

Faculty Senate Minutes

August 27, 2026

Call to order:

A regular meeting of the University of North Alabama's Faculty Senate (FS) convened in Wendell W. Gunn University Commons 330 at 3:30pm with President Lukowicz presiding.

Members in attendance

Lisa Ann Blankinship, Miranda Bowie, Keli Brothers, Amy Butler, Corey Cagle, Justin Carter, Freda Coleman-Reed, James DaSambiagio-Moore, Melissa DeFoor, Brian Dempsey, Ravi Gollapalli, Anissa Graham, Leah Graham, Einar Gudmundsson, John Gullledge, Lisa Harrington, Drew Henderson, John Hodges, Rebecca Hopkins, Andrea Hunt, Jason Imbrogno, Lorie Johnson, Kelly Latchaw, Mark Linder, Melanie Looser, Stacy Lukins, Tom Lukowicz, Kimberly Minges, Ashley Molina, Stephanie Montgomery, Andrea Nate, Brent Olive, Gary Padgett, Michael Pretes, Candice Quinn, Suzanne Reese Mills, Rampa Sankeerth, Matthew Schoenbachler, Justin Scott, Hunter Waldman, John Paul White, Gretchen Windt, Ping Zhao, Rui Zhou

Members not in attendance

Chris Purser

I. Recognized Proxies

Mr. Alex Pate for Sen. Rausch

II. Recognize guests

III. Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Sen. L. Graham and seconded by Sen. Latchaw. None opposed. Motion passes.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from April 9, 2026 meeting

Item X.b. Discrimination and Harassment Policy was amended for editorial content. Sen. L. Graham made a motion to approve the amended minutes. The motion was seconded by Sen. Coleman-Reed. None opposed. The minutes were approved as amended.

V. Remarks from Dr. Ken Kitts, President

President Kitts provided updates:

- Campus updates included a thank you for high attendance at the annual faculty and staff meeting, Mission: Shoals initiative is beginning, and the President's Communique will release in early September 2026.
- The fountain logo is specific to the academic side of UNA while the lion logo still remains for Athletics.
- AL Act 2026-432 (formerly HB580) will go into effect on 10.1.26. UNA's BoT (Board of Trustees) met on 6.12.26 to pass a resolution which will soon be released. UNA Task Force on Act 432 (created 8.6.26) includes faculty, staff, shared governance, administration, and BoT members which will review the shared governance system and

make recommendations towards compliance with AL Act 2026-432. The BoT recognizes the current Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate leadership. Montgomery expects compliance with the new law.

VI. Remarks from Dr. Brien Smith, Provost/ EVPAA

Provost Smith provided the following updates:

- 1,100 new freshmen joined UNA this term, providing an increase from last Fall semester and an unexpected increase as overall number of freshmen is down state-wide.
- SACS is no longer requiring a QEP; however, UNA will continue to use QEP to provide opportunities for students and measure student success.
- Center for Teaching and Learning continues to provide opportunities for faculty advancement and training. A lunch with Dr. Todd Zakrajek (the science of learning) will be held on 9.21.26.
- SCOBT began the search for their new dean on 8.11.26.

VII. Remarks from Dr. Tom Lukowicz, Faculty Senate President

FSP Lukowicz commented that the BoT was supportive of both Faculty Senate and the shared governance process.

During this year, Faculty Senate will craft a recommendation for the post-tenure review process by 4.1.27 and conduct a review of tenure related documents.

FSP Lukowicz is looking into options for voting software. Faculty Senate has a budget of \$500/year.

VIII. Reports

- a. Standing Committees
 - i. Faculty Affairs – No report
 - ii. Academic Affairs – No report
 - iii. Faculty Attitude Survey – Please see Item Xa. New Business- Faculty Attitude Survey.
 - iv. Faculty Handbook Oversight Committee – No report

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. Shared Governance Vacancies
 - i. Parking and Traffic Committee (at-large) – Dr. Ogun elected (18/28 votes)
 - ii. Research Committee (CASE) – Dr. Quiros elected (19/36 votes)
 - iii. Technology Advisory Committee (CASE) – Mr. Lolley elected (35/40 votes)
 - iv. Undergraduate Readmissions Committee (ACONHP) – Dr. Hood (by acclamation)
 - v. Promotion and Tenure Portfolio Review Committee (ACONHP) – Dr. Hall (by acclamation)
- b. Faculty Handbook Oversight Committee (2 positions) – Sen. A. Graham and Sen. Latchaw

- c. Workload Policy – The summer work group was disbanded due to a new overload/scheduling software. The group will reform and meet with Dean Zayac and Provost Smith.
- d. Department Chair Policy – COAD will meet with FSP Lukowicz. A work group will form to provide clarification of policy in collaboration with COAD.

X. New Business

- a. Faculty Attitude Survey – The current survey data is not usable due to low participation and lack of key issues. FSP Lukowicz met with each dean to review comments. Follow-up action will be taken by FSP Lukowicz on parking, but this does not fall within Faculty Senate's purview. On-going ideas for increased participation or questions that would lead to actionable items are requested.
- b. Student Complaint Process – Editorial changes only. Discussion followed with clarification on edits. Sen. L. Graham made a motion to accept the amended editorial changes. Sen. Johnson seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion passes.
- c. Freshman Residency – Updated wording would require freshmen to live on campus within 12 months of K12 graduation.

XI. Information Items

- a. (Schedule) conflict – A BoT meeting on 12.3.26 will prevent President Kitts and Provost Smith from attending the December 2026 Faculty Senate meeting. Discussion. FSP Lukowicz will check their schedules to see if another time/ online format would work with their schedules.

XII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Sen. A. Graham and seconded by L. Graham. Senate was adjourned at 4.38pm.