

# UNO Senate Meeting Minutes 28 Jan 2026

## 1. Roll Call, Juana Ibanez (JI), Secretary

**University of New Orleans Faculty Senate Meeting Roster, 28 Jan 2026**

		Representation	First	Last	Term	Committee	Attendance
1	1	Administration	Scott	Pentzer	25-26		W.P.
2	1	Staff Council	Coleen	Maidlow	25-26		
3	1	SG President	Joshua	Trochez	25-26		J.T.K.
4	1	Alumni Assoc	Nerolie	Rayson	25-25		J.K.
5	1	Adjunct	David	Lambour	25-26		D.L.
6	1	COBA	Bridget	Bordelon	25-28	B	B.B.
7	2	COBA	Kabir	Hassan	23-26	A	
8	3	COBA	DJ	Min	25-28	D	
9	4	COBA	Ray	Rodriguez	23-26	B	
10	5	COBA	Cherie	Trumbach	24-27	SE, C	C.T.
11	1	COE	Satish	Bastola	24-27	C	S.B.
12	2	COE	Damon	Smith	24-27	SE, B	D.S.
13	3	COE			23-26	SE, D	
14	1	COLAEHD	Brian	Beabout	23-26	A	B.B.
15	2	COLAEHD	David	Beriss	24-27	B	D.B.
16	3	COLAEHD	Juana	Ibanez (S)	24-27	SE, B	
17	4	COLAEHD	Max	Krochmal	24-27	D	M.K.
18	5	COLAEHD	Marc	Landry	23-26	Gen Ed.	M.L.
19	6	COLAEHD	James	Mokhiber	24-27	SE, D	J.M.
20	7	COLAEHD	Andrea	Mosterman	24-27	D	
21	8	COLAEHD	Marla	Nelson	23-26	A	M.N.
22	9	COLAEHD	Grace	Reinke	25-28	C	G.R.
23	10	COLAEHD	Lisa	Verner	24-27	A	
24	11	COLAEHD	Michelle	Wade	23-26	A	
25	1	COS	Joel	Atallah	24-27	C	
26	2	COS	Rachel	Clostio	23-26	A	
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	S.R.
30	6	COS	Ben	Samuel	25-28	A	B.S.
31	7	COS	Chris	Summa (Pres)	23-26	SE, A	C.S.
32	8	COS	Phoebe	Zito	23-26	Gen Ed.	
33	1	Library	Abram	Himmelstein	25-28	B	A.H.
34	2	Library	Connie	Phelps (VP)	24-27	SE, D	C.P.

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**

Quorum is attained.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes (JI)

- Minutes 24 Nov 2025, delayed for approval for next meeting.
- Minutes 4 Dec 2025. Abram Himmelstein motion to approve, seconded by Brian Beabout. Minutes approved by acclamation.
- Minutes 15 January 2026. Max Krochmal motion to approve, seconded by Cherie Trumbach. Minutes approved by acclamation.

Slide presentation by Faculty Senate President Chris Summa (CS) begins.

### 3. New FSEC Representative

Slide 1:

Welcome to **Damon Smith (Mechanical Engineering)** as the new College of Engineering representative on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Many thanks to Nikolas Xiros for his service (he is currently on a leave of absence to try to get some research done)

### 4. Updates from the Faculty Senate President (CS)

Slide 2:

a. General Updates

1. FSEC had a meeting with the transition principals “plus” which I’ll talk about shortly
2. The EAB Academic Programs Analysis is not yet complete, but the transition team principals have begun looking at enrollment data.

b. Summer Teaching – Proposed formula for faculty compensation for Summer 2026

1. Base of \$5K assuming a 10 student base for a standard lecture course. For a lab or graduate course, which is more labor intensive, the base number of students is 6.
  1. Number of students over base: \$500/student over base up to a max of \$8K. Basically same as last year but raising the cap.
  2. Number of students under base: \$500/student reduction under base down to a minimum of \$4K

**Discussion:**

- email sent for information that senate needed immediately
- EAB not yet done but transition team has started to look at enrollment data provided by Provost Darrell Kruger (DK) and we received an email to be shown shortly.
- Summer teaching; no updates. Potential middle ground proposal from Brian Beabout.
- Is there a difference between graduate and undergraduate compensation?
- What about mandatory courses taught over summer?

