



**MINUTES**  
**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025**  
**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, A. Barrientos, A. Barton-Hulsey, T. Bick, B. Birmingham, D. Bish, M. Bishop, D. Broxterman, M. Buchler, E. Bush, J. Calhoun, I. Chiorescu, C. Chouhy, W. Christiansen, M. Cortez, N. de Grummond, T. Dogru, R. Duarte, A. Fahim, S. Fahmy, R. Goodman, T. Graban, S. Haiduc, A. Hanley, P. Hiver, C. Hofacker, K. Jones, T. Kellison, M. Killian, E. Kim, K. Kinahan, E. Klassen, A. Kwasnica, A. Lauersdorf, L. Lee, S. Lester, M. Marengo, R. Marrinan, S. Metcalfe, S. Miller, T. Needham, K. Ogle, S. Pappas, L. Perez-Felkner, S. Piatkowska, J. Proffitt, M. Porter, E. Powell, M. Ransdell, R. Roberts, N. Rogers, M. Romney, Q. Sang, T. Soldat-Jaffe, G. Springer, G. Stanwood, J. Steiner, R. Stilling, M. Swanbrow Becker, R. Sweat, A. Terracciano, D. Thoms, A. Volya, A. Wetherby, G. Williamson, A. Wing

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

T. Abichou, G. Adams, M. Akiba, M. Bourassa, J. Broome, J. Brown Speights (M. Gerend), D. Butcher, W. Butler, J. Clark, J. Cougle, M. Day, K. Dowell, D. Eccles, M. Feulner, J. Hamilton, K. Hanson, W. Hochwarter, H. Kern, T. Ledermann (D. Tawfiq), D. March, C. Moore, O. Moses Anubi, J. Murray-Roman, J. Pappas, B. Quaife, I. Quinn, L. Rinaman, M. Roper, E. Ryan, P. Sanyal, S. Singh, J. Sobanjo, G. Tyson, C. Uejio, S. Valisa, H. Yi.

**I. Call to order**

**II. Approval of the agenda, November 19, 2025, meeting**  
Agenda was approved.

**III. Approval of minutes, October 15, 2025**  
Minutes will be revisited.

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

- Since the Oct. 15 meeting, the Steering Committee met four times and had spoken with President, the Provost, and Vice President Taylor
- The Committee looked over policy changes proposed by the Teaching Evaluations Committee. This will be discussed in more depth under New Business.
- The FSSC has discussed concerns over federal policy changes and the impact on international student enrollment. This includes the four-year student visa limit. More details about visas and other current regulations can be found on the CGE website (at cge.fsu.edu).

- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Governor's Press Conference meeting was held at USF. The meeting covered the subject of H-1B visas at Florida universities.
- At the recent BOG meeting, the Chancellor and the Governors expressed a need to understand more about the H-1B visa before passing any regulations. More clarification and updates on this matter will be addressed at January's BOG meeting.
- The FSSC has discussed New Colleges' intention to sign the federal government's Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education.
- Reminder about the FSU Food Pantry for students. A link to donate can be found in President Hughes' monthly email.
- The FSSC also reviewed the name change and reorganization proposal by the Department of Interior Architecture and Design. More on this subject will be covered under New Business.
- Senator Proffitt opened the floor to questions.
- **Senator Jones, Arts & Sciences** – asked whether more content was covered about the H-1B at the BOG meeting–beyond governors expressing a need to understand the visa better. Jones believed the governors also discussed DEI and hiring foreign-born individuals. Jones stated that faculty search committees are diligent about hiring employees based on meritocracy and hoped that the BOG would take that into consideration.
  - **Senate Pres. Hughes** – responded that the Advisory Council of Florida Faculty Senate (ACFS) leaders did mention this subject with BOG representatives and Chancellor. Specifically, on the nature of advertising job positions and the competitiveness in selections. The BOG and Chancellor recognized that this aspect would be important for further study, especially as they are not familiar with research and hiring processes. Hughes also noted that ACFS members spoke with governors about how some institutions have niche research areas which can make acquiring appropriate resources and individuals difficult if international faculty are not able to be hired
- No other questions were raised.

## V. Announcements of the President of the University

- Provost Clark spoke on behalf of President McCullough.
- The provost expressed his thanks to faculty and their work to maintain high standards of academic and student success.
- Highlighted the success of October's Discovery Day in showcasing research and innovations achieved at FSU. The event was sponsored by the VP for Research. 2,500 attendees were recorded at 34 events.
- He mentioned the construction and finalization of new buildings on campus.
  - Legacy Hall will open this Spring 2026 semester.
  - The Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building will advance material science and quantum research as well as industry partnerships.
  - Ignite Tallahassee is a startup incubator that will support new tech companies and strengthen economics within the area
  - FSU Health Research Building on Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare is under construction. This new infrastructure will further health education at FSU.
  - FSU is currently seeking funding from the Florida Legislature for a new College of Nursing building.
  - Also funding for a new engineering building, known as Building C. Work on this will continue throughout 2026, starting on Jan. 13.
- Florida State thanks the Florida Legislature and the Florida Board of Governors for their investment in advancing education at FSU.
- The Provost, President McCullough, and team attended the BOG meeting earlier this November. They discussed performance-based funding for the next fiscal year. Their aim is to ensure that FSU remains within the top three schools in the state while also meeting other goals of the BOG.

- The Board revised regulations on publicizing syllabi for lecture, discussion, and lab courses at FSU within the Simple Syllabus policy. Only individualized study courses are exempt from this requirement.
  - VP Taylor sent an email on Monday to all faculty and staff regarding steps towards enforcement of the regulation.
  - Public posting of syllabi will likely not occur during the Spring semester. But emphasized that syllabi for the spring session should be posted per usual onto Canvas.
  - VP Taylor will continue working with Chairs and Associate Deans this Friday to gather a specific timeline about how public posting will start this summer.
  - The full regulation will be enforced for the summer, meaning all course syllabi need to be posted 45 days before the semester start date. The Committee will ensure that process is smooth.
- Provost Clark thanked VP Taylor and team for working with the technology and making sure that the enforcement process is smooth. VP Taylor is always available to answer questions on the topic.
- He expressed his gratitude to faculty for adapting to the new changes and working diligently to provide high quality education. He wished everyone a good holiday break.
- The Provost encouraged faculty to attend President McCullough's State of the University Address at the next meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3.30 pm at the College of Medicine Auditorium. The address will cover all work throughout the year and what to look forward to in 2026 and after.
- The floor was open to questions.
- **Senator Goodman, Arts & Sciences** – stated that the COSSPP found that the Governor had possession of all 2025 syllabi for Florida DOGE. Goodman asked if more information could be provided about that. She thanked Provost Clark and Senate President Hughes.
  - **Provost Clark** – answered that DOGE did inquire for curriculum information from FSU a few days before this meeting. The inquiry was part of a process that DOGE is undergoing. This first involved financial investigations (Ben Watkins mentioned this at the last BOG meeting). The second part is focusing on curriculum and teaching. Clark stated that he did not know the purpose of this inquiry and stated that FSU was complying with DOGE's request. This process is undergoing across the SUS with a December deadline.
- No other questions were asked.

## VI. Reports of special committees

No reports from special committees.

## VII. Reports of standing committees

### a. Proposed Changes to Teaching Evaluation Policies – Dr. Alex Kercheval, Chair of the Teaching Evaluation Committee (addendum 1)

- Dr. Kercheval introduced himself. He is a professor in the mathematics department and the new chair of the Teach Evaluation Committee. The committee influences university-wide policies and procedures on evaluating teaching performance.
- Dr. Kercheval felt that student surveys were heavily relied upon for measuring teaching quality. Stated that he could be mistaken as this is his first year in the role.
  - He hoped that the Teaching Evaluation Committee would work on integrating more non-student feedback systems.
  - Faculty and committee members should not hesitate to provide input on improvements to teaching evaluations.
- The proposed changes to teaching evaluation policies include confirming the use of online surveys instead of paper. The ODL wanted the Committee to revise the language to make the proposal clearer. Beyond re-wording, there was no real alteration to the original policy concerning that area.
  - The other update to policy is that online classes are now entitled to teaching evaluation surveys.
- The Committee needs approval from the Faculty Senate to confirm the new policy.
- The floor was opened for questions. None were posed.
- The poll was launched. 64 people voted. 95% yes, 0% no, 5% abstained.

