

25 February 2026 UNO Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

University of New Orleans Faculty Senate Meeting Roster, 25 Feb 2026

		Representation	First	Last	Term	Committee	Attendance
1	1	Administration	Scott	Pentzer	25-26		W
2	1	Staff Council	Coleen	Maidlow	25-26		W
3	1	SG President	Joshua	Trochez	25-26		
4	1	Alumni Assoc	Nerolie	Rayson	25-25		NR
5	1	Adjunct	David	Lambour	25-26		D
6	1	COBA	Bridget	Bordelon	25-28	B	Ed An
7	2	COBA	Kabir	Hassan	23-26	A	11/26
8	3	COBA	DJ	Min	25-28	D	SR
9	4	COBA	Ray	Rodriguez	23-26	B	
10	5	COBA	Cherie	Trumbach	24-27	SE, C	W
11	1	COE	Satish	Bastola	24-27	C	W
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	W
16	3	COLAEHD	Juana	Ibáñez (S)	24-27	SE, B	W
17	4	COLAEHD	Max	Krochmal	24-27	D	
18	5	COLAEHD	Marc	Landry	23-26	Gen Ed.	MOL
19	6	COLAEHD	James	Mokhiber	24-27	SE, D	W
20	7	COLAEHD	Andrea	Mosterman	24-27	D	
21	8	COLAEHD	Maria	Nelson	23-26	A	
22	9	COLAEHD	Grace	Reinke	25-28	C	GR
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	SR
29	5	COS	Steve	Rick	23-26	SE, B	W
30	6	COS	Ben	Samuel	25-28	A	B.S.
31	7	COS	Chris	Summa (Pres)	23-26	SE, A	L.S.
32	8	COS	Phoebe	Zito	23-26	Gen Ed.	W
33	1	Library	Abram	Himelstein	25-28	B	CP
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

1). Roll Call. (Juana Ibanez (JI), Secretary) Quorum is reached.

2). Minutes (JI).

28 January 2026 minutes. Motion to accept the minutes made by Corey Dumesnil (CD), seconded by Connie Phelps (CP). Motion approved unanimously.

9 February 2026 minutes. Motion to accept the minutes made by CD and seconded by CP. Motion approved unanimously.

3). Ryan Ann Bell (x4725) introduces the Faculty Senate to the Sullivan Foundation Network and Sullivan Awards.

Slide:

- Network of over 70 Universities
- <https://sullivanfdn.org/awards/>

- Benefit – access to Algernon Sydney and Mary Mildred Sullivan awards
 - Faculty
 - Staff
 - Students
 - Members of the Community
- Only national collegiate service awards
 - Eleanor Roosevelt
 - Mr. Rogers
 - Seth Sheldon

Discussion:

- This is a new award on campus.
- UNO is recently new member of network.
- This supports social entrepreneurship.
- It was created in 1890 to recognize those of “noble character and good heart.”
- This prestigious award is available to be given to students, too.
- It is a National award.
- There is no financial award; just a medal and plaque with names engraved for campus.
- We only consider internal nominations.
- There will be a leadership recognition ceremony.
- The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership will be managing the awards ceremony our first year participating and ultimately will be awarded at graduation.
- There will be a small ceremony when first names added to the plaque.
- Academic Affairs has sent out a call for nominations notice.
- Please take a look at the Sullivan Foundation website to look at their programing and see what they do. There is a student leadership program entitled Sullivan Fellows and scholarships are available to participate in their programing so a site review might be useful to you.
- Ryan Bell is our contact person/liaison to access Sullivan programing (280-4725).
- Anyone contributing to quality of life on campus should be considered for this award. Awards like this help to acknowledge our colleagues that are making our work good. We are looking for the quiet servants that make the UNO community an easier and happier place to be. It is time to pull them out of the shadows and acknowledge their contribution to our campus.
- March 16 is deadline for nominations.
- UNO is the first and only school in Louisiana and we are hosting their courses in Innsbruck. Steve Mumford (Political Science) is credited for setting up these connections.