- Can we discuss this and make a simple structure?
- Last year Chairs and Deans discussed this and mandatory classes were exceptions to the general guidelines. Salaries were prorated.
- I taught a mandatory graduate course that ended up prorated just to get students graduated. There is no easy way to specify exceptions but we do need to specify that there are classes that need to be approved of beyond the normal funding.
- Suggest we add Graduate courses to statement and those for lab courses and lower the student base to 6.
- One of Deans asked for quick turn around so there is likely a draft out there that needs to be approved by the President before it moves forward.
- CS – so this work is too late?
- Unsure. One of the conversations happened when discussing tenure while the summer school draft was with President Kathy Johnson (KJ)
- DK met with us and mentioned waiting for spring enrollment; enrollment is lower than anticipated we have heard nothing for what the plans were. This slide gives a plan to increase the cap to get faculty interested in teaching this summer
- Let's get this out before the word is finalized. Get this done quickly.
- Why is there a maximum of \$8k instead of \$10k?.
- Proposal is trying to make it appealing to the administration. \$10k is too high.
- \$10k is where we were before the drop came.
- Some context is that at the last transition meeting we were told we are still over \$20 million in the red and our feet are being held in the fire.
- Is this proposal a permanent or temporary solution?
- LSU has a 2/9 figure for summer teaching. I don't know if it is 1/9 for each class or 2/9 per course.
- Let's specify that this is a his is a temporary proposal. It levels the salary across all the colleges and we need to keep summer salary open for future restructuring.
- CS – Is there a motion to propose this formula to admin?

Marla Nelson motioned to propose this formula to the administration. Seconded by Grace Reinke. Motion passes unanimously.

- CS - Proposal will be sent today.

## 5. LSU System Transition

Slide 3:

**Last Meeting Jan 22nd**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with Jeanette Weiland, LSU Supervisor Rico Alvendia, Provost Darrell Kruger, Provost Troy Blanchard (LSU), Trey Jones (LSU General Counsel), and Todd Woodward (LSU VP of Marketing and Communications). UNO President Kathy Johnson unfortunately had a conflict and was unable to attend.

Slide 4:

LSU Transition (*continued*)

#### **Email Correspondence from Jeanette Weiland**

Hi Team,

The process of reviewing academic programming begins now. As I stated in person when we last met, things will get more difficult before they get easier, and as leaders we must make tough and efficient decisions, albeit with grace and sensitivity. Since the number one complaint we've heard from faculty is that you are not involved in decision-making, consider this a first step in analyzing the data as we await the EAB assessments.

Attached to this email are two documents:

A PDF showing the breakdown of enrollment numbers sorted by UG, Masters, Doctoral, and Cert, plus by Program and College

I realize the heat maps can be misleading, yet everyone can understand the point

Slide 5:

LSU Transition (*continued*)

#### **Email Correspondence from Jeanette Weiland**

An Excel workbook that includes the original enrollment data provided by Darrell with some additional "Pivot" tabs added by me to help me sort the data for visual purposes

Before sharing this with President Rousse, I would appreciate it if you would be so kind as to please:

- Provide any current and historical context/commentary you believe would be helpful for administration to know from your perspectives as representatives of these academic programs
- Assuming we must cut some programs, then provide any ideas for how to build logic to decide which programs should be phased out or eliminated

I realize this is not an easy task, and if you wish to recuse yourself then that is perfectly fine and we will understand.

Please send me your responses no later than Monday, February 9, and thank you for your partnership and thoughts, as they will help us develop the best plan possible to move the university forward.

