca; Marass, Ashley; Marri, Preethi; Mbaka, Maryann; McDonald, Tyler; Merritt, Brandy; Parsell, Karen; Pettway, Matthew; Jordan Shropshire

**Preliminary Business**

This meeting was called to order ~3:00 p.m. with the President of the Faculty Senate Christina Wassenaar, presiding. Quorum (which is 34 senators this month) was met.

**Approval** of Previous Meeting's Minutes (40 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions)

**Approval** of Agenda (40 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions)

**President's Report:**

**HB 580:** Christina Wassenaar updated us on what Alabama HB 580 entailed. We then discussed clarification on the Senate floor as to which provisions are truly new vs. already in place. We also discussed aspects of how the bill would affect higher education, the economy, and public perception of

our State that might be valuable bringing to law-makers' attention. One of our former FS Presidents informed us how feedback she and her Senate provided for SB 129 directly to the bill's sponsors had a positive influence on the final version of that bill. Finally, Christina Wassenaar suggested that we should have listening sessions to help inform faculty and give them an opportunity to ring in.

**Faculty Success Team:** Group are now being formed and should be finalized in August.

**Working Groups for Deans and FS:** Still in the works; concept is that only subgroups of Dean's & ExCom will meet at any given time.

### **Old Business:**

- **Salary Survey update:**
  - Still on time to have it included in this budget cycle
  - Faculty whose salary will be affected will receive a letter with normative data, the adjustment that will be made to their salary and the relevant schedule of when changes take effect.
  - Code issues that FS had been made aware of have been resolved at this time. Each program now uses the codes on the books with ACHE (previously, there were odd exceptions)
  - The info we'll get with the normative data is the data that Academic Affairs receives. It does not include the list of peer institutions chosen. It only includes the salary means with standard deviations.
  - College Navigator (which had been used in the demo to illustrate the process for finding peer institutions for each code) are a reasonable estimate of what Academic Affairs might end up using but not 100 % accurate in correlation - in part because College Navigator does not take into account if salary data is available from all the schools it has listed for all the ranks in question.
  
- **Voting on updates to FS Bylaws** that had been discussed at the previous meeting
  - The revisions had presented to the full body at the last Plenary for discussion; each was voted on at this Plenary
    - [bylaws2026feb \(ad hoc committee recommendations\) - FINAL.docx](#)
    - Proposed change to 1.1.5 - unanimous yes vote without abstentions
    - Proposed change to 1.2.1 - unanimous yes vote without abstentions
    - Proposed change to 2.1.1 - 39 - yes; 1 opposed; 0 abstain
    - 3.5.1
      - Friendly amendment to change "from faculty senate at large" to "by faculty senate at large" - unanimous yes vote without abstentions
      - 3.5.1 with friendly amendment - unanimous yes vote without abstentions
    - Proposed change to 3.8.2 - unanimous yes vote without abstentions
    - Proposed change to 9.2 - unanimous yes vote without abstentions

- **Accessibility/Title II:** We were reminded to take advantage of the "Accessible by Design" course provided by the ILC to help us learn how to use accessibility checkers in Canvas, Word, PPT and Adobe. The following prioritizing on accessibility correction step has been proposed to help faculty make their Canvas courses accessible.
  - Make sure the Canvas course shell itself is accessible
  - Add captions to Panopto videos
  - Use accessibility checker in Word to make sure Word docs are accessible (do that before converting them to PDF, if applicable & possible)
  - Use accessibility checker in PPT to make sure PPT docs are accessible (do that before converting them to PDF, if applicable & possible)
  - Convert PDFs
  - Run the You Do It Tool last
    - It is recommended not to copy over all files when duplicating a course
    - It is recommended to delete everything in a Canvas course that is not needed before fixing accessibility issues in the rest

**Reports from Committees:** all were requested to be submitted in writing prior to the meeting; none were given verbally at the meeting. Link to written reports: [FS Committee Reports](#)

- Evaluation (Clay Davidson)
- FacDev&Ment (Tracy O'Connor)
- FacSal&Ben (Geoffrey Hudson)
- Res&CreatAct (Rebecca Thomas)
- Sust&EnvirQual (Dalton Fox)
- Teach/Learn&Tech (Casey Brock)
- UnivPlan&Dev (Sean Walker)
- UnivPol&HandBk (Donna Streeter)
- Wellbeing&Ret (Caitlyn Hauff)
- *Bylaws Review Committee [ad hoc] (Candice Selwyn)*

**Reports from Caucus Leaders:** all were requested to be submitted in writing prior to the meeting; none were given verbally at the meeting. Link to written reports: [FS Caucus Reports](#)

- A&S (Eleanor ter Horst)
- CAHP (Casey Brock)
- CEPS (Caitlyn Hauff)
- SoC (Clay Davidson)
- COM (Greg Brower)
- CON (Elizabeth Vandewaa)
- ENGR (Brooks Rabideau)
- LIB (Tracy Cole)
- MCOB (James Swofford)
- SIM (Robin Bates)

**Reports from University Committees:** none were given verbally or in writing

New Business

Adjournment

*Minutes prepared by Alexandra C. Stenson (FS Secretary)*