



**FACULTY
SENATE**

**AGENDA
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026
ZOOM
3:05 P.M.**

Regular Session

The following members attended the Senate meeting:

T. Adams, J. Ang, J. Atkins, R. Atkinson, A. Baco-Taylor, R. Ballard, A. Barbu, T. Bick, B. Birmingham, D. Bish, M. Bishop, M. Bourassa, J. Broome, J. Brown Speights, D. Broxterman, M. Buchler, E. Bush, W. Butler, J. Calhoun, I. Chiorescu, C. Chouhy, W. Christiansen, M. Cortez, J. Cogle, M. Day, N. de Grummond, T. Dogru, R. Duarte, D. Eccles, A. Fahim, S. Fahmy, R. Goodman, T. Graban, S. Haiduc, K. Hanson, P. Hiver, C. Hofacker, R. Hughes, K. Jones, T. Kellison, H. Kern, E. Kim, K. Kinahan, A. Lauersdorf, T. Ledermann, S. Lester, M. Marengo, R. Marrinan, S. Metcalfe, S. Miller, L. Perez-Felkner, S. Piatkowska, M. Porter, E. Powell, J. Proffitt, I. Quinn, M. Ransdell, R. Roberts, N. Rogers, Q. Sang, G. Springer, G. Stanwood, J. Steiner, R. Stilling, M. Swanbrow Becker, R. Sweat, A. Terracciano, D. Thoms, C. Uejo, A. Volya, A. Wetherby, G. Williamson, A. Wing, H. Yi

The following members were absent. Alternates are listed in parenthesis:

T. Abichou, G. Adams, M. Akiba, F. Barrientos, A. Barton-Hulsey, D. Butcher, J. Clark, K. Dowell, M. Feulner, J. Hamilton, A. Hanley, W. Hochwarter, M. Killian, E. Klassen, T. Kwasnica, L. Lee, D. March, C. Moore, O. Moses Anubi, J. Murray-Roman, T. Needham, C. Ogle, S. Pappas, J. Pappas, B. Quaife, L. Rinaman, M. Romney, M. Roper, E. Ryan, P. Sanyal, S. Singh, J. Sobanjo, T. Soldat-Jaffe, G. Tyson, S. Valisa

I. Call to order

II. Approval of the agenda for January 21, 2026 meeting
Agenda was approved.

III. Approval of minutes for the November 19 and December 3, 2025 meetings
Minutes were approved.

IV. Report of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee – Jennifer Proffitt

- Since the Dec. 3rd meeting, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee has met five times and spoken with Provost Clark, VP Taylor, the Assistant Provost, Assistant Dean of CoreFSU Lynn Hogan, and CoreFSU Policy Committee Chair Jim Fadool.
- The committee reviewed the policy change proposals by the CoreFSU Policy Committee. Senator Proffitt explained that any changes would be brought to the faculty senate for a vote.
- The subject of university enrollment and visa policy for international students was revisited. This matter will affect enrollment processes and outcomes for the next few months.

- The Graduate School is holding biweekly virtual meetings for program leaders and faculty involved in graduate student recruitment. These meetings provide important information about international students.
- It is recommended that graduate faculty contact program administrators or Brian Barton for inquiries or information about the biweekly meetings.
- More information is provided on the CGE website or email (cge.fsu.edu).
- The committee also discussed the state government’s concern about H-1B visas at Florida universities.
 - The agenda for that meeting is publicly available on the website, located under the Notice of Intent to Amend Regulation 1.001. The notice states that the Board of Trustees does not have the authority to utilize H-1B to hire new employees until January 5, 2027.
 - The H-1B policy will be revisited at the next BOG meeting held in-person at the FSU student union (Jan 28th-29th). Public comments can be made on the BOG’s discussion of the H-1B proposal via email or at the next senate meeting.
 - The Advisory Council of Faculty Senate (voting members incl. Senate President Hughes and Senator Proffitt) will hold a meeting on January 28th. During this meeting, the faculty have an opportunity to meet with the Chancellor of Education and governors to discuss current and future BOG policies and how they will affect faculty/students.
- Social Media Policy Advisory Committee (co-chaired by Senate President Hughes & VP Taylor)
 - The committee reported their recommendations to the Provost in December. A policy is currently being written and a subcommittee composed of faculty will develop a best practices document for this policy.
- The floor was opened for questions.
- **Senator Fahim, Arts & Sciences** – asked if there is an accessible link to the BOG proposal.
 - **Senator Proffitt, Communications & Information** – answered that it is accessible. It is located under ‘Nomination and Governance’, then ‘Notice to Intent to Amend Regulation 1.001, University Board of Trustees Powers and Duties’, then under the PDF for proposed amendments to 101.001. Anything that is underlined indicates a new proposal.
- **Senator Graban, Arts & Sciences** – asked Dr. Barton how graduate faculty should approach applications for international students, with the knowledge of current H-1B policies. .
 - **Dr. Barton** – responded that graduate admissions should not approach the applications differently than before. However, knowing the proclamation, faculty should make note of applicants who have dual citizenship or already possess a visa. The CGE recommends that applicants go through the regular application process, as they may still be eligible to enter the country. Dean McDowell advises making careful consideration when selecting students for assistantships, especially with the newly adjusted proclamation.
- No other questions were posed.

V. **Announcements of the President of the University**

- VP of Research, Dr. Stacy Patterson, speaks on behalf of Pres. McCullough and Provost Clark for announcements.
- Dr. Patterson thanked Senate President Hughes for the opportunity to speak with the Senate.
- Acknowledged that research funding went through ups and downs in 2025, from cuts to federal funding and back-and-forth adjustments.
 - It took a lot of work, but the university did successfully re-acquire \$69 million of the \$109 million for FSU faculty and programs. \$40 million was lost.
 - The university is continually working to ensure that the effects of the funding loss do not carry over to students. FSU will focus on creating new opportunities and locating new funding sources.
- Mentioned that in the last two weeks, the NIH lost 2,000 grants, which impacted FSU before it was fortunately retrieved. They were mental health grants.
- The FY2026 federal budget is likely to pass, and another government shutdown does not appear to be on the horizon.

- The 43-day, more so the 3-month, government shutdown left a huge impact on FSU, particularly in science funding.
- Congress and courts have been supportive and actively helping sustain current funding levels for universities.
 - A bill was recently passed last week which helped the NSF, NASA, and DOENSF sustain a loss of \$310 million in funding (3.4% decrease) as opposed to a previously proposed 54% decrease.
- Dr. Patterson is part of the JAG Group, a team of experts working to develop better funding strategies for supporting research.
 - Last February, the government administration had planned on placing a 15% cap on FNA, which would have constrained research at FSU dramatically.
 - The latest bill helps protect this pool of funding by restricting the OMB from capping funding. Instead, it encourages the OMB to work with the JAG Group and SME to identify more sustainable funding models.
- FY20 has ended. FSU will finish FY25 at record levels for the number of proposals, awards, and expenditures made.
 - The NSF recognizes FSU's FY25 (which will end this month of January)
 - FSU boasts \$488.2 million in research expenditure for the year—a 50% increase since 2021.
 - Faculty deserve enormous credit for their part in this achievement. FSU is moving in a positive direction and outcompeting many national universities.
- FSU will continue to work hard to expand funding and ride this wave of unprecedented funding levels.
 - FSU must approach funding differently than in the past, as academic research and college athletics research such as the NIL has changed. FSU will need to adapt to how athletics has evolved, and the country has evolved to continue to remain a competitive athletics institution.
- Dr. Patterson participated in several town halls in November where she spoke with various departments on this subject. She encouraged faculty to reach out with comments or inquiries about how the Committee is reviewing and tailoring faculty proposals to federal priorities.
 - The Committee is committed to helping funding proposals get through, but they don't always work out because program officers are not continually updated on what federal agencies are prioritizing. The team continues working in DC to stay updated as much as possible on federal funding.
- In December, FSU revealed they have provided \$18 million in awards for new equipment for LEAP (Large Equipment Enhancement Program). This program is accessible to faculty who have been at FSU for at least 6 years.
 - There were many great proposals from the faculty. The ones that did not get funding will stay under review for future funding.
- CRC grants totaled \$3.6 million last year. The program is not available elsewhere outside of FSU.
- The FSU Health Initiative is underway. The program is driven by its mission to help shape a brighter future for the FSU community.
- The floor was opened for questions. None were posed.

VI. Reports of Special Committees

No special committees report.

VII. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Wording Changes to the Graduate Bulletin - Todd Adams, Chair of the Graduate Policy Committee (addendum 1)

- The Graduate Policy Committee reviewed, held a vote, and passed a proposal to revise policy within the Graduate Bulletin. Specifically, a revision to the language used for policy on the “regency of work for Master’s students”. This action intends to clarify when the start year of the seven-year maximum to obtain a Master’s degree is decided.
 - With this revision, it confirms that the first semester a student enrolls in an FSU graduate course serves as the starting point of their graduate academic timeline. Previously, the old

wording designated that the first graduate credit at a university (FSU or another institution) initiates the graduate timeline.