Kind regards,

-JR

**Discussion:**

- CS – There was an email sent to you with the important news that came out of that meeting. Our tenure will be honored.
- CS - We opened with question of “will UNO cease to exist”. They made time to come down and talk to us. Trey Jones referred back to the original bill. UNO will have a substantive change in organization at the top. We surmised that UNO is not going to be wiped off the map and will be renamed LSU New Orleans. We are doing business as LSU New Orleans or transition as UNO with name change as second step.
- The legislation provides for change in systems not for a change in the character of UNO.
- Our contracts are with UNO, not the UL system.
- CS – We have a purgatory timeframe for those going up for promotion. Which system are we under? UL side is likely to vote for the tenure before the transition and LSU system will honor it.
- Benefit information came out via email. UNO had contracted as UNO instead of with UL system so there is no hurry to change benefits over in July.
- We are all Louisiana so why would benefits change?
- CS - UL system has tuition benefit for family members and employees and not clear if LSU has that
- Was there a discussion of honoring internal contracts and policies?
- Any contract with the university should be maintained.
- The contract is being violated.
- Addressed this with workload discussion. Lots of people are doing things outside of their contracts out of the kindness of their heart, including chairs, graduate coordinators, and extra classes.
- While aligning policies we need to align with existing contracts – no extra work and restitution.
- It is difficult to present actual workload looking at what LSU received. 2024 and 2025 Fall is what they received originally.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the semesters.

- If looking at productivity with teaching and research they need to understand that service and teaching went up tremendously to the detriment of research.
- We keep saying this and we need to keep saying it.
- I was concerned when they asked for workload information but only the most recent workload was provided, which is abnormal. A more long term workload view is needed for a reality base. If they are only looking at the most recent spring and fall it will show a lot more are teaching. Submission of the longer term workloads is a reality. Deans are asking transition team to look at the long term workload instead of just what was done this last year to try to shore up our budget.
- There are program level problems; teacher level problems with shift in workload. Can't look at teaching and research separately. Can't judge individual programs because funding patterns were shifted. We keep repeating this info. We need to hear the unique issues so it can be presented.
- Our APs have not changed. We got an email from DK suspending the workload AP but the AP still exists.
- How much strength in AP?
- AP has formulas for compensation rates and FTEs. Service and teaching load in the AP, too. The email suspended the AP and we have not gotten a response as to whether or not an email is an appropriate procedure to cancel out an AP.
- LSU has PS – policy statements.
- What is the process under LSU system if AP are violated?
- Troy Blanchard said we need to consider accreditation process If we want to say APs are in force then SACs can be happy.
- It might be good to nudge the administration back to our workload AP.
- Talk with general counsel about these issues.
- If you have tenure, what happens if the out of program review process is unknown by counsel?
- CS – All the transition team members have said that anything that can alter our status as an accredited university is nothing that they want.
- No uniform thought process. Todd Woodward is looking for no negative news. Others may have thrown out other terms realizing the implications to us or the public but Todd would push back against bad ideas because of the press.
- Marketing of UNO by LSU is going to be started.
- CS – An email with the new logo was sent out yesterday.
- There is no information on new leadership.
- Raised issue of only double deans so we do not have enough help.
- JRW had just reviewed our organization structure charts.

- CS – Administrative structures discussed. They do not want to fold our research people into A&M. We will keep our own research office. Purchasing was brought up as a centralized process shift.
- Procurement for other campuses run through A&M.
- Clarify, do they want to claim credit for our research? They have a top 50 university goal.
- CS – From bean counting perspective. Money to be counted as LSU funds.
- 3 others at transition meeting don't remember it that way.
- CS – we will clarify. They are presenting themselves as being one entity.
- We are not going to be a satellite campus.
- Team was very vague and inconsistent on how applying terms.
- The positive take away is it is clear there is attention from people to try to help us. Legal council is restructuring all our contracts to not pay as much. Lots of conversations with President Rouse. Working with workday problems. There is an interest in helping things along. Recruiting plans in place. Holding people accountable and helping us with recruiting.
- CS – LSU has several thousand students they can't admit and they are fitting those geographically and sending apps to UNO that meet our standards. 105 students = \$1 million
- \$250K in debt forgiven by Chartwell due to negotiations with LSU
- CS – Discussions showed that budget needs are priority and what they are trying to do to balance the budget and initiatives into the future. It was mentioned that someone in the library be allowed to discuss their budget, too.
- We would like to spend the money that has been allocated to us (library). LOUIS costs \$200K and that was the only thing funded.
- CS – while EC meeting going on got email from JR Weiland (JRW). EAB is not done yet but they do have the numbers. w/pdf and request to send responses no later than Feb 9. This is what we were trying to get ahead of with our program narratives. DK is compiling the narratives he has and will send these to JRW. We have come up with a response to this. Response is not finished.
- "before sharing with President Rouse" ; he wants to see program demand before cuts are made.
- CS – before the 9<sup>th</sup> we have to provide context for our programs.
- CT – We have mentioned and reiterated that issues in the past that cutting programs does not necessarily result in cost savings. That is the context that needs to be provided. Some of the low numbers are related to new programs.
- *Chris showed working document for response. JM authored most of this.*

