

UNO Faculty Senate Minutes 9 Feb 2026

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

University of New Orleans Faculty Senate Meeting Roster, 9 Feb 2026

	Representation	First	Last	Term	Committee	Attendance
1	1 Administration	Scott	Pentzer	25-26		AS
2	1 Staff Council	Coleen	Maidlow	25-26		AM
3	1 SG President	Joshua	Trochez	25-26		JT
4	1 Alumni Assoc	Nerolie	Rayson	25-25		NK
5	1 Adjunct	David	Lambour	25-26		DL
6	1 COBA	Bridget	Bordelon	25-28	B	
7	2 COBA	Kabir	Hassan	23-26	A	KH
8	3 COBA	DJ	Min	25-28	D	JM
9	4 COBA	Ray	Rodriguez	23-26	B	RR
10	5 COBA	Cherie	Trumbach	24-27	SE, C	
11	1 COE	Satish	Bastola	24-27	C	SB
12	2 COE	Damon	Smith	24-27	SE, A, B	
13	3 COE			23-26	SE, D	
14	1 COLAEHD	Brian	Beabout	23-26	A	BB
15	2 COLAEHD	David	Beriss	24-27	B	DB
16	3 COLAEHD	Juana	Ibanez (S)	24-27	SE, B	JIB
17	4 COLAEHD	Max	Krochmal	24-27	D	MK
18	5 COLAEHD	Marc	Landry	23-26	Gen Ed.	
19	6 COLAEHD	James	Mokhiber	24-27	SE, D	JM
20	7 COLAEHD	Andrea	Mosterman	24-27	D	AM
21	8 COLAEHD	Marla	Nelson	23-26	A	ML
22	9 COLAEHD	Grace	Reinke	25-28	C	
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	CD
28	4 COS	Simon	Lailvaux	23-26	D	SL
29	5 COS	Steve	Rick	23-26	SE, B	SR
30	6 COS	Ben	Samuel	25-28	A	
31	7 COS	Chris	Summa (Pres)	23-26	SE, A	CS
32	8 COS	Phoebe	Zito	23-26	Gen Ed.	PZ
33	1 Library	Abram	Himmelstein	25-28	B	AH
34	2 Library	Connie	Phelps (VP)	24-27	SE, D	CP

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 reached.

2. Minutes Approval (JI)

Minutes: 24 Nov 2026

Discussion on edits to the minutes. Misspelling corrected. Corey Dumesnil motion to approve minutes. Seconded by David Beriss. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Chris Summa (CS) President Updates

Slide 1: President's Updates

General Updates

1. Enrollment Data response – due today
 1. The enrollment data in the spreadsheet seems to be inaccurate
 1. It needs to be made clear that some programs are not being offered at additional cost – courses would be taught anyway in another program
 2. Provost has shared program narratives and our in-place Low Completer process
 3. Summer Teaching – Proposed formula rejected
2. Summer teaching proposed formula rejected
 1. Because of current enrollment / budget situation and potential cashflow issues in April or May
3. 3-year Accelerated Baccalaureate Degrees (ULS)

Discussion of “2. Summer Teaching Proposed Formula Rejected”

- Summer teaching is paying \$5k/course. Some departmental adjustments.
- The proposal letter doesn't stop departments from supplementing the summer salary.
- If college can find ways to find more funds they will do that from the college.
- There is nothing in the letter that says departments can supplement the salary.
- The letter is the same as what was released last year. There have been back and forth negotiations for specific situations, for example if teaching a 4 credit hours faculty member should be paid more. The Dean has to consent to negotiations. Last year that statement was in letter, too.
- It is incredibly disappointing that chairs had written for data and a conversation justifying the need for this low salary got no response. Administrators have waited until the schedule is due to confirm no negotiations on the salary. It is not fair that upper admins are not taking summer pay cuts for solidarity with faculty low pay. Funds for the expensive evaluations being done at UNO could have been used by payroll. Clearly, faculty that continue to be furloughed (due to lack of adequate salary in summer) is occurring with no conversation with administration. Faculty are completely ignored. Put this out again.
- CS – nice to have a consolatory movement to the center.
- What can we do about it? No one is happy about it.
- The upper administration is looking at low summer salary as a problem solver. We are asking for more money. Faculty were told that this is a temporary thing and the administration is looking at it as a problem solved.