4). Updates from Faculty Senate President, Chris Summa (CS)

Both the President and Provost have been invited. When the Provost shows up he will be addressing us at about 1:15 pm.

Slide:

1. General Updates
 1. HB 229

1. Two of our programs seems to fall under this “low-earning programs of study” umbrella
 1. Theater Arts
 2. Fine Arts

A.(1) No public postsecondary education management board shall allocate state funds to low-earning outcome programs of study. An allocation includes but is not limited to the following:

- (A) Individual student financial aid
- (B) base operational or instructional funding
- (C) Separately or specially appropriated aid of grants
- (D) Capital or facilities funding

Discussion:

This is a Federal Level initiative coming to the State Level. If a particular degree produces a low earning graduate, then that program is unworthy of funding. Two of our programs that fall under this are Theater Arts and Fine Arts.

Q: Can you define low earning? A: 20 USC 1087d(c)

Q: Do we have a governmental legislative affairs person? Nerolie Rayson (NR): We have people working with us.

Discussion:

- This is likely to pass.
- Something like this has passed at the Federal level to limit Federal level funding.
- These are part of our general education courses and in LA all students are supposed to have exposure to this.
- Part C talks about general education.

Q: Is there advocacy for the bill around the state?

Slide: Presidential Updates (continued)

1. General Updates
 2. Meeting of FSEC with Union Representatives and Staff Council Representatives
 1. We discussed common goals and decided it would be good to schedule a proper “Town Hall” style meeting in next few weeks
 2. Thoughts on best day for this? Friday? Weekend?
 3. Anthony Gregorio retiring 3/13
 1. FSEC has scheduled a meeting with him on Friday morning

Discussion:

- CS - FSEC met with Union and Staff reps before the break and thought it would be good to have a town hall meeting. We will coordinate with Coleen Mailow (Staff) and Union to figure out when to meet. When would the FS like to meet for this town hall?
- No weekend meeting.
- Lunch time or during day for the staff?
- There is a student town hall meeting tomorrow. The eMail went out and SIL is sponsoring it for questions of transition.
- JRW will be there.

- Q: How can they answer questions if there are no plans presented to us?
- CS - Program information contingent on EAB report (coming up). Meeting with JRW indicates everything is on the table with regards to changing but no details have been provided. We need the data they are working with before report is released.
- Read the announcement from SIL/SGA to the students. Student priorities and questions requested.
- It is on the general calendar
- CS - Tony Gregorio is retiring March 13, found out this morning. The FSEC is meeting with him on Friday to discuss how money flows.
- This very troublesome as JRW stated she had problems at the Foundation with money flow.
- CS – Tony is very straightforward and we will ask questions.
- It is strange he is retiring 2 weeks after JRW announcement.

Slide: LSU Transition

1. Faculty Workload

In 2026-2027 academic year

- 1) Faculty workload will follow written AP
- 2) Chair stipend/workload AP will be suspended and will be the same as this year
- 3) Graduate Coordinators stipends will not be reinstated and will remain as this year

1. SACSCOC Substantive Change Document

1. Received from Provost over break and transmitted to Academic and Administrative Committees this morning

Discussion:

- CS – Darrell Kruger (DK) information regarding Faculty Workload statement. Graduate coordinator stipends will not be returned nor will Chair stipends next year.
- Chair stipends have been changed. Not sure if it is a return to the original workload policy.
- There are 3 policies. The first policy is a return to normal workload policy. The second on chairs stipends is that the stipend is suspended. Acknowledging that policy had been suspended. Third part is that graduate coordinator stipends are still suspended.
- CS - SACSCOC report has been submitted and our Academic Committees and Administrative Committees have gotten it.
- The Chairs council will be getting it to review, too. Nothing will change for immediate time in the report.

