



**University Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
February 23, 2026
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Engineering East Room 106**

1. The UFS meeting was called to order by Dr. William Trapani at 1:00PM. The meeting was held in Engineering East Room 106.
2. Senate approved [February 23, 2026](#), UFS Minutes by unanimous consent.
3. President’s Report

Dr. Trapani reported the following:

Departure of Dr. Russ Ivy

- Dr. Trapani announced that Dr. Russ Ivy will be leaving FAU to assume a position at DePaul University.
- He expressed appreciation for Dr. Ivy’s contributions to the university and noted that more formal recognition would occur later in the meeting.

Strategic Planning Update

- The university strategic plan is in the final stages of development.
- Review by leadership groups, including the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and faculty working groups, is expected shortly.
- The plan is scheduled for discussion at a special Board of Trustees meeting in mid-May.
- Final approval is anticipated at the June Board of Governors meeting.

Legislative and Budget Updates

- The state budget has not yet been finalized; therefore, no updates are available regarding FAU-specific funding requests.
- Requests include funding for the Health Sciences building, cloud computing, and faculty recruitment/retention.

Guardian Program Legislation

- The “Guardian” bill has passed.
- The university is expected to opt into the program.
- Participation requires extensive training, background checks, and certification.

Regulation 8.003 (Syllabus Transparency)

- Updates to Regulation 8.003 now require portions of course syllabi to be publicly accessible.
- Non-required components can remain private by default.
- Senate Leadership, the Provost’s Office and OIT worked collaboratively to implement these changes.

Board of Governors – Sociology Course Removal

- The Board of Governors voted to remove Introduction to Sociology from the General Education curriculum.
- This follows earlier actions that downgraded the course.
- Enrollment in the course has already declined significantly (approximately 30%).
- Dr. Trapani expressed concern regarding the academic and institutional impact of this decision.
- He encouraged departments to consider alternative courses or strategies to support affected students and faculty.

Upcoming Meetings

- Board of Trustees meeting: April 21
- Special BOT meeting: May 11
- Board of Governors meeting at FAU: June 24–25

Faculty Recognition / Good News

- Dr. Trapani highlighted a research initiative from the College of Education focused on supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in forming healthy relationships.
- The project uses training videos to model healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors.

4. Guest Speakers

None.

5. Open Forum with the Provost

Provost Dawson-Scully discussed the following:

Recognition of Dr. Russ Ivy

- Acknowledged Dr. Ivy's 34 years of service to FAU.
- Highlighted his leadership and impact on the university's growth and national reputation.

Fundraising Gala

- The university raised approximately \$2.5 million in scholarships for students.

Faculty & Staff Event

- An employee recognition event and faculty/staff gathering (soiree) is scheduled for April 16.

Promotion and Tenure / PTR Updates

- Reviews are nearing completion and will be submitted to the President soon.

Board of Governors Updates

- Guardian program training requirements exceed typical law enforcement training hours.
- Continued discussion on sociology curriculum changes and institutional response.

Market Rate Programs

- Renewed discussion at the state level regarding market-rate tuition programs.
- FAU may begin preparing proposals if opportunities arise.

90-Credit Hour Degree Programs

- The Board of Governors is exploring shorter bachelor's degree models.

- Concerns include academic rigor, graduate school eligibility, and workforce acceptance.
- Faculty were encouraged to share feedback and ideas.

Strategic Plan

- The Provost has not yet reviewed the final draft but expects it soon.

Student Achievements

- FAU received two Goldwater Scholarship recipients, marking five consecutive years of awards.

Dean Evaluations

- Evaluations are underway for Dean Horswell and Dean Perry.

Campus Incident

- A lab fire occurred in Building 43; no injuries were reported.
- Some facilities sustained water damage from sprinkler activation.

6. Open Forum of the Senate

Sociology Department Statement

- A faculty representative presented concerns regarding the removal of Introduction to Sociology from the General Education curriculum.
- The decision was described as part of broader challenges to the discipline.
- Key concerns included:
 - Loss of enrollment and program visibility
 - Impact on faculty positions and curriculum pathways
 - Broader implications for academic freedom
- The department indicated plans to:
 - Work with other programs to integrate sociology courses
 - Develop alternative curricular pathways
 - Bring forward a resolution for Senate consideration
- Faculty emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary support and institutional response.

AI Curricular Issues

- The Provost outlined challenges in developing interdisciplinary AI programs and proposed forming a faculty task force to establish clear, standardized guidelines for AI + X and related curricular models. The goal is to support consistent program design while preserving flexibility across colleges. Faculty highlighted concerns about competition among units and the need for equitable, transparent structures as AI content expands across disciplines. Leadership emphasized continued collaboration and next steps through the task force and governance review processes.

7. Committee Reports

[Academic Planning and Budget Committee](#), Kim Dunn

The Academic Planning and Budget Committee reported on its advisory work reviewing new academic programs, budgetary implications, and pedagogical coordination needs, including interdisciplinary initiatives such as AI-related programs. The committee approved the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 academic calendars, both including a fall break, and discussed ensuring compliance with required contact hours. Work also began on exploring third-party tools to improve course evaluation (SPOTs) response quality and consistency, as well as broader

discussions on how evaluation data is used in faculty assessments. The committee also reviewed financial implications of new degree proposals and will continue to evaluate additional programs brought forward.