- Good letter.
- CS - Some of the wording will be added in regarding has happened before but didn't go well.
- Says everything we are saying in here. Widely disseminate to mobilize.
- CS – I will send it to all the people that had been cc'd on original email from JR.
- Please share it with all the faculty members, too. It is a slow process. All the numbers for the last two years are bad numbers.
- Trying to keep the channels open
- Our enrollments do not indicate marketing demand. There is no marketing support from UNO. These numbers do not represent marketing demand.
- Purging doesn't help with numbers either.
- What is amazing is how we have functioned for so long with so little.
- Withdrawing of the marketing money for the MBA program resulted in a disastrous fall in the program.
- Reduction of furloughs and staff, all impacted numbers so reduced ability to provide students with customer service.
- CS – should we invite JRW to a faculty senate meeting?
- Can't read the table.
- We have lost faculty so our enrollments will go down.
- This shows credit hours instructed and SCH. JRW is asking us for help in figuring out logic to phase things out. Enrollment shouldn't be sole criteria. Ideas on how to build logic on programs.
- It was pointed out that the external finance report showed academics yielded \$2.5 million profit. If academics are not a financial drain on the budget, why not continue to following the low completer program for phase outs?
- CS – at last meeting used similar language. Mentioned there is a process for low completer programs. It is not mandated by the UL system, just that we have a process. DK explained the process. This was the first time JRW heard about that. DK had not sent her the process at that point. Rouse is aware there is a low completer process. Not excusing the language but give her grace since she doesn't know the mechanics of academic programs at the University. We asked DK to provide all that information to JR. Do we need to make another ask to heads of units to send changes to DK?
- Outside consultants who don't know UNO don't know what is going on. Until you look and see what is going on, judgement calls that might eliminate programs are unwarranted.
- What is our response to students regarding program viability? What would LSU say? What to tell students about the future of our programs.

- CS – Troy Blanchard et al were saying things along the lines of boosting programs that are doing well or bring them back up to speed and then bring the poorer programs up. These are two different perspectives. No impression that the LSU Provost was lying to us.
- However, not all of them on the same page.
- For years, we have had a lack of support from the Administration and problems with students enrolling. Shouldn't systemic issues should be resolved before we deal with academic changes? The system is fighting against academics.
- It was brought up that this is an enrollment problem.
- There is no support for marketing. It caused our College of Education to become a School of Education. If the administration isn't willing to support academics... we are constantly getting asked for help because students can't get registered. When we say things to the administration they are not able to help.
- I agree with those points and the data are uniquely flawed; numbers are flawed. Academics are the profit center for the university. I don't think there should be cuts at all and there should be a moratorium to talking about this for a couple years until new marketing is in place. Faculty need more than 3 days to decide what is being taught or how programs can be described. IDS major needs the courses offered by ANTH and GEOG but those numbers don't show up in the charts.
- In the past, had faculty leave in strategic areas.
- We need a strategy.
- We have one but it is not followed.
- If they are taking us over this is not likely to be a year 1 balanced budget.
- Deans were operating under assumption that there will be a full year before any cuts.
- Advocacy with legislature needed.
- CS – I will modify the letter to reflect these comments and send it as soon as possible.

Slide 6:

LSU Transition (*continued*)

**Reminder : Next Transition Team Public Meeting**

Wednesday, February 4th 9AM in the University Center Ballroom

Slide 7:

LSU Transition (*continued*)

LSUOnline Revenue Sharing (External):

1. We were thanked by administration by coming up with a draft policy
2. It was mentioned that for LSU A&M this is dealt with primarily as extra compensation (they don't have anywhere near the same challenges that we have with extra work that is not in our professional purview)
3. It was suggested that there be a separate, restricted account for these funds to simplify accounting at the University level. I fully support this.

## 6. New Business

There is a space utilization meeting Friday.

It is an open town hall meeting.

## 7. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn by Brian Beabout. Seconded by Abram Himmelstein. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting ends at 1:53 pm.

1:53 pm