



## University Faculty Senate Meeting

### Minutes

December 1, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Engineering East Room 106

1. The UFS meeting was called to order by Dr. William Trapani at 1:01PM. The meeting was held in Engineering East Room 106.
2. Senate approved [November 3, 2025](#), UFS Minutes by unanimous consent.

3. President's Report

Dr. Trapani reported the following:

- **Moment of Silence for Pat Cheung**

Dr. Trapani began with a reflection on the recent passing of Pat Cheung, a facilities staff member, who tragically lost his life along with his future father-in-law shortly after Thanksgiving. He also noted Pat's dedication, reliability, and the positive impact he had on the campus community. A moment of silence was observed in his memory.

- **Provost Search Update**

The university has completed the Provost search and announced the appointment of Dr. Ken Dawson-Scully as the next Provost, beginning January 5, 2026. Dr. Trapani shared that Dr. Dawson-Scully is familiar with FAU, previously having worked at the university, and has demonstrated strong leadership in research administration. He plans to meet with him to discuss faculty priorities and will be formally introduced to the Senate in January.

- **Acknowledgment of Interim Provost Dr. Russell Ivy**

Interim Provost Russ Ivy was unable to attend due to prior obligations related to accreditation. Dr. Trapani highlighted Dr. Ivy's leadership during challenging institutional transitions and noted that there will be an appropriate opportunity in January to formally recognize his service.

- **Strategic Planning Process**

FAU will begin developing a new university strategic plan in early 2026. The university has engaged Jill Hellman, an FAU alumna with significant strategic-planning expertise, to guide the process. Details on faculty listening sessions and participation opportunities will be shared once available, and faculty engagement is strongly encouraged.

- **Board of Trustees Actions**

The Board of Trustees recently approved a 15% increase in non-resident tuition, aligned with the State University System's decision earlier this summer. The increase will take effect in Fall 2026. A corresponding 15% increase in the financial aid fee was also approved.

- **State-Level Updates**

Dr. Trapani provided an update on ongoing regulatory changes from the Board of Governors and the state:

- **Textbook Affordability Regulation Changes:**

Recent regulatory proposals include requirements for syllabi to be posted 45 days before classes and for universities to maintain a five-year syllabus repository. Faculty across the

state have expressed concerns about privacy, safety, and the feasibility of maintaining outdated syllabi under shifting political conditions. Discussions are currently underway; no final decisions have been issued.

- **State Data Requests:**  
The state has initiated additional large-scale data requests requiring syllabi and course information going back three years, with forward-looking planning for the next two years. The turnaround time has been particularly demanding for Academic Affairs.
- **International Student & H-1B Update**  
Dr. Trapani noted that issues related to international employment and H-1B processing remain fluid. FAU Global (Mahila) will attend a Senate meeting in January once more concrete information is available.

#### 4. Guest Speakers

None.

#### 5. Open Forum with the Provost

Provost Ivy was unable to attend due to a scheduled accreditation meeting with HLC.

#### 6. Open Forum of the Senate

##### **Status of Faculty Member on Leave (English Department)**

A senator raised concerns regarding the status of Dr. Kate Polak (English), who remains on leave, and the resulting strain on the department. Dr. Trapani shared that:

- He continues to share faculty concerns on this matter with university officials, including President Hasner and the Trustees at the most recent Board meeting.
- As of the senate meeting the administration had not yet received the external investigation report from the law firm. No further substantive updates were available.

##### **Campus Police Presence**

Senators expressed concern about the increased police presence on campus and lack of transparency.

- Dr. Trapani reported raising these concerns with the President.
- The President emphasized campus safety obligations; Dr. Trapani emphasized faculty unease and the need for clear communication.
- The issue will be revisited after the holidays.

##### **President's Attendance at Senate**

Several senators noted the President has not attended Senate meetings this semester.

- Dr. Trapani clarified that the original plan was for the President to visit Steering in Fall and Senate in early Spring due to scheduling logistics and the timing of the Provost search.
- Dr. Trapani will work to schedule an early Spring appearance as well as additional visits as the Senate and/or President wish.

##### **Emeritus Faculty Library Access**

Questions were raised regarding an emeritus faculty member who appeared to lose library access upon retirement.

- Dr. Trapani noted that the system currently cuts off access automatically at retirement and later reinstates access once emeritus status is processed.
- Dr. Trapani will follow up on the specific case and discuss broader solutions to avoid gaps in access for retirees, adjuncts, and faculty completing terms.

7. Committee Reports

None.

8. [UPC Consent Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Approved by unanimous consent.**

9. [UPC Action Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Motion to approve carries.**

10. [UGC Consent Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Approved by unanimous consent.**

11. [UGC Action Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Motion to approve carries.**

12. Old Business

- [Bylaw Revisions](#)

Senate received an informational overview of the ongoing bylaw revision process. The Policies & Procedures Committee, Steering, and several contributors have spent the past year reconciling older documents, incorporating updates, and aligning the bylaws with current Senate practice. Dr. Trapani thanked all those involved, particularly Vicki Brown (current chair of Policies and Procedures), along with committee members including Meredith Mountford, LeaAnne DeRigne, and others, as well as Kim Dunn for her integrative role. He noted that the Senate has been provided with a red-line version of the bylaws showing edits.

Most changes are typographical or grammatical, but several substantive changes were highlighted for discussion:

**1. Definitions and Consistent Language**

- The revisions clarify the definitions of “Faculty Senate faculty member” and “senator” and ensure more consistent use of these terms throughout the document.

**2. Campus Representation Requirements**

- The current bylaws include language requiring that, in colleges with 10 or more faculty at a campus other than Boca, at least one senator must be elected from that campus.
- In practice, FAU has not been following this provision for some time. The proposed revisions remove this requirement so that Senate representation is not formally tied to campus location, though faculty from all campuses remain eligible and encouraged to serve.
- A similar clause requiring campus-based representation on the Steering Committee is also proposed for removal, primarily due to logistical concerns and uncertainty about what to do if no one from a given campus is willing to serve.

**3. Eligibility of Senators (Administrative Roles)**

- The most significant change concerns who may serve as a senator. Under the proposed revisions, faculty with college-level or higher administrative responsibilities (e.g., deans, associate deans) would not be eligible to serve as elected senators. Department chairs would still be considered faculty and thus eligible.
- This has implications for ex officio roles (for example, chairs of major elected committees such as Promotion and Tenure, APBC, or Policies and Procedures) when those chairs hold college-level administrative appointments. In such cases, another colleges would have the ability to name an alternate senator.
- The rationale behind this change is to ensure that the Senate remains a strong, independent faculty voice and to prevent potential over-representation of administration in the body, especially in light of developments in other states where legislatures have altered faculty governance structures.
- Alternative approaches such as using “in-unit vs. out-of-unit” status were discussed at length but ultimately not adopted in the current proposal.

#### **4. Agenda Structure (Provost Report and Open Forum)**

- The bylaws are revised to codify existing practice by explicitly providing for a Provost report and an Open Forum as regular components of Senate meetings.

#### **5. Committee Election and Vacancy Language**

- During the discussion, it was noted that the Policies and Procedures Committee had been inadvertently omitted from certain clauses regarding elections to committees and the filling of committee vacancies.
- Motion: A motion was made to correct this omission by explicitly adding Policies and Procedures to the affected sections. **Motion carries.** Dr. Trapani indicated that the document will be corrected and reposted so that the version available for review.
- Additional minor typographical errors (e.g., an incorrect use of “complied”) will also be corrected before reposting.

#### **6. Term Limits for UFS President**

- A senator raised a concern that the bylaws do not currently revise term limits for the UFS President. The senator suggested that allowing presidents to serve multiple consecutive terms may have unintended side effects, such as stabilizing a narrow leadership pool and limiting opportunities for new leaders.
- Dr. Trapani acknowledged this is an important topic and that the current revision package does not change existing term-limit provisions. Senators may revisit this issue in future discussions.

Dr. Trapani reiterated that the bylaw revisions will remain an information item until the next Senate meeting, at which point the Senate will be asked to vote on the proposed changes (with any amendments). Senators were encouraged to read the red-line document carefully and send questions or suggestions in advance.

#### **13. New Business**

During new business, a senator asked whether faculty are permitted to use their classrooms on reading days for optional review sessions.

The response from Academic Affairs was that there is no specific prohibition, but such use should be coordinated with University Scheduling (scheduling@fau.edu) as an ad hoc request, especially if it involves extended use or potential conflicts. The senator was advised to contact Scheduling directly for confirmation.

Senators discussed improving transparency around academic calendar decisions and reiterated support for staff receiving the additional pre-Thanksgiving holiday, with a request for clearer advance notice.

**14. Good of the Senate**

Dr. Trapani wished everyone a restful end to the semester, safe travels, and a happy holiday season.

**15. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM.**

**UFS Senator Attendance Roster**  
**Fall 2025**

Senators include College representatives, faculty assembly heads, steering committee, standing committee chairs, elect/past president, and non-voting members President and Provost.