- Senator Adams explained that this revision is not a significant change, nor will it have a significant effect on current students. The main intent is to make the guidelines clearer. The GPC did pass this proposal.
 - Additionally, students may be eligible to extend their 7-year timeline if approved by their department chair. The change will facilitate a better academic planning experience on Stellic for academic advisors and students.
- The floor was opened for questions. None were posed.
- A poll was launched. 56 people voted. 98% yes. 0% no, 2% abstained.
- The GPC is working on getting new degrees under review. Proposals for a new degree program must be technically reviewed by the BOG (confirmed by Amy Guerrette, FDA). New doctoral programs are only approved two times a year.
 - **Amy Guerrette, Faculty Development and Advancement** – clarified that the list of new programs, known as the ‘anticipated new degree list’, is reviewed only once a year. The review occurs in June by the Board of Trustees and BOG. Proposals must have been discussed by the colleges no later than April.
- The GPC is working on revising the language in the guidelines for English proficiency assessment for graduate international student admissions. During the pandemic, the criteria for demonstrating English language proficiency expanded to accommodate more exam options. This policy was extended when it reached its deadline last Spring.
 - Impetus for adjusting guidelines includes the recent change to the scoring system of the TOEFL exam. The GPC will need to adjust its passing score requirement.
 - Senator Adams stated that if a student took the TOEFL before January 21st, the old scoring criteria would be applied. After January 21st, the student will be subject to the new scoring criteria.
- The current English assessment policy accepts scores from TOEFL, Cambridge English Language, Michigan Language Assessment, and Duolingo.
- Senator Adams mentioned discussions regarding the assessment of the reliability of Duolingo as compared to exams like TOEFL due to its conversational focus. There have been no significant issues with the credibility of Duolingo, which is why it remains a viable exam option.
 - The Admissions Committee requests a change to Duolingo scoring requirements from 120 to 125. The average score of admitted FSU students was 126. There is reluctance to accept the proposed 125-point minimum as it would disqualify some FSU applicants based on past averages.
- Senator Adams encouraged open comments or questions regarding the Duolingo assessment.
 - One question was asked to the committee if any graduate students who submitted Duolingo scores struggled with English proficiency. The committee currently does not have an answer.
- The floor was opened for questions.
- **Senator Duarte, Fine Arts** – commented that in a previous senate meeting, faculty were confused about the association between the Duolingo English assessment test and the Duolingo app.
 - **Senator Adams, Arts & Sciences**– explained that Duolingo does offer a formal online exam for testing English proficiency. He added that TOEFL now supports an online exam as well, and their testing structure is more similar than different from Duolingo’s. Cheating was not significantly more prominent between Duolingo or TOEFL with the online format.
- **Senator Goodman, Arts & Sciences**- asked if a BOG approval was required for five-year two-degree pathway programs.
 - **Amy Guerrette, Faculty Development and Advancement** – responded that neither the BOG nor the Board of Trustees approved undergraduate-graduate degree pathways. The Provost would be the last person to approve them.
- **Senator Brown Speights, Medicine** - asked when the English language exam occurs and what happens if students do not pass the exam.

GPC Proposal to Adjust “Recency of Work” Policy for Master’s Students

Current Policy in the Graduate Bulletin:

“The work for the master's degree must be completed within seven years from the time the student first registers for graduate credit. Any graduate work transferred from another institution must have commenced not more than seven years prior to completion of the degree for the credits to be applicable to the master's degree. If the master's degree is not completed within seven years from the time the student first registers for graduate credit, and the program and/or Department Chair does not choose to approve an Extension of Time (EOT), then the student may no longer be enrolled in that program or at Florida State University.”

Suggested Changes to the Graduate Bulletin:

“The work for the master's degree must be completed within seven years from the first semester a student enrolls in an FSU graduate course that may be counted toward the graduate degree. ~~the time the student first registers for graduate credit.~~ ~~Any graduate work transferred from another institution must have commenced not more than seven years prior to completion of the degree for the credits to be applicable to the master's degree.~~ If the master's degree is not completed within seven years from the first semester a student enrolls in an FSU graduate course that may be counted toward the graduate degree ~~time the student first registers for graduate credit~~, and the program ~~and~~/or Department Chair does not choose to approve an Extension of Time (EOT), then the student may no longer be enrolled in that program or at Florida State University.”

Justifications for Suggested Policy Change:

- Transfer credit is not automatically posted for graduate students. Program faculty can and will continue to determine if transfer credit is still relevant and can control if a student’s prior work should be included. This means that the faculty determination and judgement is automatic and built into the recency determination for academic purposes.
- Simplifying this requirement will streamline the advising considerations for faculty and the students. It also simplifies the degree progression and clearance process for students, faculty, and the colleges.
- Since 2021, only 5 master’s students fell outside of the 7-year recency requirement due to external transfer credit being applied. However, in all instances, when the external transfer work was reviewed, approved, and transcribed to the student’s academic record, it necessitated an Extension of Time.
 - o *Most master’s students that fall outside of the 7-year recency requirement are readmissions, in which the master’s students have temporarily left FSU, been discontinued in Student Central, and simply wish to return to FSU to finish up their remaining master’s degree requirements.
- The timing remains unchanged.

- This adjustment to the policy simply allows for the 7-year recency requirement to start from “the first semester a student enrolls in an FSU graduate course that may be counted toward the graduate degree” rather than at the time of “first graduate credit”, as the latter included external transfer credit. This helps to avoid unnecessary Extensions of Time to be completed and processed by the graduate program, Dean’s Office, and Graduate School.
- This change would not impact BS/MS Combined Pathway students, as the graduate coursework taken during their undergraduate career would be FSU credit and internally transferred over to their MS career once they move over into the master’s degree. In such cases, the 7-year clock would start at the semester when the student matriculated into their master’s program, as the graduate coursework would be moved to their master’s admit term.
- This is plain language that gets around zero-hour courses, external transfer credit, non-degree status, etc. It also aligns with the GPA reset policy as well.
- This change would assist in configuration with Stellic implementation.