

Minutes: 11 Sept 2025 UNO Faculty Senate Meeting

1. Roll Call (Juana Ibáñez, JI Secretary). Quorum was established.

University of New Orleans Faculty Senate Meeting Roster, 11 Sept 2025

		Representation	First	Last	Term	Committee	Attendance
1	1	Administration			25-26		
2	1	Staff Council	Coleen	Maidlow	25-26		
3	1	SG President	Joshua	Trochez	25-26		
4	1	Alumni Assoc	Nerolie	Rayson	25-25		MR
5	1	Adjunct	David	Lambour	25-26		an
6	1	COBA	Bridget	Bordelon	25-28	C	Bris for
7	2	COBA	Kabir	Hassan	23-26	A	mkh
8	3	COBA	DJ	Min	25-28	D	
9	4	COBA			23-26	B	
10	5	COBA	Cherie	Trumbach	24-27	SE, B	
11	1	COE	Satish	Bastola	24-27	C	duz
12	2	COE	Damon	Smith	24-27	A, B	DS
13	3	COE	Nicholas	Xiros	23-26	SE, D	YX
14	1	COLAEHD	Brian	Beabout	23-26	A	BB
15	2	COLAEHD	David	Beriss	24-27	B	DR
16	3	COLAEHD	Juana	Ibáñez (S)	24-27	SE, B	DR
17	4	COLAEHD	Max	Krochmal	24-27	D	my K
18	5	COLAEHD	Marc	Landry	23-26	Gen Ed.	MDL
19	6	COLAEHD	James	Mokhiber	24-27	SE, D	Weller
20	7	COLAEHD	Andrea	Mosterman	24-27	D	Weller
21	8	COLAEHD	Marla	Nelson	23-26	A	MTL
22	9	COLAEHD	Grace	Reinke	25-28	C	
23	10	COLAEHD	Lisa	Verner	24-27	A	SRD
24	11	COLAEHD	Michelle	Wade	23-26	A	
25	1	COS	Joel	Atallah	24-27	C	JK
26	2	COS	Rachel	Clostio	23-26	A	JK
27	3	COS	Corey	Dumesnil	25-28	A	
28	4	COS	Simon	Lailvaux	23-26	D	
29	5	COS	Steve	Rick	23-26	SE, B	ED
30	6	COS	Ben	Samuel	25-28	A	BS
31	7	COS	Chris	Summa (Pres)	23-26	SE, A	CS
32	8	COS	Phoebe	Zito	23-26	Gen Ed.	PT
33	1	Library	Abram	Himelstein	25-28	B	AA
34	2	Library	Connie	Phelps (VP)	24-27	SE, D	C/K

Key: Bold: Elected Senate Governance

Blue: Senate Executive Committee

Committees:

A - Academic

B - Budget

C - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

D - Administrative

Gen Ed. - General Education

2. Approval of the Minutes (JI)

Faculty Senate Minutes from 20 August 2025. David Lambour (DL) Moved to accept; Bridget Bordelon (BrB) seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Faculty Senate Minutes from 2 September 2025. Abram Himmelstein (AH) Moved to accept; Connie Phelps (CP) seconded. Unanimously accepted.

3. Committee Reports

Chris Summa (CS): no speaker today so today's meeting will focus on moving to the future.

a. Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee (Steve Rick, SR)

Meeting next week to select Chair. Questions on Budget radar include What is the present budget with adjuncts? What does the administration anticipate for their portion of the budget into the future. Other issues with budget to be discussed at the meeting.

b. Academic Committee (CS)

Setting up meeting for early next week to set up new person as Chair.

c. Faculty and Administrative Affairs Committee (Simon Lailvaux, SL)

Meeting next week. An administrator review policy is needed and the Grievance Policy is to be dealt with.

4. Call for Nominations for Administrative Representative and Discussion

CS – Faculty Senate still has a vacancy for an administrative representative. The Administration has provided CS with a name, Scott Pentzer (Assistant Provost for International Education and Interdisciplinary Studies). Are there any other nominations?

No nominations from the floor and the FSEC has discussed this nomination with no reservations so Scott Pentzer will be our administrative representative for the year.

5. Updates from the Faculty Senate President (CS)

a. General Updates

Executive Cabinet meeting summary. There is movement at the State-level to have everything dealing with Naval Engineering to be moved to Nichols State University

but President Kathy Johnson (KJ) says that is not going to happen. Nichols is developing a Marine Tech program.

Clancy Dubois, James Carville, James Breaux might be teaching courses on campus. We need to be careful that we don't look like the Democratic National Conference so UNO is reaching out to others, too.

Fall enrollment is 5670 total students. The budgetary implications are that we are down on the order of \$600,000. It is not clear where the missing funding will come from. Funding source depends on staying stable in enrollment going into the spring semester.

b. LSU System Transition

A document with a bunch of names was passed around the room regarding the LSU Transition team. The Transition Executive Committee is populated with lawyers, and business people as specified in the bill authorizing the transition.

There are 11 subcommittees.