Present =x

Last Name	First Name	Role	College	8-Sep	6-Oct	3-Nov	1-Dec
Agapova	Anna	Senator	Business	x		x	
Almonte	Mauricio	Senator	Arts and Letters				
Arneklev	Bruce	Senator & Steering	SWCJ	x	x	x	x
Atkin-Plunk	Cassandra	Senator	SWCJ	x	x	x	x
Attonito	Jennifer	Senator	Business	x	x	x	
Baghersad	Milad	Senator	Business	x		x	
Balkan	Stacey	Senator	Arts and Letters	x		x	
Banerjee	Kuntal	Senator & FA Chair	Business				
Beetle	Chris	Senator	Science				
Berlatsky	Eric	Senator & UGC Chair	Arts and Letters				
Broderick	Amy	Senator	Arts and Letters	x			
Brown	Vicki	Senator & Policy and Procedures Chair	Education				
Calargé	Carla	Senator	Arts and Letters				
Darling	Sharon	Senator	Education	x	x	x	x
DeGiorgio	Michael	Senator	EE&CS	x	x	x	x
DeRigne	LeaAnne	Senator & Steering	SWCJ	x	x	x	
Dumbaugh	Eric	Senator	Science		x		
Dunn	Kim	Past-US President & APBC Chair	Business			x	
Eason	Shane	Senator & FA Chair	Arts and Letters		x		x
Ellis	Meredith	Senator & Steering	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	x
Ferguson	Michelle	Senator & FA Chair	Nursing	x	x	x	x
Finnegan	Lisa	Senator	Education	x	x	x	x
Fiorillo	Patricia	Senator & FA Chair	Library	x	x	x	
Gandler	Richard	Senator	Business				

Gosser	Mary Ann	Guest	Honors and Schoars Program, UGS	x	x	x	x
Harrawood	Michael	Senator	Honors				
Harris	Mike	Senator	Arts and Letters				
Hasner	Adam	University President	Office of the President				
Hoffman	Fred	Senator	Science	x	x	x	x
Ivy	Russ	Interim Provost	Office of the Provost				
Kaisar	Evangelos	Senator	EE&CS		x		
Lanning	Kevin	Senator	Honors				x
Larson	Robin	Guest	Arts and Letters	x		x	
Leventouri	Theodora	Senator	Science	x	x	x	
Levy	Ting	Senator	Business	x	x	x	x
Lewin	Phil	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	x
Lin	Yuandan	Senator	Science	x	x	x	x
Locke	Stephen	Senator	Science	x	x	x	
Lu	Michael	Senator	Medicine	x	x		x
Luck	George	Senator & FA Chair	Medicine		x		
MacDonald	Ian	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	x
McConnell	Will	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	x
Mejia	Maria	Guest	Medicine	x			
Mello	Lawrence	Senator	Library	x	x	x	x
Moslemian	Davood	Senator	EE&CS	x	x	x	x
Mountford	Meredith	Senator	Education	x	x	x	x
Newman	David	Senator & Steering	Nursing	x	x	x	x
Nichols	Angela	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x		x
Nielsen	Sarah	Senator	Business				
Nikolova	Daniela	Senator	Science			x	x
Penhollow	Tina	Research Chair	Science				
Quidley-Rodriguez	Narciso	Senator	Nursing	x	x	x	x
Ramirez Agudelo	Andres	Senator	Education	x	x	x	x
Reyes-Guerra	Daniel	Senator & FA Chair	Education				
Robé	Chris	Senator	Arts and Letters	x			
Rossow	Stacie	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	x
Rothe	Dawn	Academic Freedom and Due Process Chair	SWCJ		x	x	x

Rowell	Shaina	Senator & FA Chair	Honors				
Sacca	Lea	Senator	Medicine			x	
Sacks	Emily	Senator	Business		x		x
Sarajedini	Vicki	Senator & FA Chair	Science	x		x	x
Schmidmeier	Markus	Senator	Science				
Schoorman	Dilys	Senator	Education	x	x	x	
Shen	Wen	Senator	Medicine		x		
Sobhan	Khaled	Senator & Steering	EE&CS	x		x	
Sorge	Korey	UUPC Chair	Science	x	x	x	x
TBD		Senator	Education				
Teegavarapu	Ramesh	Senator & FA Chair	EE&CS				
Terrell	Syvonne	Senator	Nursing	x	x	x	
Torres	Ayse	Senator	Education				
Trapani	William	UFS President	Arts and Letters	x		x	x
Wagner	Kevin	Senator	Arts and Letters	x			
Wainberg	James	Guest	Business	x			
Wiggill	Sarah	Senator	Medicine	x	x	x	
Yin	Zhijun	Senator	Science	x	x	x	x
Rynkiewich	Katharina	Guest	Arts and Letters		x		
Kharlamov	Viktor	Guest	Arts and Letters		x		
Bloetscher	Fred	Guest	EE & CS		x	x	