

University of New Orleans Faculty Senate Minutes, Nov 3, 2025

University of New Orleans Faculty Senate Meeting Roster, 3 Nov 2025

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

Key: Bold: Elected Senate Governance

Blue: Senate Executive Committee

Committees:

A - Academic

C - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

B - Budget

D - Administrative

Gen Ed. - General Education

1. Roll Call. Quorum achieved.

2. Approval of Minutes from Sept 11, 2025 meeting.

Andrea Mosterman motioned to approve as is. Connie Phelps seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Coleen Maidlow – Report from the Bursar's Office and eFollett

Students have been complaining to Bursar's office about eFollett system. Books not available as requested. Requesting information from faculty regarding how widespread is that problem?

eFollett is an all-or-nothing system. There is no opting out of the system after classes start. Charge is about \$27/credit hour. Students who opt out do not have the possibility of buying the book individually.

Discussion:

- Opt out now has to be done every semester.
- There are now many open source books and affordable books so opting out is possible
- President KJ has said UNO has huge debt with Follett so until debt is paid can't change that contract.
- Publishers are creating new textbooks to continue getting high prices. Older editions are out there that are cheap. Follett makes it difficult to get older editions. It is a bad idea to hold onto Follett. Follett doesn't let you keep textbook. Its policies are very predatory and they appear to have no concern for student learning.
- There is no appeals process for students.
- Follett prefers for digital version; It is the most affordable with the system. Talk to colleagues so can advise students best.
- Why is it taking so much time for Follett to provide individual sale of Mathworks program if they can provide it instantaneously if student opts in?
- Mathworks – create account and use for free 20 hrs a week. Show proof of student status and can pay \$100 and software doesn't need to be renewed. Program thus lasts for student. Not sure if individual teachers are requesting specific assignments in tandem with software or if everything is available in software.
- There is a regular schedule to send in book requests to Follett but it is not streamlined.
- As a grad coordinator, I can confirm that new students don't have any idea about opting out of Follett. Grad students should not have to use Follett as they rarely have textbook needs. It would be good if students could go to the bookstore to opt out.
- It is a faculty's personal choice to adopt readings from library and librarians have been very helpful to identify what is available. Useful to demonstrate how needed library can be.
- e-Books of some textbooks are available from the library, too.
- Perhaps tinkering of the contract is available due to LSU transition? LSU transition puts all contracts up. Barnes and Noble takes care of LSU book needs.

- Other publishers have all-inclusive programs.
- Follett works well for sciences but has gotten more predatory recently based on student comments
- Last spring students were cut off from Follett access if they had not paid on their tuition.
- Extra charges popped up on fee bills due to price change with Follett.
- CS will find out about contract and if going to be renewed.

4. Committee Reports

a. Budget and Fiscal Affairs (Steve Rick): met with CFO (Arlean Wehle). 1) The full adjunct budget was spent in the fall and she don't know what will happen in the spring. 2) Arena: the administration wants to shift ownership to state as it is not making money. Graduations are only way to earn money. Discussion: swimming pool management at Arena was taken over by a private company. Currently pool is closed due to needing repairs. Chairs meeting mentioned Arena issues, too.

b. Academic Committee (Rachel Clostio): 1) Workload policy. There is an upcoming meeting on Monday. There are questions on whether or not to move forward with it since it was written as part of UL, or should it be scrapped to match an LSU workload policy? 2) Academic dishonesty policy to talk with Meredith King to see how AI fits in with academic dishonesty. 3) Summer 2026 time frame. Leave it as is with time frame. Calendar already posted. How do we feel about Summer 2027 summer class start date in late May instead of in June? Discussion: Summer session ordinarily starts beginning of June. My suggestion was to leave 2026 dates alone and consider changing Summer 2027 since it has not yet published. There is a calendar meeting in the next 2 weeks. Academic year is moving forward by a week. Is there a systematic way of setting calendar? Memorial day and that weekend is when we would normally start to make it a full 8 weeks so they pushed it kind of late into June. 2026 there is a large break after May end and short break before fall. Elementary schools and high schools don't end until Memorial day. It is a problem if dates are moved. Last summer semester timing was great. Semester started June 2.

c. Faculty and Admin Affairs Committee – Simon Lailvaux is teaching. Chris Summa is presenting their meeting notes.

In order to provide the Faculty Senate more flexibility in seating the FS-appointed members of the University Courses and Curriculum Committee, the following change is proposed to the Senate Bylaws:

- Current wording:

Membership: This committee shall consist of one Senator from each College, as well as one non-Senate member from each College and the Library. The latter members of this committee will be chosen in consultation between the Senate representatives and pertinent administrators of each College and the Library.

- Proposed new wording:

Membership: This committee shall consist of one Senator from each College and one non-Senate member from each College and the Library. If an appropriate Senator cannot be found to represent a particular College, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee may appoint another faculty member, who is not a Senator, from the corresponding College. In all cases, at least two of the committee members representing the Senate must be current Senators. The second group of committee members (those not appointed directly by the Senate) will be chosen through consultation between the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the pertinent administrators of each College and the Library.

Background – This is a UCCC bylaws change suggestion so we are not limited to Senators when making appointments. There is a Senator cohort and nonSenator cohort to compose UCC. This is a substantive change. It lets the Senate appoint a representative that is not a Senator. Does anyone see any problems?

A motion was made by Nikos Xiros to suspend rules in order to consider this bylaw change. Seconded by Connie Phelps. The Rules were suspended unanimously.

Nikos Xiros made a motion to approve the changes. Seconded by Connie Phelps. The bylaws change was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Why are senators needed on the UCCC? The switch to the UL system eliminated faculty counsel committees and put power in the faculty senate. Administrators had to get work done despite lack of committees. Asked for the Senate to take back control of the UCCC since Faculty Counsel had been eliminated. One representative from each college should be a Senator to make sure it is a Senate Committee. This keeps reporting function in the Senate. If we don't have enough Senators, creating an ad hoc Senator to connect to the Senate makes sense.

5. Updates from the Faculty Senate President (Chris Summa)

1. Summer 2026

1. The starting and finishing dates schedule for Summer 2026 will not be modified
2. They are going to make sure that there is an outward-facing listing of Summer course offerings
3. They plan to spin up a “quick admit” process to make it easier for non-UNO students to get registered quickly and painlessly
4. In a meeting with Kathy I brought up how important it was to lift the \$5K faculty salary cap to:
 1. Ensure faculty buy-in (i.e. help improve summer enrollment)
 2. Maintain what is left of Faculty morale
 3. Maintain academic rigor
5. She said she would look at the numbers and discuss with Darrell and Arlean – I will of course bring this up again

Discussion:

- At the Chair’s Council Friday it was stressed that measures need to be readjusted. We asked for numbers to compare year by year profits. Lost a lot of classes so less revenue. Are these policies bringing in the profits desired? If we get the numbers will be shared. Grad courses that are suffering because no one is going to teach them. Last couple of years people were willing as “team players” but not sustainable. The CFO chairs the Council meeting and will be asked for profit information
- We need to hear from them ASAP. It is hard to work on a schedule if we do not know what summer compensation is going to be. It needs to be finalized within next 2 weeks. Summer courses are for reduced tuition – 33% less. President went to the board asking for full tuition. 1.5 years later that has not happened following from advice of Edwin Litolff (former CFO). No conversations were held with us while cutting our salaries. This needs to be board approved but administrators have never asked for approval. Summer salaries are not about buying in or morale but for survival. United Way said living wage in New Orleans is \$85k/year. UNO is taking away the little salary that can be earned. Put back the way it was or give a good justification.

- Student fees stay the same despite summer tuition reduction and those fees don't go into faculty pay.
- Edwin Litolff was convinced that raising tuition would tank summer enrollment. There is no data to demonstrate that. 2018 was the last time that data was run for summer information. There is no data to show that when tuition dropped, enrollment went up. Tuition reduction first occurred in 2016 under John Nickow but haven't seen nonUNO students at levels to justify tuition reduction. What do other Universities do? Do other Universities reduce their tuition? Even across the state?
- The first time summer salaries were reduced it saved the University 400K. All of that is salary that would have been in faculty pockets. As chair you can see spreadsheet and see that our salaries are paying for this. We desperately need a workload policy to get us through so no random decisions made that impact us. What happened to Chair compensation? The administration has essentially applied a pay cut while increasing workload. Restoration of normal faculty workload with compensation needed.
- Isn't UNO still cheaper than everyone else? There are so many fees that accompany those tuition. Fees are more than tuition. Unfortunately, fees get diverted from their proposed destination and the tuition determines whether or not the class makes. Fees that pay for the people are still not going where they go.

2. Faculty Involvement in Recruiting

- We finally have a mechanism (thanks to Joshua Trochez, Juana Ibanez, and Jamie Dello Stritto for coming through on this) for getting Faculty out to schools!
- I've sent to the the "AllFaculty" list the link to a form.
- As of today we have 3 respondents (it was spun up on Thursday) and Juana has already went to an event at Delgado last week
- **Please** encourage your constituents to get involved!

3. Faculty / Staff / Student Mental Health

- There have been numerous incidents lately of mental health / anger management issues amongst faculty, students, and staff
- The administration was not able to hire a full time counselor – they are back at square one

- Leanne Sipe suggested that we offer de-escalation training soon (this semester) for Faculty and Staff who do not have counselor training

Discussion:

- UNO has noted a rise in anger management issues. There is no student health on campus right now. The contract with an outside provider still in discussion. Note that if students go to facilities nearby on Elysian Fields, UNO will try to reimburse them through the fee money. Counseling services is backed up with the students it has now. The UNO Emergency Fund is limited.
- Please don't add more trainings. Training would not be mandatory. It is for faculty who want to know how to react to particular issues. Note that it is not a professor's responsibility and the University has to hire the responsible professionals. This semester already has seen students who need support. We cannot ask faculty to step in on a services students need. More faculty training is the easiest and cheapest way out but we are not professionally trained for this. If a student says they are suicidal, immediately connect them with services. Michelle Wade will provide a counselor's professional opinion on how to help the students in an email so it can be forwarded. There used to be an alert system in place to help students in crisis but it doesn't really work anymore. Privateer Alerts fills out a form for you and is sent to someone who will reach out to them. The counseling interns from Southeaster are usually on campus for student mental health crises but their credentialed supervisor has not yet been hired.

4. LSU Online

The following things need to be addressed – they touch on a number of different issues, including Faculty Workload and Faculty Compensation. Sooner, rather than later, we should come up with a written proposal that answers these questions as a starting point for internal negotiation with admins:

1. How does a course on LSU Online count towards the workload of a Faculty member?
2. If it is being done for extra compensation, how much is the Faculty member paid? Is this different for Spring/Fall vs. Summer?
3. Where does the money go? What percentage will flow back to the department / unit offering the course?
4. What control does the faculty member have over the course once it has been placed on LSU Online?

Discussion: Regarding the LSU Alexandria contact – everything is organized at the campus itself so crucial we have system in place to make sure that some of the \$ goes to depts to hire the faculty to offer those courses. If the system is in place it offers a protection of intellectual property and compensation. This is part of the workload policy discussions, too. What committee is this assigned to? Steve Rick is happy to discuss this with the budget committee. Should we discuss the program with LSU and other campuses to see how they are doing it? LSU Online should know the policies. 70% of the tuition is given to the Universities. 30% stays with LSU online. The Academic and Administrative Committee document is in teams to allow for everyone to give input.

5. AP-AA-18.4 – Dismissal of Tenured Faculty Policy

- This policy is up for review (with no changes proposed) but the Administrative committee needs to look at this carefully and decide if we have any comments of the proposed changes
- This is apparently due THIS WEEK (I just found out about it this morning) to the Board of Regents, so – **high priority!**

Discussion: This is another example of the faculty senate not doing its job in the past and the administration did something else. Faculty conduct policy details. Policy was caught up in a faculty review. John Nicklow didn't know we had a policy and they created their own. Connie Phelps was contacted by Nicklow to find out about a committee and who was on it. The Committee didn't exist. CP provided him with the policy. Grievance and Conduct policies are intertwined and not passed yet. Hearing/Charges policy. UL said won't use policies because never went through. Remember, Faculty Senate Charges Committee – doesn't exist. Dinah Payne was working on policy to get one committee together -- Faculty Senate Hearings Committee – to handle hearings and grievances. It has Every three years the Board of Regents does a review of policies. The Administrative Committee will review whatever policy is in place. UL didn't like old policy with LSU-speak and didn't like the new one that was proposed. It might be safe just to use the existing policy.

6. LSU Transition Team Updates

1. First meeting of Transition Team will be on November 5th from 9AM-NOON in UC 203 (Hickey Ballroom)
2. Meeting with LSU Faculty Senate President and LSU President

On hiatus until a new LSU President is announced (tomorrow)

1. Only two UNO Faculty members are on the original invitation list
2. We have not been formally told what subcommittees to which we have been assigned
3. Timeline – subcommittees are going to be expected to present their findings by December 31st. (!!!)

Discussion: There has been no guidance regarding if this meeting is open or not. President KJ didn't say it was a closed meeting. The press will be there. Beyond whomever is listed in the legislation, no one knows who is on the subcommittees. It's unacceptable that we seem to have no representation from the Arts / Humanities on the transition team.

6. Adjournment

Andrea Mosterman moved to adjourn : Max Krochmal Seconded. Meeting adjourned by acclamation. 2:05 pm.