- The administration needs summer courses to get through the fiscal year and sustain operations. If we don't teach, they have nothing.
- If we don't teach, they will hire adjuncts.
- The administration is consistently taking advantage of those of us who keep working.
- To provide everyone with their 1/9 salary, it will cost an additional \$500k in salary, If the tuition discount was rectified, then that generates \$1.5 mil which would solve the salary problem.
- From the chair side we have been trying to get information on how much was saved with the course salary reduction. If the return on investment was bigger from regular summer to salary reduction. We have been asking for these schedules since last year. We have been told that we have to get the schedule finalized by Feb 20 during spring break. We recognize that the advising side will be impacted by late submission of the schedule. I want to get information to the advisors but until confirmation from administration regarding salaries comes through then I can't make the schedule. The benchmarks for when this (low salary) is no longer temporary are needed. At what point can we go back to regular numbers? The information request is not unreasonable or out of the norm but useful so we can operate at the department level. It is sad we are not getting the responses. At a minimum we need to push for the responses so we can figure out what the next steps are. Everyone is still in limbo.
- We have asked about the tuition increase and did a lower tuition mean we got more students? We don't think it did. But we haven't been given that information. We are still in the dark on information we have asked for. Complete silence. Milking faculty and then have a 3-hour meeting in the ballroom. How much did that cost? That represents money spent on stuff to make sure that people who work in the summers.
- The salary proposal we put together would have faculty buy in and would have increased enrollment and so pay for itself. That is why it was crafted the way we did. Is another letter wanted by the Senate?
- Perhaps a resolution? They haven't paid attention to them before.
- I am hoping for some explanation attached to the reluctance to implement our proposal. We should send a letter expressing our concerns and the items we are looking for. Data is laudable request. Benchmarks for when we can go back to normal so we can plan ahead, is another.
- CS – There was a meeting with Darrell last week. It was mentioned that we start the summer as UNO in one fiscal year, and end as LSU in the new fiscal year. Can there be a salary bump when LSU takes over? No promises can be made. I can write a letter asking for data. Resolution or letter?
- Letter asking for rationale for their decision.

- It was asked for before but no justification made. What was the process? We have someone from the administration here that might be able to speak to this issue.
- President Kathy Johnson (KJ) – I haven't seen summer notification letter. I want to make sure that an explanation is provided. There is a tremendous amount of concern regarding furloughs into the future and we don't want to go back to that. There was deliberation with the proposal with LSU and our CFO and they were concerned that the money wasn't there to pay for the scale-able salaries. We were repeatedly asked for full use of both sessions so perhaps paid twice for same class. Will try to put the explanation to you. Workload information and data requests are keeping our in-house people busy.
- Why are we still having reduced tuition? It has to go before the Board to get it increased. Know that we have to go to the Board to get the increase. There has been lots of time to do that.
- KJ – We took steps to increase the summer tuition but Edwin Litolff (then CFO) suggested that for last summer it would impact us negatively and for this summer we asked the UL CFO but they don't want to make any changes to policy until LSU weighs in on policy changes.
- The UL Board said we should not make changes unless LSU approves but we never went to LSU Board.
- KJ – We are not in the LSU system, yet. Budget of one-time costs (like summer salaries) cannot be spent on recurring costs.
- In summers the departments have to break even. If there are profits, then departments can use the profits to balance salaries. Have the numbers for summer changed so much that profits are not generated?
- KJ – We are bankrupt. Summer money is being used to pay debt. I'm sorry that the numbers haven't been sent to you all. I need help from budget office to help get you those numbers.
- Profit sharing systems have changed as well. Profit sharing to college-level changed. That profit wasn't shared to the colleges anymore. Everything made in the summer goes to the general budget which speaks to the bad shape of the budget. I need to be able to tell my department what we should be looking for. A one-time budget fix is happening as a 2-3 year thing now so hard to ask people to do more when every year it is the same argument of needing a one-time thing. After 3 years, they can't do it anymore. We need to envision a path forward. It is not enough to say "this is the last year"; we have heard that before. The data might provide the encouragement. My faculty don't trust me. It is hard to do my job when I don't know what to say anymore. What would be needed to get us out of this? A detailed map would be helpful to the faculty to some degree.
- CS – Resolution?

- Write back and request the data.
- CS –Will do that.

Discussion of “3. 3-year accelerated Baccalaureate”

- CS - This previous Friday UNO received a document from UL system asking for input on a 3 -year accelerated baccalaureate. It was sent to us as addendum on agenda. There was no Senate Academic committee meeting last week. FSEC discussed it, and DJ Minn (DJM), Brian Beabout and the Deans received it. All the things we talked about were the same arguments.
- On prima facia it is not bad idea but in countries where this is seen, there is an expectation that the preparation of students in liberal arts and mathematics is at a high level. It is not clear in the way it is proposed here that it would be implemented in a way that is doable by our students here. Darrell Kruger (DK) will compile all the responses.
- DJM – The Chair’s council received this 2 Fridays ago. The Louisiana Board of Regents (BoR) item was sent to the UL and LSU boards. This is an initiative starting to be developed at the BoR level. DK sent it to us for feedback on the initial thoughts regarding a 3-yr degree. Chairs council meeting was held that day, chairs responded and the information was sent back to DK. The preparedness of students coming to UNO is questionable. The proposal was to not eliminate general education so the implication is to limit major courses to fit in a degree in 90 hours. A student cannot go into an MA program immediately with 90 hours; they need 120 hours. A draft of the proposal is coming from BoR. Will a 3-year degree be feasible? Will it be useful? They will decide.
- CS – What do you think about this idea?
- DMJ – There is no specific information about it in their 2-page proposal.
- CS – This is something that the BoR is coming up with. Time to job ready is shortened.
- In accounting there not much room to cut back. Nationwide there are 3-year programs emerging. CPA boards always had hour limits. Recently different CPA boards by State rules are changed to now saying “Baccalaureate Degree” to leave room for the accelerated programs
- DMJ – The proposal is not to replace our 4-year degrees with 3-year degrees. It is just to be an option; a parallel degree option.
- CS – What is unclear is what the thrust is behind it.
- Politics. This is not how to restore faith in higher education. Adding more programs is a bad idea.
- An accelerated degree not a good idea.
- A google search indicated that it is mainly nursing degrees that are accelerated.
- DMJ – if faculty senate wants to look at it and then provide feedback to DK, it might be useful. If you have faculty in departments to share this with for their feedback, please

share. Even though initial deadline has passed, we can continue to add feedback. One suggestion would be to add stringent qualification levels into such a program – accept students who are prepared to do this.

- Some of the universities that do this require summer school as well. Are there models available to show us from peer institutions? Loyola and Tulane have some accelerated programs. I don't know if they really work.
- I find it problematic when we have so little time to consider issues like these. As faculty we should have a say in what our curriculum looks like. This short turn-around seems to be very common [these days]. We need thoughtful and careful consideration of the issues.
- DMJ – This is not an initiative on the faculty end.
- Can we send a message to the Louisiana Faculty Senates to find out what they said?
- DMJ – We can open feedback to the Senate to continue to get comments. Any information coming through can be sent via DK upwards. Please ask your faculty for feedback. The deadline was created because they had a meeting but is likely to be followed with other meetings as well.
- CS – I will forward the chain to all faculty for discussion. Online portal comments are an option to submit feedback also.

4. LSU System Transition

Slide 2:

LSU Transition Meeting

Last Wednesday's Meeting of Transition Committee

Discussion:

- CM – At the Public UC ballroom Transition Committee meeting there were lots of pleasantries exchanged, and lots of questions about the work that still has to be done, and questions regarding what the order that it will happen.
- We wasted enough time on this meeting.
- We did feel that the comments from the LSU Provost and President that we were going to be an R2 research were positive. Troy Blanchard (LSU Provost) was approached to get a formal statement made affirming R2 status but he said “one step at a time”
- On the news talking about closing programs... we have no answers on anything. Are we having a chancellor on July 1? Are we going back to 5 colleges? Is there a timetable for decisions. There was nothing said about substantial changes.

- The transition team and press are cheering on the transition but no definite plans were revealed. Facilities real estate was discussed as deferred maintenance cost \$300 million range. Every university has numbers like this. Stabilize structures, strengthen enrollment, invest in how to increase enrollment, and transform.
- Trying to figure out if there is path forward. We haven't had marketing of the University for a while. To inspire hope we need marketing and transparency.
- That's what they were trying to do at the meeting.
- Apathy is not a term to use for the faculty.
- These are austerity times and we are all wearing too many hats.
- The Times Picayune, quoted enrollment as 4000 students but that is incorrect.
- Lots student increase at LSU is LSU Online.
- There is lots of push on FB and Instagram. Lots of negative posts get removed and more reposted and again deleted.
- What are the alumni saying?
- The alumni are lamenting the loss of blue and silver, and loss of identity.

5. Committee Meetings

Slide 3:

Budget Committee - Steve Rick (SR), Chair

- **Budget Committee submitted the following questions to the Administration and the following answers were relayed by Arlean Wehle during Executive Cabinet Meeting (Mon. 2/2/2026)**

1) Apparently there is \$5 million for scholarships in the general budget. Why is this there, given our current budget situation?

