

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: December 15, 2025
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

Present: M Hymel (Chair), D Barefoot, S Cochran, T Downing, J Frumkin, G Heileman, M Hingle, L Hudson, K Little, K Maggert, S Miller-Cochran (Parliamentarian), B Neumann, T Ottusch, P Prelock, J van Haren, J Vetter, P Waddell, K Zeiders, and L Ziurys

Absent: M Abdennebi, S Buxner, F Garcia, A Grijalva

Guests: C Gronowski, M Madden, and L Sandoval

Call to Order

Chair Hymel called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of November 17, 2025

The minutes of November 17, 2025 were approved.

Review agenda for the January 26, 2026 Faculty Senate Meeting

Committee members reviewed and approved the draft agenda for the January 26, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting. Ziurys noted anticipated 3–5% budget cuts to colleges, and Downing added that off-budget items may also be affected. Provost Prelock explained that units will be asked to engage in zero-based budgeting and to model 2%, 3%, and 4% reductions, including administrative and academic impacts. The Board report indicated that the university has a structural deficit, with one-time funds used to cover recurring expenses. Additional concerns included F&A distributions, the elimination of GradPLUS loans, and reduced funding for graduate students. Units are being asked to prioritize strategically, and no final decisions have been made. Days cash on hand currently stands at 78 and remains a concern. Although SPBAC meets less frequently, members reported that meetings are more intensive and highly engaged. Maggert requested discussion of ABOR 6-201(K) reorganizations, noting that at a certain point budget cuts may constitute reorganizations. He reiterated concerns raised at the prior Faculty Senate meeting regarding changes to a faculty member's salary and contract, which administration stated were not performance-related. He emphasized the need for clarity in administrative terminology—particularly distinctions among performance, reorganization, and strategic alteration—given their contractual implications. Downing observed that previous administrations identified explicit budget targets, which are not currently evident. Hudson

proposed inviting Special Advisor Richard Cate to present the current budget model to smaller groups, emphasizing the need for greater specificity. Zeiders highlighted distinctions among budgeting processes, models, and policies. Ziurys reiterated the need for clearer communication from the Provost regarding planned impacts on colleges. Provost Prelock stated there are no plans for 5% cuts to academic units and suggested further explanation of the all-funds process, which Hudson supported. Heileman clarified that SPBAC does not participate in the all-funds process but instead provides feedback on budgetary and institutional priorities and policies to university leadership. Student success, particularly advising, was identified as a major strategic plan priority. Provost Prelock expressed a desire for deans to provide budget updates to their colleges at least once or twice annually. Members also discussed inviting Steve Voeller to present a legislative update. Future agenda items may include faculty concerns related to teaching sensitive topics. The committee discussed IT centralization issues, including data collection and confidentiality, reassignment of college-based IT staff, inefficiencies in centralized classroom support requests, the need for service-based rather than organizational models, and the importance of maintaining college-specific expertise. Downing noted concerns regarding the internal-only posting for the CIO position and that a permanent CIO was appointed without a formal search.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

Hudson reported that Chief of Staff, Francisco Garcia, has stepped away from his position and will be replaced by Rachel Reinhardt of Office of Research and Partnerships. Last Friday, Hudson represented the faculty, alongside Hingle and Heileman, at a table-top exercise on public safety put on by the Office of Public Safety. Attempts are being made across the campus in preparation for any incident that might occur, and it was realized that not all communications systems are what they need to be to alert the campus of emerging information. Hudson believes the current practice of alerting the campus by email is not the most prudent way to communicate alerts of this nature because it is not timely and people do not check their mail often enough. She was exploring the possibility of other communication means including Signal. Feedback would be welcome on this idea. The China Microcampus Committee will be repurposed to review and hear the grievances of the recently dismissed faculty to be brought before Faculty Senate.

SGRC – Mona Hymel

No report.

Provost's Report – Patricia Prelock

No report.

Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren

No report.

President's Report – Francisco Garcia

Garcia was absent.

Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders

No report.

SPBAC – Greg Heileman and Melanie Hingle

No report.

Curricular Affairs – Greg Heileman

No report.

UWGEC – Jeremy Vetter

No report.

UA Staff Council – Danielle Barefoot

No report.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

No report.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

No report.

APPC – Keith Maggert

No report.

ASUA – Adriana Grijalva

No report.

C11 – Ted Downing

No report.

GPSC – Mourad Abdennebi

Abdennebi was absent.

Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner

No report.

Information Technology – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin was absent.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch

No report.

University Committee on Community Relations – TBA

No report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry