



**University Faculty Senate Meeting – Special Session
Minutes
February 2, 2026
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 January 26, 2026, UFS Minutes by unanimous consent.
3. President's Report
 - Dr. Trapani expressed appreciation to Taina Campbell for her extensive work supporting faculty governance, noting that these efforts represent only a portion of her overall responsibilities. Contributions included:
 - Coordinating the Steering Committee special election
 - Managing meeting logistics
 - Preparing prior meeting minutes
 - Planning the upcoming general election cycle
 - Coordinating committee reports
 - Logistical Announcements
 - Senators were reminded to turn microphones on when speaking to ensure accessibility for livestream viewers.
 - All comments should be directed to the UFS President in accordance with Senate procedures.
4. Guest Speakers
None.
5. Open Forum with the Provost
The Provost was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled Academic SWAT meeting.
6. Open Forum of the Senate
 - A reminder by Dr. Trapani was issued regarding the Steering Committee special election, with a voting deadline of Tuesday at 5:00 PM.
 - Nominations were opened for general Senate elections. A form will be distributed to facilitate submissions.
 - Clarification was provided that:
 - Steering Committee nominees must be senators.
 - Academic Planning and Budget Committee and Policies and Procedures Committee nominees may be any faculty member.

- Dr. Trapani announced his intention to run for a second term as Senate President, in accordance with Senate bylaws.

7. Committee Reports

None.

8. UPC Consent Agenda

None.

9. UPC Action Agenda

None.

10. UGC Consent Agenda

None.

11. UGC Action Agenda

None.

12. Old Business

None.

13. New Business

- [UFS Resolution on Institutional Process and Governance](#) in the Case of Dr. Polak

Dr. Trapani introduced the resolution, noting that:

- The resolution had been distributed in advance.
- The Steering Committee reviewed and recommended the resolution.
- The purpose of the resolution was to express faculty concern regarding institutional process, shared governance, academic freedom, and due process.

Dr. Trapani emphasized that the Senate serves as an advisory body, not a legal authority, and that the resolution reflected faculty sentiment rather than legal findings.

Discussion addressed:

- Distinctions between non-reappointment and disciplinary action under the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- The vulnerability of non-tenure-track faculty.
- Shared governance norms and institutional precedent.
- Whether resolution language should assert conclusions or reflect faculty perception.
- The appropriate role of the Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee for deeper procedural review.

Several Senators spoke to the human impact of the situation, noting concerns for faculty families, departmental morale, and the broader academic community.

- Amendments and Motions
 - Amendment 1: Language Revision

- **Motion:** Replace the word “*regards*” with “*perceives*” to clarify that the resolution reflects faculty perception. **Motion carries.**
 - Amendment 2: Removal of Clause
 - **Motion:** Remove the clause stating that the absence of merit-based justification and lack of transparency threatens institutional norms. **Motion failed.**
 - Amendment 3: Language Revision
 - **Motion:** Replace “*calls upon*” with “*recommends*” in the final clause. **Motion carries.**
 - Amendment 4: Qualification of Absolute Language
 - **Motion:** Modify language stating that such an action had never previously occurred to read “*to the Senate’s knowledge and belief.*” **Motion carries.**
- Final Action
 - Following resolution of all amendments, the Senate returned to the main motion.
 - **Motion:** Adopt the resolution as amended. **Motion carries.**

14. Good of the Senate

- Senators asked about access to investigative reports; Dr. Trapani indicated that reports could be shared with the Senate for review.
- Dr. Trapani confirmed that the adopted resolution would be sent to the President and the Board of Trustees and posted publicly.
- An update was provided regarding the Academic Freedom and Due Process Committee, noting that:
 - The committee may act once other bodies have concluded consideration.
 - The University is obligated by bylaws to cooperate fully with the committee.
 - Dr. Trapani has communicated these requirements to the administration.
 - The timeline for potential grievance action remains unclear.

15. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

UFS Senator Attendance Roster
Spring 2026

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

Present =x Note: Feb 2 special meeting

Last Name	First Name	Role	College	26-Jan	2-Feb	23-Feb	30-Mar	27-Apr
Agapova	Anna	Senator	Business	x				
Almonte	Mauricio	Senator	Arts and Letters					
Arneklev	Bruce	Senator & Steering	SWCJ	x	x			
Atkin-Plunk	Cassandra	Senator	SWCJ	x	x			
Attonito	Jennifer	Senator	Business	x	x			
Baghersad	Milad	Senator	Business					
Balkan	Stacey	Senator	Arts and Letters					
Banerjee	Kuntal	Senator & FA Chair	Business					
Beetle	Chris	Senator	Science					
Berlatsky	Eric	Senator & UGC Chair	Arts and Letters					
Broderick	Amy	Senator	Arts and Letters					
Brown	Vicki	Senator & Policy and Procedures	Education	x				
Burnett	Craig	Guest	Arts and Letters	x				
Calargé	Carla	Senator	Arts and Letters	x				
Darling	Sharon	Senator	Education	x	x			
Dawson-Scully	Ken	Provost	Academic Affairs	x				
DeGiorgio	Michael	Senator	EE&CS	x				
DeRigne	LeaAnne	Senator & Steering	SWCJ	x				
Dumbaugh	Eric	Senator	Science	x				
Dunn	Kim	Past-US President & APBC Chair	Business	x				
Eason	Shane	Senator & FA Chair	Arts and Letters					

Ellis	Meredith	Senator & Steering	Arts and Letters	x	x			
Ferguson	Michelle	Senator & FA Chair	Nursing	x				
Finnegan	Lisa	Senator	Education	x	x			
Fiorillo	Patricia	Senator & FA Chair	Library		x			
Furner	Joseph	Guest	Education	x				
Gender	Richard	Senator	Business					
Gosser	Mary Ann	Guest	Honors and Schoars Program,	x				
Harrowood	Michael	Senator	Honors					
Harris	Mike	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x			
Hasner	Adam	University President	Office of the President					
Hoffman	Fred	Senator	Science	x	x			
Kaisar	Evangelos	Senator	EE&CS					
Lanning	Kevin	Senator	Honors	x				
Leventouri	Theodora	Senator	Science	x				
Levy	Ting	Senator	Business	x				
Lewin	Phil	Senator	Arts and Letters	x				
Lin	Yuandan	Senator	Science	x	x			
Locke	Stephen	Senator	Science					
Lu	Michael	Senator	Medicine					
Luck	George	Senator & FA Chair	Medicine		x			
MacDonald	Ian	Senator	Arts and Letters		x			
McConnell	Will	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x			
Mello	Lawrence	Senator	Library					
Moslemian	Davood	Senator	EE&CS	x	x			
Mountford	Meredith	Senator	Education		x			
Newman	David	Senator & Steering	Nursing	x	x			
Nichols	Angela	Senator	Arts and Letters		x			
Nielsen	Sarah	Senator	Business					
Nikolova	Daniela	Senator	Science	x	x			
Penhollow	Tina	Research	Science					
Quidley-Rodrigu	Narciso	Senator	Nursing	x	x			