Slide: LSU Transition (continued)

3. EAB External Report Methodology

1. Shared with Executive Committee on Monday
2. Attempts to score programs by matching up with labor market demand
3. Completed (last week?) where scoring was done assessing labor market across the entire state of Louisiana
4. Is now being redone (as per request) with the relevant labor market being the Gulf Coast (should be complete this week)

Discussion:

- CS - The actual report was completed over the break. What we have now is the methodology which was attached to today's agenda.
- The Methodology section was read out loud to the Senate. Original document is attached to the minutes.
- Attempts to score programs by matching up with labor market demand.
- The report was handed to DK and Troy Blanchard (LSU Provost) but it used entire state as market. We asked JRW for the report and she said given it to the provosts. CS asked DK for the report but told not yet until scope of report changed to Gulf Coast, not just GNO. CS does not have it yet. Asked for the original report. Both DK and President KJ said that since it is not the one used for the assessment, they declined to give us the original version.
- We should see what was shared originally. I am disturbed at the purpose of the EAB. We are here to serve common good, not for generating a work force. If we set ourselves up as workers=only it is a bad thing.
- Agree.
- Agree. We made that argument already. Do we need to put something out there now or wait for report?
- We need the report. We had the same issues with the LSU Online paperwork. There are very few unique jobs for each major. It is important to know what the individual jobs are in the report. CEOs don't have degrees in most things except Liberal Arts.
- We provide for an informed citizenry. We need a statement before the report. There is no guarantee that we will get the reports. Our role as public institution is more than providing a workforce and that needs to be taken into account. It is important that we put together a resolution right now. The country is having issues right now because we have been ignoring the common good.
- We need language including R2 status and common good.
- CS – This is a nationwide problem and in how they are couching post-secondary education
- We need an alternative narrative. The current narrative of “ridiculous degrees (Women's Studies)” and “can't get jobs and so default on student loans that taxpayers have to then pay out.” I have been hearing this from HB and high school friends.
- Instead of inserting what we need to into conversation if it falls on deaf ears, perhaps we should couch the point we are trying to make in the context. Despite low enrollment degrees, we have established that the economy of the area is the arts. Maybe that person is happy being here because they get to do their art. In the context of Louisiana (“common good” is ignored) degrees are part of our culture and what we are contributing to our overall society. We teach multiple skills. What the other degrees that other high paid people have tends to be in the humanities. So couch this in line with what is important to these people.
- A response grounded in scholarship is needed. One strand of resources is by counting completed degrees, or if specific CIP code analysis. If the economy changes certain degrees will fall off. How are measuring? Wisdom or data? So use a scholarly argument.
- An argument on philosophical differences is difficult. As chairs, we have been tasked with explaining the skill sets within that degree and how they can be applied to other jobs. One degree doesn't mean they stay in that field. Talk more about direct skill sets used as they earn the degree and expand that to job potentials, not tie it to specific job names with same title. Can go into field of jobs that are related to skill learned in the degree.
- CS - Who are we telling this to?
- Consider market demand and strength of program. The unique qualities in the program are the focus for the appropriate field of jobs.

- The Momentum Master Plan has already done for 2030 – 85% of jobs unknown. The Board of Regents has established a plan already so look at what they are looking at. Funding comes out every 2 years and changes every 10 years.
- Let's make this our first question in the town hall because this is important. It is easier to start on campus instead of writing op editorials.
- CS - There is a school of thought that we need to adapt to survive for a well-defined purpose to train workers of future and people in power want to see it happen.
- The public university's goal is not just to train workers. We are teaching the American Revolution. Why is the state supporting higher education?
- Consider who we are talking to.
- This is existential for many of us.
- We are not in any position to handle this battle on our own. Perhaps with other universities. We are fighting to exist right now.
- The Provost is here.
- The common good we do provides a workforce as well. It isn't just what we provide in the classroom. There is value to society as a whole and it is not a theoretical conversation. The idea that we have to focus on that in our state. Can kids survive after they are done with their education and the debt. Economic stature of people in the state and their mindset but we have to make our point and value clear.
- I used to be health analyst for homeless people. Senators will get into philosophical arguments. Practical arguments. People in your district need specific help was the best way to approach the problem with politicians.
- But who do we discuss this with? JRW?

Slide: LSU Transition (continued)

3. EAB External Report Methodology

1. Questions about this:

1. How do they deal with "ghost jobs" in their analysis?
2. How do they deal with programs that may not graduate a lot of students with that degree, but whose presence is absolutely essential at a functioning university? (Mathematics comes to mind, but is obviously not a singular example)
3. How do they handle undergraduate degrees for programs where the goal is to enter PostGraduate education prior to employment?
4. Does EAB look at the relationship between degree program array and degree completion?

Discussion:

- CS – Regarding the Ghost job analysis. When reviewing linkedin, there are 20 jobs on linkedin but only 2 are real jobs. The rest are there to make it look like they (companies) are expanding. What is the EAB external report methodology? How do you deal with degrees that are central to everything else in sciences and engineering, like math? What are other specific questions to ask?
- What about undergraduate degrees that lead to graduate degrees? Students don't get undergraduate law degrees.
- There is an Occupational Handbook for the Federal Government.
- Is this a report we are going to see?
- CS – you will see it when I get it
- Momentum scholar road map

Slide: LSU Transition (continued)

4. Next Meeting with FSEC Transition Team
 1. FSEC has requested our next meeting, which will be scheduled in 2 weeks time
 2. What are processes going forward for
 1. Low completer?
 2. Administrative Hiring?
 3. Space Utilization / Real Estate?
 3. It would be good to be able to go into this with some more input on questions the Faculty might have

Discussion:

- CS - FSU has requested another LSU Transition team meeting. JRW is trying to meet with chairs and deans first. Questions include low completer status, administration hirings, space utilization/real estate.
- Are there any other questions? Will the anonymous questions portal work for this?
- Use the anonymous questions portal. Will send email to faculty to ask questions.
- Regarding the Town Hall, is this with or without administrators?
- Invite them but make it clear that it is our meeting.
- When with the EAB report be available?
- CS – We will have it before the next meeting.
- I had a meeting with JRW yesterday. As a chair we just finished schedule for the fall. If we stick with a M-Th schedule it is hard to close the building. We are relying on space for the courses. Students are going to be registering soon. What are the timelines for closing or renting our buildings? The EAB said we have too much space. This is something you need to remind them of. If we are losing significant space in August we need to reschedule now.
- CS – There has been no conversation on that recently. Provost DK would you like to talk to us?

5) Updates by Provost DK

DK – first update, the **report** from LSU should arrive by this week for academic programs and workforce development. When the legislature voted to move us they required academic program array study, financial audit, and building study. We worked with Bill Sharpton and Academic Affairs to look at our academic profile and address many of the issues he was listening to in our discussions today. With the EAB methodology in particular we can approach the EAB to make a presentation similar to the space study plan with real time questions. As soon as it is in hand it will be shared with CS and cochairs and deans.

The second item update is about **promotion and tenure**. Given when we transition systems, we made the recommendation through President KJ that the UL system consider our recommendations for tenure and promotion to be approved in June (UL ordinarily does promotion and tenure in August) so that once we are a part of LSU this will not be an issue.

Third, **Norm Whitley** is providing feedback to our faculty on Friday on how to proceed for accreditation issues.

Fourth update is the **substantive change document to SACSCOC**, with a focus on governance. President KJ, Bill Sharpton and DK wrote the 25-page document and organized supporting data with others weighing in. It was sent to LSU for review and on March 6 SACSCOC will give feedback on the draft before the March 15 deadline. SACSCOC will then review final substantive change document and act on it in June and visit us in the fall.

Fifth update, **LSU Online**, we have a memo to send soon for cross-listing check. Many faculty have been meeting with LSU Online. A timeline is to be specified for onboarding, including which programs, how general education requirements will be met, and proposed course development (19 proposed so far) and faculty support to develop it with compensation specifications will be sent out in the next couple days.

Sixth update, **Tony Gregorio** of Advancement and Development will be retiring next month. This is a significant loss for the University. His experiences have been invaluable. Feel free to send him an email because retirement is coming soon.

Questions?

CS – Is there a mandate on what you are supposed to be doing with the EAB report?

DK – No. I am working with the deans to look at their efficiency of academic programs suggestions and will update the program profiles accordingly.

CS - No other questions? Thank you for updating us. International Affairs and International education were being spoken about in that meeting about how programs are valued in international agenda. Salaries below median level is something being discussed on all campuses.

6) Committee Reports

Budget Committee (Steve Rick)

SR - We have ways to cover potential money problems.

Q: Where is money coming from?

SR - Arlean thinks can get money from Louisiana, investment account.

CS - we put some money in an investment account and so pulling money from there.

Administrative Committee (Simon Lailveaux)

SL – nothing new. There is a meeting coming. Faculty leadership is still trying to figure out which policies to keep or not before anything can be discussed.

7) New Business – The April 15 meeting is in the Innsbruck Suite because Innovate UNO has booked this room so Liz Siegler asked us to move meeting room.

8) Adjournment.

CD motions to adjourn. Abram Himelstein seconds. The motion passes unanimously. 1:56 pm adjournment.

Attachments

EAB Analysis

Methodology

The analysis of University of New Orleans's bachelor's program portfolio employs a quantitative scoring system to assess labor market demand and competitive opportunity for each program at an institution. To score each program, the analysis distills the most fundamental external signals of market demand in terms of labor market intelligence and competitive landscape, outlined below. The analysis assigns each program two scores (zero through five): the labor market demand score and the competitive opportunity score. The scores rank and compare data across 12 metrics. See the specific metrics below.

Labor market demand score, composed of:

- Unique job postings (2020-Q4 through 2021-Q3, 2024-Q4 through 2025-Q3)
- Percentage change in unique job postings (2020-Q4 through 2021-Q3, 2024-Q4 through 2025-Q3)
- Percentage projected growth in employment (percent) (2035 projected)

Competitive opportunity score, composed of:

- Number of institutions in your labor market offering a program with the same 6-digit CIP code (2023)
- Average percentage change in the number of institutions offering this program (2019 - 2023)
- Average actual change in the number of institutions offering this program (2019 - 2023)
- Degree conferrals reported in your labor market under the same 6-digit CIP code (2023)
- Average annual percentage change in degree conferrals reported under the same 6-digit CIP code (2019 - 2023)
- Average actual change in degree conferrals reported under the same 6-digit CIP code (2019 - 2023)
- National market share of the top 10% of institutions reporting completions under the same 6-digit CIP code (2023)
- Median conferrals per institution reporting completions under the same 6-digit CIP code (2023)

The analysis defines the institution's labor and competitive market as University of New Orleans's choice: Louisiana

Labor Market Intelligence Partner: Lightcast

This report includes data made available through EAB's partnership with Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm serving higher education, economic development, and industry leaders in the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Lightcast curates and maintains the most comprehensive labor market data sets available for academic program planning, providing real-time job posting data, workforce and alumni outcomes data, and traditional government sources of data.

Under this partnership, EAB may use Lightcast's proprietary Analyst and Alumni Insight tools to answer partner questions about labor market demand, the competitive landscape, in-demand skills, postings versus actual hires, and skills gaps between job postings and professionals in the workforce. The Lightcast tools also provide EAB with in-depth access to unsuppressed, zip-code-level government data for occupations, industries, programs, and demographics.

For more complete descriptions of the Lightcast tools, visit <https://lightcast.io/solutions/education/analyst> and <https://lightcast.io/solutions/education/alumni-pathways>

To learn more about Lightcast and its software and services, please contact Bob Hieronymus, Vice President of Business Development at bob.hieronymus@lightcast.io.

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