1. 30 different types of scholarship/institutional aid included
2. Need to maintain affordability of our academic programs
3. Gradually shifting some merit-based aid to need-based aid (e.g., reducing Homer Hitt awards to about 5 per year)
4. Also includes employee waivers/military personnel support

Slide 4 (*Budget Committee continued*):

2) What is our structural deficit? There seem to be a number of estimates out there, including \$5 million. Of course we realize that this depends on enrollment as well as other things, but some handle on this number would be useful. The LSU transition team is sharing deficit numbers closer to \$20M.

1. LSU hired a company to review UNO's financials and cash needs. They instructed to ask for as high as we projected to alleviate cash shortfalls and sustainability.
2. Debt service - \$4M per year
3. Included costs from general fund that are used to cover arena/athletics
4. Our budget WAS reduced to address everything except for enrollment shortfalls
5. True deficit for this year – between \$4M and \$5M, including worst scenario of outstanding \$2M account receivables from fall and a similar amount from spring
6. If we add up all fund balances that should have cash in them (but don't) it's close to \$20M

Slide 5 (*Budget Committee continued*):

3) Related to question 2 is, how was the \$20 million allocated by the legislature used? Did it solve some, one time, long term debt problems, or is it used to help with our structural deficit?

- \$20M was used to pay off vendors for FY 2025 (for which there was no cash in the bank for payment; had happened over 4-5 years)

Slide 6 (*Budget Committee continued*):

4) Are we running out of money by April, and do we have a plan to avoid that?

1. Making changes now to adjust our budget
2. Have about \$3M left from \$20M (can cover remaining invoices)
3. Have been investing funds in LAMP to earn more interest;
4. Have \$2.5M unrestricted funds at the Foundation;

5. \$1M being used for marketing and enrollment software with goal to increase enrollment
6. Have \$2M left from ENFRA (Bernhard) funds -> put these funds in LAMP (Louisiana Asset Management Plan) to generate income

Slide 7 (*Budget Committee continued*):

5) Do you know how the external review committee came up with the information that presented on their report? Do you know how much our bond debt is (is it like \$800K or more like \$5 million per year)?

1. First part of question addressed above
2. Bond debt is just under \$5M per year (total bonds outstanding \$37M)
3. Randy – is it possible to refinance bond associated with Pontchartrain Hall to include funds for repairs?
4. JR is asking for more quotes for Pontchartrain Halls to address plumbing issues

Slide 8 (*Budget Committee continued*)

6) How much money are Athletics and ancillaries [auxiliaries] losing? And are there plans to fix this?

1. Currently auxiliaries are supposed to have a target to bring in via revenues, but needs to maintain a balanced budget
 2. UNO has been transferring funds to support auxiliaries
 3. Arena – ending funding balance of -\$8M. Projecting \$1M shortfall for this year
 4. Athletics- ending funding balance of -\$10M
 5. Projecting a \$3M shortfall for this year
 6. Looking at shared services for efficiencies as well as what other institutions are doing
1. Aid should begin to be disbursed after tomorrow – should have a better sense as to where we are financially next week (once aid starts to be used to pay tuition/fees)

Discussion:

- CS -- The budget was set up to handle everything except lower enrollment.
- SR – \$2 million unpaid from this spring.
- ENFRA – Bernhard rebranded themselves as ENFRA
- LAMP – Louisiana Asset Management Plan
- It looks like student account receivables and 20X receivables from other sources are creating shortfall.
- Note that Rico on stage said LSU has gotten some of the money for receivables that might not be in these figures.

Slide 9

Academic Meeting – Rachel Clostio, Chair

- **Meredith King – Policies for AI**
 - Provost has asked that we have some sort of AI policy
 - Timeline – some sample language before summer, for Fall some approved syllabus standard language stipulating policy
 - Conversational and formal versions
 - Accessibility is important
 - She had access to LSU’s guidelines on use of generative AI
 - The only university approved tool for plagiarism review is Turnitin

Discussion:

- CS – no confidence in AI tool in Turnitin

6. New Business:

Jl - Motion to meet only once a month, seconded by SR.

Discussion:

- Jl - Reason for motion is Senate may not have desire to continue with twice a month.
- If we wait for a month that puts too much power in the hands of the FSEC
- Agree. The timelines to respond to things is extremely short. Asking for longer timeline isn’t going to work. We have to respond quickly. We have to get the departments involved more and provide information to the FSEC. The FSEC is having to make

decisions without feedback. Time limit for this transition is pressing. We are texting on Saturdays because of the timelines we are given. We are at a place where we have to do a little bit more.

- Agree. I missed first senate meeting of the year and when I heard we voted to 2 meetings a month. Keep the meetings we have and if we don't need them, cancel them.
- Let's be more rigorous to start on time.

Motion failed unanimously.

7. Adjournment

Juana Ibanez motioned to adjourn. Abram Himmelstein seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 2 pm.