

Organizational Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Curris Center Barkley Room

- I. Call to Order
 - A. FS President [Michael Bordieri](#) called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM
- II. Welcome and Sign-in
 - A. The following were in attendance: FS President Michael Bordieri, FS Vice President Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers, Shri Singh, Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Jeff Henry, Alison Brown, Jonathan Lyon, Jenifer Hart, Eran Guse, Michelle Panchuk, Michael Busby, Ben Post, David Pizzo, Shauna Mullins, Melburn Dayton, Jenilee Williams, Thomas Crawford, Brie LaJaret, Chris Trzepacz, Marcie Venter, Aaron Irvin, and Melanie McCallan Seib
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Motion by Senator Pizzo, Second by Senator Sahawneh
 1. Approved with unanimous consent
- IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
 - A. FS President [Michael Bordieri](#) shared updates about the final approval by President Patterson of FSR-25-26-4 and FSH-25-26-5, the latter is routed to the BoR for final approval.
 - B. Appointments approved with unanimous consent:
 1. Fac/Staff Degree Agreements Working Group
 - a) Senator [Michael Busby](#)
 2. Performance Funding Working Group
 - a) Senator Faris Sahawneh
 - C. Senate Year in Review
 1. Policy
 - a) All completed major policy initiatives put forth have been approved
 - b) One pending policy, bona fide financial reasons, is progressing
 2. Representation
 - a) Senate has been represented in places where meaningful decisions are made, including key search committees, along with several working groups and task forces
 3. Institutional Leadership
 - a) Across all committees, work has been undertaken to solve problems and keep moving forward
- V. Recognition Ceremony – Faculty Senate Certificates & Cords
 - A. FS President Michael Bordieri presented a certificate of appreciation to the following Senators whose terms are ending and are leaving the Faculty Senate:

1. Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Elana Pichech, Susan Miller, Amanda Joyce, [Megan Smetana](#)
- B. Cords were presented to all new Senators.
- VI. Distinguished Guests
 - A. Office of the Provost
 1. Associate Provost Renee Fister - Thank you for work now that we're here at the end of the year. We need help with managing parking for Commencement. Budget information is being finalized.
 - a) Question from Senator Williams - is summer compensation the same this year? Yes, and paid from Academic Affairs.
- VII. Action Items --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 - A. Executive Committee – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
 1. Second Reading: FSH 25-26-7 Dismissal for Bona Fide Financial Reasons (pdf)
 - a) Discussion - Carol Terracina-Hartman - Question about the 30 dismissal window? This comes directly from the HB 490. FSH 25-26-7 puts forth a 12 month notice period of dismissal
 2. Vote: FSM 25-26-8 Motion to Endorse Guiding Principles and Authorize Continued Development of FSH-25-26-7 (pdf)
 - a) Motion Senator Powell, Second Senator Sahawneh
 - (1) Question from Senator Irvin - shares concern about the way low enrollment has not been defined.
 - (a) FS President Bordieri shared efforts to avoid strict definitions of metrics
 - b) Vote Y 25 N 1 A 0
- VIII. Faculty Senate Appointments
 - A. University Committee on Naming of Facilities, Programs and Activities (one recommendation; one-year term)
 1. VP [Heidi Ortega](#)
 - a) Appointed by acclamation
- IX. Faculty Senate Elections
 - A. At-Large Members of the Executive Committee (three positions; one-year terms)
 1. Melanie McCallon Seib
 2. [Chris Trzepacz](#)
 3. [Faris Sahawneh](#)
 - a) All three appointed by acclamation
 - B. Faculty Senate Representative to Academic Council (one position; three-year term)
 1. Alison Brown
 - a) Appointed by acclamation
 - C. Budget Advisory Committee (one position; three-year term)
 1. Eran Guse
 - a) Appointed by acclamation
 - D. Parking Services Advisory Committee (one position; three-year term)

1. Thomas Powell
 - a) Appointed by acclamation
- X. Faculty Senate Meetings 2025-2026 Schedule
 - A. Approved by unanimous consent
- XI. Reports
 - A. Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 1. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
 - a) Policy for promotion to full professor
 2. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
 - a) Look at changing policy for tuition reimbursement for family members, compensation, other low-cost items
 3. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
 - a) Tracks policies that affect faculty, particularly in Frankfort
 4. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
 - a) Take care of all things handbook
 5. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
 - a) Most of the work is around elections, which take place in the spring semester
 6. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
 - a) Serves as the agenda-setting body
 - b) Administrator evaluations were recently completed
 - (1) 17% response rate of the President
 - (2) Lower engagement across department chair evaluations
 - (a) 15 chairs did not receive a sufficient number of responses to report results
 - c) Carol Terracina-Hartman - have you ever thought about adding a communications committee to the Senator?
 - d) Senator Mullins - how many chairs are there?
 - (1) Around 30
 - e) Senator Williams - be explicit about the purpose and use of the evaluation, who sees the information
 - B. Other Committees
 1. Budget Advisory Committee
 2. Presidential Task Force and Policy and Procedure
 - a) Creating a centralized list (e.g. policy mall) of all policies and procedures
 3. Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits
 - a) Working over the summer on finalizing a plan
 4. Parking Advisory
 - a) Last meeting of semester was cancelled
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Adjourn

- A. Motion Senator Pizzo Second Sahawneh
 - B. Adjourned at 4:54 PM
- XV. Subcommittee Meetings and Chair Elections followed Adjournment