[Policies and Procedures Committee](#), Vicki Brown

The Committee on Policies and Procedures reported on its ongoing review of university policies and procedures referred from Steering and university leadership to ensure alignment with FAU operations. A major accomplishment this year was the successful passage and update of the Faculty Senate bylaws, completed after extensive committee work. The committee continues to meet as needed, with membership including faculty representatives and administrative liaisons from the Provost's Office. Looking ahead, the committee anticipates continued review of policies in response to evolving institutional needs and a complex higher education environment.

8. [UPC Consent Agenda](#)

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

9. [UPC Action Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Motion to approve carries** pending title change from *Applied AI for Science* to *Applications of AI in Science*.

10. [UGC Consent Agenda](#)

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

11. [UGC Action Agenda](#)

- Positive recommendation from Steering. **Motion to approve carries** except for Engineering, New Combined Degree program which has been tabled at this time pending updated documentation.

12. Old Business

- Senate Elections

The Senate conducted elections for committee and leadership positions. Several candidates were elected unopposed due to the number of available seats, including representatives to the Academic Planning and Budget Committee and the Policies and Procedures Committee. The Steering Committee elections included both returning members and a runoff election between two candidates, with ballots to be distributed following the meeting and results to be finalized the following week. The Senate recognized all candidates for their service and willingness to serve.

13. New Business

None.

14. Good of the Senate

- [Resolution Honoring Dr. Russ Ivy](#)

A resolution was presented honoring Dr. Russ Ivy for more than 30 years of service to FAU in faculty and senior leadership roles, including Vice Provost and Interim Provost. The

resolution highlighted his contributions to academic affairs, accreditation, curriculum development, global engagement, and shared governance, as well as his leadership during institutional transitions and challenges. The Senate formally commended his longstanding service and impact on the university.

- A public comment was then raised regarding changes in the University Libraries' DVD collection. The concern focused on the removal and deaccessioning of several thousand DVDs, with questions about decision-making processes, documentation, and potential loss of scholarly and instructional materials. Library leadership responded that the materials were largely obsolete due to format changes, damaged items, and lack of playback technology, and noted efforts to make content available through streaming alternatives, when possible, as well as consultation with faculty during the process. Some acknowledgment was made that communication and transparency could have been improved.

15. Meeting adjourned at 2:49 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		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	x	
Baghersad	Milad	Senator	Business				x	
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			x	x	
Brown	Vicki	Senator & Policy and Procedures	Education	x				
Burnett	Craig	Guest	Arts and Letters	x		x		
Calargé	Carla	Senator	Arts and Letters	x				
Darling	Sharon	Senator	Education	x	x	x	x	
Dawson-Scully	Ken	Provost	Academic Affairs	x		x		
DeGiorgio	Michael	Senator	EE&CS	x		x	x	
DeRigne	LeaAnne	Senator & Steering	SWCJ	x		x	x	
Dumbaugh	Eric	Senator	Science	x			x	
Dunn	Kim	Past-US President & APBC Chair	Business	x		x	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	
Finnegan	Lisa	Senator	Education	x	x	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, UGS	x		x	x	
Harrawood	Michael	Senator	Honors					
Harris	Mike	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x	x	
Hasner	Adam	University President	Office of the President					
Hoffman	Fred	Senator	Science	x	x	x	x	
Kaisar	Evangelos	Senator	EE&CS				x	
Lanning	Kevin	Senator	Honors	x				
Leventouri	Theodora	Senator	Science	x		x	x	
Levy	Ting	Senator	Business	x			x	
Lewin	Phil	Senator	Arts and Letters	x		x	x	
Lin	Yuandan	Senator	Science	x	x	x	x	
Locke	Stephen	Senator	Science			x	x	
Lu	Michael	Senator	Medicine				x	
Luck	George	Senator & FA Chair	Medicine		x			
MacDonald	Ian	Senator	Arts and Letters		x	x	x	
McConnell	Will	Senator	Arts and Letters	x	x	x		
Mello	Lawrence	Senator	Library			x	x	
Moslemian	Davood	Senator	EE&CS	x	x	x	x	
Mountford	Meredith	Senator	Education		x	x	x	
Newman	David	Senator & Steering	Nursing	x	x	x	x	
Nichols	Angela	Senator	Arts and Letters		x	x		
Nielsen	Sarah	Senator	Business					

Nikolova	Daniela	Senator	Science	x	x	x	x	
Penhollow	Tina	Research Chair	Science					
Quidley-Rodriguez	Narciso	Senator	Nursing	x	x	x	x	
Ramirez Agudelo	Andres	Senator	Education		x	x		
Reyes-Guerra	Daniel	Senator & FA Chair	Education					
Robé	Chris	Senator	Arts and Letters					
Rossow	Stacie	Senator	Arts and Letters			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	x		
Sarajedini	Vicki	Senator & FA Chair	Science	x		x	x	
Schmidmeier	Markus	Senator	Science					
Schoorman	Dilys	Senator	Education	x	x	x	x	
Shen	Wen	Senator	Medicine	x				
Sorge	Korey	UUPC Chair	Science	x	x	x	x	
TBD		Senator	Education					
TBD		Senator	EE&CS					
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				
Warsi	Salwa	Guest	Registrar's Office	x				
Wiggill	Sarah	Senator	Medicine	x				
Yin	Zhijun	Senator	Science	x	x	x		
Miller	Katie	Guest	Medicine		x			

Kharlamov	Viktor	Guest	Arts and Letters			x		
Duboue	Erik	Guest	Honors			x		
Larson	Robin	Guest	Arts and Letters				x	
Kelly	Kearney	Guest	Education				x	