

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: January 12, 2026
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), K Maggert, B Neumann, T Ottusch, P Prelock, R Reinhardt, J van Haren, J Vetter, P Waddell, K Zeiders, and L Ziurys

Absent: M Abdennebi, S Buxner, A Grijalva

Guests: C Gronowski, M Madden, and L Sandoval

Call to Order

Chair Hymel called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of December 15, 2025

The minutes of December 15, 2025 were deferred

Review agenda for the February 2, 2026 Faculty Senate Meeting

Hymel announced the General Faculty election. Hymel introduced Reinhardt as the new Chief of Staff in the President's Office. The committee reviewed the agenda for the January 26, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting. Committee members discussed Downing's motion to conduct an open national search for the CIO position. Downing noted the importance of the CIO role for a Research One university and referenced a 2018 report to Faculty Senate indicating that the Arizona State Legislature, through the Auditor General, had identified concerns about IT leadership at the University of Arizona and issued a set of recommendations. He stated that, in his understanding, the university has not fully addressed these requirements and suggested that the absence of a professionally trained CIO has contributed to ongoing challenges. Downing also emphasized the value of competitive searches and faculty participation in recruitment processes. Provost Prelock responded that several competitive searches are currently underway and noted that search committees are required to include at least 50% faculty representation. Chair Hudson described an Honorary Degrees motion she will introduce at the January 26, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting. Zeiders described the process of Honorary Degrees and Hudson described the Faculty Senate Executive Session vote on Honorary Degrees as well as the Honorary Degree Policy and Procedure and that it was repealed by the President. The explanation for the change is having the identical

procedure as ASU and NAU. Prelock explained that the President would like faculty on the new committee that he chooses, but also to include Distinguished Professors as well as UA Foundation and Governmental Affairs personnel. Downing said there may be a risk of recruiting potential donors by awarding honorary degrees to those who may not be vetted properly. Zeiders said that in the previous year, her primary job as Chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee was making sure that packet presentation of the Honorary Degree recipients from the Deans included proper and complete language and supported the candidates in a meaningful fashion. Cochran pointed out that the omission of a Career Track faculty member on the committee is noticeable and that Career Track faculty are more often omitted from serving on many important committees at the University. The agenda item concerning ABOR policy 6-201(K) was discussed; it is specific to the termination of the faculty at the Chinese Micro-campuses and the committee appointed to investigate the situation. Prelock said this will be addressed in a meeting scheduled later in the week with Chief General Counsel Iler. The Finance/Budget discussion will include the All-Funds process. Discussion continued to list the remaining item on the agenda with a report on Facilities Management and Risk Assessment Group.

Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders

Zeiders reported on UAGC Hiring Committee. Caleb Simmons, Lisa Elfring, John Pollard, and Bill Neumann also served. The committee met with the Provost Prelock and Interim Senior Vice Provost for Online Initiatives, Gary Packard. The charge was to hire twenty-three faculty into UAGC non-tenure track Administrative positions. The initial plan was to open these positions to only UAGC faculty, and that was changed to allow UA faculty to apply for the positions. There were fifty applicants for the twenty-three positions. For each position, the voting was two-fold. The committee voted on the ranking of the candidates and then voted on the level of the candidate (Assistant, Associate, or Full), which was difficult since no portfolio information was available to do a proper assessment. Some members abstained from this portion of vote. On December 17, 2025, Simmons emailed Packard the outcome. The committee does not know the final outcomes of Packard's decision. The committee noted concern about doctoral degrees from institutions that operate primarily online and are structured or historically associated with for-profit higher education. Alignment between some candidates' disciplinary training and the academic units or positions that they were overseeing or may have expertise in were also noted. Mismatch can be typical with online programs and institutions, and the committees' observations were transmitted to Packard. Zeiders mentioned that a model of ninety credit, three-year degrees for the purpose of workforce development was being discussed. Provost Prelock said that was not ready for consideration and that UAGC will remain separate from UA and its degree programs are not approved by Faculty Senate. Discussion migrated to UAGC's policy oversight. Hudson said that UAGC has no ABOR oversight and create their own policies.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

No report.

SGRC – Mona Hymel

No report.

Provost's Report – Patricia Prelock

No report.

Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren

No report.

President's Report – Rachel Reinhardt

Garcia was absent.

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

No report.

Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner

No report.

Information Technology – Jeremy Frumkin

No report.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch

No report.

University Committee on Community Relations – TBA

No report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry