

UNO Faculty Senate Minutes 27 April 2026

1. Roll Call ((Juana Ibáñez, [JI]) Secretary)

2025-2026
University of New Orleans Faculty Senate Meeting Roster, 27 April 2026

		Representation	First	Last	Term	Committee	Attendance
1	1	Administration	Scott	Pentzer	25-26		WJ
2	1	Staff Council	Coleen	Maidlow	25-26		ar
3	1	SG President	Joshua	Trochez	25-26		
4	1	Alumni Assoc	Nerolie	Rayson	25-26	MR	
5	1	Adjunct	David	Lambour	25-26		DL
6	1	COBA	Bridget	Bordelon	25-28	B	
7	2	COBA	Kabir	Hassan	23-26	A	WJ
8	3	COBA	DJ	Min	25-28	D	WJ
9	4	COBA	Ray	Rodriguez	23-26	B	WJ
10	5	COBA	Cherie	Trumbach	24-27	SE, C	WJ
11	1	COE	Satish	Bastola	24-27	C	WJ
12	2	COE	Damon	Smith	24-27	SE, A, B	WJ
13	3	COE			23-26	SE, D	WJ
14	1	COLAEHD	Brian	Beabout	23-26	A	WJ
15	2	COLAEHD	David	Beriss	24-27	B	WJ
16	3	COLAEHD	Juana	Ibáñez (S)	24-27	SE, B	WJ
17	4	COLAEHD	Max	Krochmal	24-27	D	WJ
18	5	COLAEHD	Marc	Landry	23-26	Gen Ed.	WJ
19	6	COLAEHD	James	Mokhiber	24-27	SE, D	WJ
20	7	COLAEHD	Andrea	Mosterman	24-27	D	WJ
21	8	COLAEHD	Maria	Nelson	23-26	A	WJ
22	9	COLAEHD	Grace	Reinke	25-28	C	WJ
23	10	COLAEHD	Lisa	Verner	24-27	A	WJ
24	11	COLAEHD	Michelle	Wade	23-26	A	WJ
25	1	COS	Joel	Atallah	24-27	C	WJ
26	2	COS	Rachel	Clostio	23-26	A	WJ
27	3	COS	Cory	Dumesnil	25-28	A	WJ
28	4	COS	Simon	Lailvaux	23-26	D	WJ
29	5	COS	Steve	Rick	23-26	SE, B	WJ
30	6	COS	Ben	Samuel	25-28	A	WJ
31	7	COS	Chris	Summa (Pres)	23-26	SE, A	WJ
32	8	COS	Phoebe	Zito	23-26	Gen Ed.	WJ
33	1	Library	Abram	Himmelstein	25-28	B	WJ
34	2	Library	Connie	Phelps (VP)	24-27	SE, D	WJ

Key: Bold: Elected Senate Governance
Blue: Senate Executive Committee
Committees: A - Academic C - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)
B - Budget D - Administrative Gen Ed. - General Education

Quorum is attained.

2. Minutes (JI)

25 March 2026 minutes. -- Brian Beabout motioned to accept. David Beriss seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

15 April 2026 minutes. -- Abram Himmelstein (AH) motions to accept. Cory Dumesnil (CD) seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

3. Updates from the Faculty Senate President (Chris Summa [CS])

Slide:

3a) Student Participation Verification

Day 14 Census is important for student financials

Issues: It's a time-consuming process for faculty

Using Canvas student “check-in” is highly inaccurate

Faculty use Canvas to varying degrees

Compromise, Faculty will enter into WorkDay info for ONLY THOSE STUDENTS

*who either stopped or never attended. Default will be set to
“currently attending” and we will not have to do data entry for
those students.*

*Summa: Ask if a report from Canvas can be generated that details the last thing and
Time/date of when a student last interacted with Canvas.*

Discussion:

- It is a problem if no single matrix in Canvas is available to judge if a student is actively participating. Canvas needs to be configured to provide that without having to go student by student.
- CD motions to pass the compromise resolution. Ben Samuel (BS) seconds the motion.
- We are assuming there is something from Canvas for report for hand-editing facilitation.
- So long as the registrar sends out an email to remind faculty that the 14-days deadline is in place.
- Motion unanimously passes by voice vote.
- When will this be in effect, Fall or Summer?
- CS - don't know yet.