- Senate Pres. Hughes thanked Dr. Kercheval for chairing the committee.

## **VIII. Unfinished business**

No unfinished business.

## **IX. New Business**

### **a. Requested Name Change for the Department of Interior Architecture and Design to the School of Design – Dean James Frazier, Dean of the College of Fine Arts (addendum 2)**

- Dean Frazier explained that the Department of Interior Architecture and Design was increasingly introducing new interdisciplinary curricula. The department now offers, for example, the Graduate Certificate in Graphic Design and will eventually support the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Design (beginning Fall 2026).
- The proposed name is the School of Design. Frazier further explained that architecture, which is highlighted in the current name, was not taught at the school.
- Frazier mentioned that FSU does not distinguish between schools and departments, meaning that revising teaching content and focus is feasible without conflicting or changing bylaws. The advantage of this is schools and departments can continue to adapt their curriculum to current industries and advancements.
- The plan with the School of Design is that resources will be reallocated under the same chair structure. Frazier noted that the school is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and the Council for Interior Design.
- Department faculty are in support of this change. Advisory councils were involved in structuring the proposal and ensuring compliance with college and department bylaws.
  - The proposed change will increase attention to the school and attract philanthropic involvement. Also, these changes align with FSU's emphasis on interdisciplinary studies and design education.
  - If approved, the change will come into effect starting in Summer and Fall 2026.
- The floor was open to questions.
- Senator Adams, Arts & Sciences** – commented that naming was somewhat of an issue for schools that belonged to a college or were independent of a college. Asked if the Department was part of a college that had other schools and departments.
  - Dean Frazier, Fine Arts** – replied that he was unsure.
  - Amy Guerrette, Faculty Development and Advancement** – replied that Education, Health and Human Sciences have a teacher education college as well as departments.
- The poll was launched. 67 people voted. 95% yes, 3% no, 2% abstained.

### **b. Updates from the Office of Research – Dr. Stacey Patterson, Vice President for Research**

- The presentation is moved to the next meeting.

## **X. University welfare**

### **a. United Faculty of Florida – Senator Robin Goodman**

- Senator Goodman stated that the Committee was actively meeting and working on alterations to be made to the contract. Mentioned that if faculty had any thoughts on the matter, they could speak with her, Jennifer Profitt, or Michael Buchler.
- The FSU negotiation team was no longer involved in the ACLU case against SB-266.
  - The cases at UF and FIU will go forward. Goodman hoped that the decision would be applied to the entire state of Florida.
- The Committee was also working on legal matters relating to the Simple Syllabus.
  - The Committee believes that the policy is a breach of contract and a violation of federal copyright law.
  - The Committee is working on a formal statement to explain why the university does not have the right to publish intellectual property rights without consent.

- This Friday, between 5.00pm – 7.00pm at North Flora in Railroad Square, a social with Nick Teslow. Teslow is running for Neil Dunce at the US Congress representing this district.
- December 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6.00pm – 9.00pm at the Proof is a holiday party co-sponsored by University Welfare and the Big Ben Labor console.
- The floor was open to questions.
- **Senator Broxterman, Business** – asked if Senator Goodman could provide a link or documentation about the contents of the university policy proposal on Simple Syllabus.
  - **Senator Goodman, Arts & Sciences** – answered that documentation is not available currently but could be made accessible in December. The committee is working on filing a chapter grievance. Expressed that the Committee strongly believes that unconsented publishing of intellectual property rights is not legal.
- No other items of university welfare were presented.

**XI. Announcements of deans and other administrative officers**  
No announcements.

Senator Hughes mentioned the State of the University Address on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3.30pm. After the address, there will be hors d'oeuvres where faculty and staff meet in-person. The meeting adjourned at 3.40pm.

---

**NEXT FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS  
DECEMBER 3, 2025, 3:30 PM  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE DURELL PEADEN AUDITORIUM**



1/23/26