Subcommittee membership includes people specific to academics, government, enrollment, real estate... This list cannot be published yet as LSU has to comment on it first. We do have UNO representatives (faculty and administrators) on the Academic, IT, and Research Subcommittees and CS can confirm that the people put on them are the people we would want on them.

Discussion Questions and Answers:

Do the people on the committees know they are on the committees? CS doesn't know.

How many on the main committee? Looks like 10 on main committee. 10-12 members per subcommittee.

c. Academic Leadership Council meeting yesterday

The "Washington Update" below shows how UNO is affected by what's going on at the federal level. This information was presented at the Executive Cabinet meeting yesterday and included in slides at the FS meeting today.

Washington Update: Federal Policy Developments Impacting UNO
Prepared for UNO Cabinet | September 10, 2025

UNO-Specific Federal Appropriations _ FY 2026 Senate Bills \$1.5 million in the Senate Appropriations Bill – for upgrades to the Shea Penland Coastal Research & Education Facility.

\$1.35 million in the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Bill – for Advanced Computing and Chemical Sciences Instrumentation Upgrades.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – Research Security Provisions

Both House and Senate versions include amendments increasing scrutiny on international research, requiring extensive disclosures, and imposing restrictions tied to foreign entity affiliations.

F&A; Reimbursement – Advocacy & Legal Wins

APLU continues advocating for the FAIR model, protecting full indirect cost recovery and supporting a two-year implementation period.

Federal courts have blocked 15% F&A; Caps across NIH, DOE, NSF, and DOD. Institutions, including UNO, may continue using negotiated rates.

Legal Status of 15% F&A; Caps

Agency	Cap Policy	Legal Status
NIH	15% cap (Feb 2025)	Blocked by Preliminary Injunction
DOE	15% cap (Apr 2025)	Blocked by Nationwide Injunction
NSF	15% cap (May 2025)	Vacated by Court – Under Appeal
DOD	15% cap (Jun 2025)	Blocked by Preliminary Injunction

FY26 Appropriations – Key Funding Trends

- NIH: 46.9B base + \$955M for ARPA-H
- SNF: House proposes 23% cut; Senate bills more favorable
- DOE Office of Science: +2%; ARPA-E cut by 24%
- Education: House bill eliminates SEOG, Title VI, GAANN, CCAMPiS; cuts Work Study 37%

International Students – Visa Rule Change

Proposed DHS rule ends ‘duration of status’ and shortens OPT grace period. Comments due Sept 29.

Executive Order on Grant Oversight

New EO would tighten grant priorities, reduce indirect costs, and increase documentation burdens for all drawdowns.

General Discussion ensued. Here are the comments and some questions and answers:

Q: Enrollment number questions. When it comes to \$600,000 shortfall. How many first year, full-time folks did we get this year? A: 1336 on PowerBI, but the Provost questioned that figure at the recent SGA meeting. New freshman 996 last year, this year 783.

Q: Why is PowerBI is so different? A: Dual enrollment has gone down significantly. Some schools had to drop out of program. Dual enrollment was 631 last fall; this year 365.

Q: Last year we were told the number for dual enrollment was in 800 range. Those students don't pay tuition. How much did we lose from losing so many students? A: Dual enrollment students pay \$150 per course but they are not paying at FTE rate of 25%. Dual enrollment contributes a lot less in the financial stream.

Is dual enrollment dropping our workload in our classes? The dual enrollment student money flow needs to be separated from main budget.

There is a 42% dual enrollment decline. KJ has been pushing to not include dual enrollment students in our student counts.

Is decline of dual enrollment an indicator for decline at UNO full time students?

5666 total students today on Power BI. Before the summer we did not have access to Power BI. Remember we asked over the summer to give us (Faculty Senate) access to Power BI so we now have access to that to track the numbers ourselves.

Q: There are problems with Power BI. Ran numbers a couple weeks ago. Total count was 195 less than going into Workday and running a query. Why would there be a 200-person difference between systems? A: PowerBI is updated from Workday number so might be a time lag.

Can Dr. Langston provide report?

Nikos Xiros (NX) – Regarding Marine Tech program at Nichols State. Marine BS, at Nichols, Their program is for sea-going officers; deck officers training for Marine Transportation is the program. Closest one is Galveston for that maritime program so Nichols is opening one. There is no significant overlap with our program so UNO has given consent for it to move forward. It helps facilitate the US Coast Guard license. Our school is teaching the designing of ship operations.

CS - Budget deficit – Dr. Arlene Wehle (interim CFO) said there has been a 4.05% decline in budget so about \$1.1 mil short but \$500,000 of that lower enrollment hole will be filled from 3% tuition increase this fall.

If there is a decline in mainstream first time students, the decline is a problem. Is this going to continue on?

There is a 9.4% decline in overall population, undergrad and grad. What are the numbers for other campuses? That way we can compare between colleges.

Can we request enrollment strategies from Dr. Langston, too?

Dr. Langston oversees all going on in Bursar's Office and Financial Aid. What's the plan for another bureaucratic disaster? Students still can't get their funds so can't get registered.

We need a committee to try to get things accomplished. Things can't be fixed just by Dr. Langston. We tried to get retention initiatives going but we started too late. Starting early in the year in coordination with everyone. What are top 5 things to improve enrollment and let committee from all over campus to make reports?

We put together a committee last year in the fall but don't know what happened. We should ask what happened with the team that was put together last year. We were supposed to present this plan at the leadership counsel meeting but the presentation didn't happen. At the Chairs Council there were more questions than answers.

CS – We can make a list of questions to send to Dr. Langston before he meets with us.

Q: Do we need a committee to put together questions to give him? A: CS has assigned this to the Academic Committee. Questions include: What are numbers; Why are the numbers different between data bases; What has been done to fix issues and what is going to be done? What are the plans to prevent software issues?

CS – Here is a question for the transition team: How is tenure going to be dealt with this year? March/April is when LSU system deals with tenure. UL does it in Aug so it is a top priority for faculty at UNO to know how to deal with tenure this year.

d. Accreditation (CPHE vs SACS-COC)

CS: A group of faculty members from southern states are asking for comments on a transition to CPHE as an accrediting body. The following are the PowerPoint slides at FS meeting today.

Commission for Public Higher Education

Slide: “Florida has set an example for the country in reclaiming higher education—and we’re working to make that success permanent. That means breaking the activist-controlled accreditation monopoly,” **said Governor Ron DeSantis**. “Today, I announced that a new accreditor, the Commission for Public Higher Education, will offer an alternative that will break the ideological stronghold. With transparent, rigorous, outcomes-based standards, this accreditor will help ensure the Free State of Florida leads the way in higher education for decades to come.”

<https://www.flgov.com/eog/news/press/2025/governor-ron-desantis-announces-first-its-kind-alternative-university-accreditor>

CS: Landry has signed an executive order to put together a committee to provide recommendations. States that are thinking about doing this are participating in FREA – Faculty for Responsible Education and Accreditation.

CS sent out request for feedback from faculty. Put together a draft with comments separated into good, bad, neutral. It is posted on the Faculty Senate Teams site along with the documents sent out with the email.

This was brought up in EC. President KJ said not worth worrying about right now we because don’t know if it will be accepted until 2028 or 2029.

Discussion:

Hard to feel passionate about accreditation bodies until SACSCOC tells us something is wrong...such as if it undermines academic freedom.

Q: Has SACSCOC made comments on this? A: DK says no.

Policy is not woke but it is tough to work with. Proposing a solution where there is no problem. Politically motivated and so unnecessary.

From reading email, glimpse into world that I don’t know much about but everything about the email requesting our feedback was fishy and scary with what is not known.

Q: Is the person real? A: Yes, he’s real.

- They say they have bylaws so not too new.
- Dr. Auter is professor of communication and former AAUP president and past ULL Senate President.
- His specialty is internet but there is no internet presence
- FL started this because governor wants it to happen there. What can we do about it? If our governor wants to go with it what choice do we have?
- We can vote on whether or not it is a good idea.

- This is a top down approach. We are a State university and have to follow state law so if they tell us to go to that accrediting agency we have to do.
- We can go on record that we don't support it and it is not a nationally recognized entity.
- What a group of faculty are trying to do is knowing what is likely to be coming so have a response in hand. If they are preparing for that moment they have something to fall back on to fight potential changes.
- I have worked with Dr. Auter and is a reasonable person so perhaps if we reach out to him to get some context.

Q: Who decides which accrediting body to align with? A: Whatever nationally accrediting body in your region that is who you go with. Trump has erased the "in your region" portion and that opens the door to become an accrediting body for the whole country should it go in that direction.

- Governor's order to decide whether or not switch.
- The task force will make a decision in Jan.
- SACSCOC has a long history of accreditation. We want to make sure our degrees are still recognized. It will take a long time for accreditation agency to get a reputation. If it is forced on us then what does it do to the value of the degrees if accreditation agency is not valued?

Q: Why is this happening now to create a new agency? What is the problem being addressed by CPHE and the very short time frame to be responding? A: The vast majority of the comments were in draft. CS is sending draft to everyone. Let's table discussion.

Q: Can Dr. Auter address the Senate or EC to tell us what they are doing?

CP – **Motion** to ask Dr. Auter for more information and speak to us virtually or in person.

Marc Landry - Seconded.

CS - Motion passes unanimously.

6. New Business

Q: Is there an update on syllabus question? Why were asked for all the syllabi? A: Request came in, referred to someone in the UL legal department, Brian Beabout over the summer told that had to share. DK got an opinion from Brendan saying syllabi were not part of the open record obligations. We still have not received a copy of the original request.

Q: Can we follow up to the actual request?

Q: Why did the story change? We should pursue why story changed from lawyers. Who has been asked to teach more and in what units? A: DK will have an idea by Sept 19 and will issue report by Oct 1.

Q: Can we ask him (DK) to change the way he asks for people to teach extra classes? A: CS will ask DK for more accurate statements.

7. Old Business

none

8. Adjournment

David Beriss: **Motion** to adjourn.

Andrea Mosterman seconded the motion.

Adjournment by acclamation at 1:37 pm