Slide:

3b) President's Updates: Discussion of On-Campus Academic AI Policy

This was a collaboration between Meredith King (THANK YOU!) and the FS Academic Committee

These policies were created as possible language that faculty can use within their syllabi.

Basically 3 Options:

1. *AI not permitted*
2. *AI permitted within guidelines*
3. *AI encouraged within guidelines*

You are welcome to continue using any policy that you already have, modify one of the 3 options, or completely create your own.

In the future, a statement about AI will be required on all syllabi. The above options are intended to aid faculty in developing their own AI policies.

Discussion:

- Meredith King and Faculty Senate Academic committee came up with examples of set of guidelines to add to syllabus. Senate needs to approve or not.
- This was brought up the last time AI was discussed. How do we know if students are using AI? The AI indicator in TurnItIn has glitches.
- That is a separate question from examples of guidelines to use in the syllabus.
- How potential AI use is adjudicated after an accusation is made is beyond the scope of these guidelines.

- It is hard to have a policy if I don't know how to enforce it.
- We don't have to put a statement on syllabus right now.
- It is persistent and endemic for the student to be fully informed about faculty expectations. There should be something in the syllabus to specify faculty expectations regarding AI use.
- If you don't put a statement in your syllabus you don't have a recourse, should they use AI. That's all this statement is. This is what is allowed in my class.
- Is there a baseline language?
- You can create your own or modify the existing language.
- President KJ – This guidelines statement came through a UL system policy. The charge for the policy came from governor's office. Syllabi will have to have a statement from this point forward. I will forward the email, to you.
- Motion to accept the suggested guidelines by Juana Ibanez. Seconded by Michelle Wade. Voice vote held. There was one abstention but the motion to approve the guidelines passed by voice vote.

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3c) President's Updates - Space

Space Updates

Ben Franklin will continue to use classroom space in Education into the Fall (at least)

Negotiations continue with Ben Franklin over length of lease and renewal policy for HPC

The Cove will reopen in the Fall

Liberal Arts Building News: Andrea Mosterman and Jim Mokhiber

Discussion:

- Moving out of Liberal Arts is ongoing.

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3c) President's Updates – Space -- Education Environmental Testing

Results of Environmental Testing were received late last week

Both LA and Education Buildings:

Evidence of high levels of mold in HVAC system

What they're planning to do about it:

HVAC maintenance and repair and mold remediation

Discussion:

- Report says both buildings have structural problems. It is highly recommended that a structural engineer be hired to review the report. In both buildings the disrepair, according to the inspector, is the result of years of not taking care of the HVAC. It is likely that other buildings on campus are also impacted from long term neglect and so expect same or similar problems in other buildings. According to the report, the ED building condition is in worse condition than the LA building.
- To what degree is this a hazard?
- 400 ppm is bad and this says 22,834 ppm
- Reading from report. "Air quality currently compromised and needs to be remediated."

- Why hasn't this been done and why has it been allowed to get to this level? For immune compromised people in the buildings, this is going to impact those individuals. Do we need to test air quality campus wide?
- CS – We can ask for more testing and remediation, but it is not clear if figuring out how we got here will be helpful.
- I am not a scientist, but a quick look online shows this is a problem. It is pretty serious work to clean it up and Mark Pyle (MP) has minimized the need for remediation. How we got here includes lack of money and not prioritizing the health of the people here. I've been in that building for four years and there was a previous effort to look and was told it was a visual inspection, and obviously it was done incorrectly. Classrooms are not being cleaned properly and that increases the amount of detritus not being filtered from HVAC.
- I have been there for 17 years and am thankful for the second round of building checks. The Senate could issue a request asking for a date to make sure remediation is completed. There are ten recommendations at the back of the report.
- I suggest a proposal for all buildings to be checked.
- For a long time we have been asking for this and repeatedly told that there are no problems, and now we are expected to trust the same person that told us that there were no problems. He is the one in charge of the HVAC systems. When asking the Dean for clarification and support, and the Dean keeps referring us back to the same person on how to interpret the test results. We are not able to trust MP. Who is going to guarantee who is going to keep the buildings safe?
- Another problem is Lafitte village building issues.
- We don't need for this to turn this into something that will keep people from coming here. These are the environmental risks and we are going to take care of it now.
- CS – Should the space committee have that conversation with MP and his boss? What are the steps moving forward?
- We should create a letter requesting immediate remediation. In the letter asking for the remediation plan can we ask for a follow-up inspection by the same ones that generated the report. That way we can trust that the work was done.
- Who is going to be in charge of this?
- President KJ – We have lost our safety people and those who regulate consistent checking. MP is the only one. LSU is going to be leaned on to help with this. It needs to be a shared responsibility. This is a real issue.
- Can we forward the report to the LSU development people?
- President KJ- They should have the report and the remediation timeline.
- Not having the team to do this test is due to financial constraints, but if reports in the past had said we had no issues, but the reality is that we had issues, this is not okay. We have been told otherwise.
- It is a communication issue.
- The fact that it was said that the air quality issues were ok, is bad.
- We have it in writing and were repeatedly told there was no problem with the building. Now we see it is a problem. I don't know how we can trust from now on forward that people will take on the responsibility they should.
- Remove the passive voice. MP is the one that said this. Someone else found the company that did the air quality tests. The inspector said they can do referrals to fix the problems. Let's get a consultant to fix it and not trust MP to get remediation done.
- MP said the company hired to do the test will just want more money to do the remediation.
- Is there any possibility that the cursory inspections was just signed off? Did it possibly degrade between initial inspection and now?
- Demolition reports indicated that knocking it down would be more hazardous.
- Max Krochmal (MK) moves to delegate the writing of a proposal to President KJ. JI seconded. Motion passes. Outline of the letter is drafted onto the following slide.

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3c) President's Updates – Education Environmental Testing (continued)

Faculty Senate: Letter to Administration

We request a detailed plan from Facility services about what they plan to do to fix the problems and timelines (ideally within two weeks or so).

In the past Mark Pyle told us that it was fine, it is not, therefore we do not trust the process

Let's get a third party company to do this – the inspector company can do referrals.

We'd like a follow-up inspection by that same group

We'd also like, this coming year, to have similar testing done in other in-use buildings

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3d) President's Updates

Accessibility

At the national level, the deadline for having all online content pass accessibility metrics has been pushed back a year

The hope is currently that the state legislature will reflect this change in state policy – in the meantime we continue pushing toward 100% accessibility

CS - In summary, accessibility requirement for LMS has been pushed back a year once legislature passes legislation.

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3e) President's Updates

Faculty Workload Analysis update

I mentioned last time I was working on a tool that Chairs could use to do a workload analysis based on raw data from WorkDay.

Version 1.0 (menu driven) is done, but not bulletproof (demo)

Version 2.0 (GUI) is underway.

4) LSU Transition

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4a) LSU Transition – Interim Leadership Positions

Interim vs. Permanent Leadership Positions

- *There are currently searches spinning up for:*
 - *VP Athletics*
 - *Director: LSU-New Orleans Foundation*

- *President Rousse has stated that the CAO and CFO positions will transition from interim to permanent on July 1st.*
- *Interim Chairs should be transitioned to “permanent” as soon as possible, and merged Chairs split back apart as soon as possible*
- *Splitting the Deanship for COBA and COLAEHD is being considered*
- *Also, the goal is to split the Deanship of CoS and CoE*
- *Training for Chairs is important a process will be spun up for this*

Discussion:

- What is the process for turning interim positions into permanent?
- President KJ – Engineering and Science are to be split into separate deanships again
- Is there a timeline?
- President KJ – earliest Jan 1, 2027.
- Ordinarily there are national searches so how were the interim CAO and CFO appointed without a search?
- President KJ – LSU policy may be different.
- Can we get the policy from LSU regarding whether or not they have to do national searches?
- CS – I will find out.
- In a meeting with the Dean last Friday there were no changes for chairs announced but, I am a Chair for a number of different entities. If there is a split between psychology and biology, Why not for Liberal Arts Chairs? I am confused by this information.
- It seems they are pumping the breaks on splitting BA and COLAEHD.
- CS – this was a discussion from 2 weeks ago. It may not still be what is being considered anymore.
- How about compensation for Chairs?
- Should we be designing a statement to share from this discussion?
- CS- that is coming up.

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4b) LSU Transition – Resolution I

- *Resolution on Policies Through the Transition*

*The Faculty Senate calls upon the Administration to set policy for the future LSU-New Orleans **based upon how the policies should be in the long term, following LSU system Permanent Memoranda**, and not based upon what is immediately implementable.*

Discussion:

- Bill Sharpton comparing UL and LSU policies and breaking them into buckets to determine which policies need to change, update or eliminate? Some are immediate and go into effect July 1. We are going to be doing that soon and faculty need to weigh in. Several conversations with JRW about summer sessions. Last 3 years that was salary so she thought that was the policy. We need a statement on how to think about policies as we transition.
- The policy is the permanent thing. The temporary decision right now is to suspend policies to get ducks in a row rather than put policies in place reflecting poverty status.
- editing of resolution ensued.
- Does this have to get done over the summer?
- CS – This is not an option. We have to work on this over the summer.
- Is there a list available for the buckets?
- CS – The list being worked on.

- This was shared with Chair's Council. During this time of policy readjustment to the system not about alignment but what works now. Looks at the Chairs policy at LSU. Permanent Memorandum. LSU Alexandria copied and pasted what the policies look like if going in LSU system. We pushed back because we can't afford it. Create a policy and suspend it temporarily. If we allow the policy to be what it is right now we are going to be stuck with it. This statement is important. What we have right now is not right and is not the norm. There are statements that what is going on is the norm. It needs to be acknowledged that it is not the norm.
- It is a lot of work to ask of people who are not supposed to be working. FSEC should be paid to do this work. Need to have representation.
- CS – It is unlikely but I can ask.
- This is a lot of extra work. Summer study money should be made available to help advocate for the faculty.
- Isn't there a whole new position with for a CAO? There is obviously money for that. It is a choice as to who gets compensated for money.
- I would feel uncomfortable taking compensation.
- Not me.
- I understand budget is limited but paying for faculty to their jobs is important. We need compensation in the summer.
- CS – motion to call the issue on this resolution. Marla Nelson so moves. Steve Rick seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously to table the "Resolution on Policies Through the transition".

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4b) LSU Transition – Resolution II

- *Resolution on Ownership of Programs/Courses in LSUOnline*

The Faculty Senate feels strongly that Faculty and Departments should still be in charge of their curricula, consistent with the claim that LSUOnline courses are "taught by the same faculty as in-person courses"

Discussion:

Jl motions to accept resolution. Andrea Mosterman seconds. The motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

5) Committee Reports

a. Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee (Steve Rick)

We met with Norman Barnum. We questioned the loss of money on the auxiliaries. The budget is likely to be \$97 million. We asked about our debt.

CS will ask questions about budgets at the next Executive Council meeting.

b. Academic Committee (Rachel Clostio) – no report.

c. Faculty and Administrative Affairs Committee (Simon Lailvaux) – no report.

6) Adjournment of 2025-2026 Faculty Senate

Michelle Wade motions to adjourn 2025-2026 Senate meeting. Grace Reinke (GR) seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

7) Changing of the Guard / Welcome to 2026-2027 Faculty Senate

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Welcome to New Senators!

- John Fitzmorris (History) replaces Marc Landry
- Courtney Wait (ED) replaces Brian Beabout
- Chuck Taylor (SOTA) replaces Marla Nelson
- Kendal Leftwich (Physics) replaces Simon Lailvaux
- Melanie Stiegler (EES) replaces Phoebe Zito

8) Call to Order

9) Roll Call (JI)

2026-2027 Senate Roll Sheet

University of New Orleans Faculty Senate Meeting Roster, 27 April 2026

		Representation	First	Last	Term	Committee	Attendance
1	1	Administration	Scott	Pentzer	26-27		
2	1	Staff Council	Coleen	Maidlow	26-27		
3	1	SG President	Joshua	Trochez	26-27		
4	1	Alumni Assoc	Nerolie	Rayson	26-27	ML	
5	1	Adjunct	David	Lambour	26-27		
6	1	COBA	Bridget	Bordelon	25-28	B	
7	2	COBA	Kabir	Hassan	26-29	A	has Y&P 3-27-26
8	3	COBA	DJ	Min	25-28	D	
9	4	COBA	Ray	Rodriguez	26-29	B	
10	5	COBA	Cherie	Trumbach	24-27	SE, C	
11	1	COE	Satish	Bastola	24-27	C	
12	2	COE	Damon	Smith	24-27	SE, A, B	
13	3	COE	Vincent	Yu	26-29	D	
15	1	COLAEHD	David	Beriss	24-27	B	
18	2	COLAEHD	John	Fitzmorris	26-29	Gen Ed.	
16	3	COLAEHD	Juana	Ibáñez (S)	24-27	SE, B	
17	4	COLAEHD	Max	Krochmal	24-27	D	
19	5	COLAEHD	James	Mokhiber	24-27	SE, D	
20	6	COLAEHD	Andrea	Mosterman	24-27	D	
22	7	COLAEHD	Grace	Reinke	25-28	C	
21	8	COLAEHD	Chuck	Taylor	26-29	A	
23	9	COLAEHD	Lisa	Verner	24-27	A	
14	10	COLAEHD	Courney	Wait	26-29	A	
25	1	COS	Joel	Atallah	24-27	C	
26	2	COS	Rachel	Clostio	26-29	A	
27	3	COS	Cory	Dumesnil	25-28	A	
28	4	COS	Kendal	Leftwich	26-29	D	
29	5	COS	Steve	Rick	26-29	SE, B	
30	6	COS	Ben	Samuel	25-28	A	
32	7	COS	Melanie	Stiefier	26-29	Gen Ed.	
31	8	COS	Chris	Summa (Pres)	26-29	SE, A	
33	1	Library	Abram	Himmelstein	25-28	B	
34	2	Library	Connie	Phelps (VP)	24-27	SE, D	

Key: Bold: Elected Senate Governance

Blue: Senate Executive Committee

Committees:

A - Academic

C - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

B - Budget

D - Administrative

Gen Ed. - General Education

Quorum is attained.

10) Election of Officers

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10a) Election of Officers

- *Election Committee (need 3 volunteers)*
- *Nominations for President*
- *Statements*
- *Vote*

Discussion:

Election Committee: 3 people volunteered to count votes if needed (Max Krochmal, Kabir Hassan, and Grace Reinke (GR))

First officer - President

CS nominated by CP and seconded by CT. There were no other nominations. CS was elected by acclamation for President for 2026-2027 academic year.

10b) Election of Officers – Vice President

Second officer - Vice President

Connie Phelps nominated by JI and seconded by SR. There were no other nominations. CP was elected by acclamation as Vice President for 2026-2027 academic year.

10c) Election of Officers - Secretary

Third officer – Secretary

JI was nominated by CP. Seconded by DB. There were no other nominations. Before accepting the nomination, JI requested for Senate approval to allow tape recorded transcriptions.

GR so motioned. CD seconded. Voice vote held. Motion passes by voice vote with one abstention.

JI was elected by acclamation as Secretary for 2026-2027 academic year.

11) Meeting Frequency / Summer?

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11) Meeting Frequency? Summer?

- *Do we want to keep up bi-monthly meeting going into 2026-2027?*
- *Do we want to meet over the summer, as this is when the transition is happening?*

Discussion:

- CS – With regards to meeting frequency, do you want to meet over the summer? The FSEC will be meeting frequently. Is there a monthly faculty meeting/need?
- Only if there is a need to ratify anything.
- CS – Should we need to do something with electronic voting?
- Due to circumstances of transition.
- Prefer monthly Senate meetings over summer.

- Electronic voting does not have to be on teams meeting but can be emailed.
- If something comes up over the summer a monthly meeting, or as needed.
- Biweekly until things settle down.
- CS – We are voting on summer meetings first.
- Cherie Trumbach (CT) motions to allow for Senate voting electronically or on forms over the summer. CD seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.
- BS motions for Senate to have monthly meetings over the summer and give FSEC reserves the right to call emergency meetings should they become necessary. AH seconded the motion. It passes unanimously by voice vote.
- Courtney Wait motions for the Senate to meet bimonthly during Fall and Spring as needed. GR seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

12) Adjournment

John Fitzmorris motions to adjourn. Seconded by CT. Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned.