

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
1216 E. Mabel St. (PO Box 210456)
621.1342
facultycenter@email.arizona.edu
Minutes: February 16, 2026
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

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

Absent: M Abdennebi, S Buxner, J Frumkin, A Grijalva, T Ottusch

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 December 15, 2025

The minutes of December 15, 2025 were approved.

Review agenda for the March 2, 2026 Faculty Senate Meeting

Committee members reviewed the draft agenda for the March 2, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting. Four Consent agenda items were explained by UGC Chair van Haren. Vetter explained that the Course Substitutions had a contentious pathway and was debated heavily. Initially, it passed unanimously at the December meeting. As discussions continued during subsequent meetings, members thought it may affect transfer credit but decided the best path would be to move it forward with proper precautions. Hudson asked if the entire Gen Ed package is processed and van Haren responded that the Second Language is the only one remaining, specifically can students who have two years of high school language meet the language requirement without taking a proficiency exam. The Engineering College currently has that exception. Neumann explained that changing majors can sometimes affect the language requirement. An update from Zeiders on Constitution and Bylaws presidential approvals was added to the agenda. A General Faculty meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. to introduce the proposed changes to the Constitution. The Motion for Honorary Degrees vote will be transmitted to the President for his response. A discussion on Honorary Degree policy changes was added to the Faculty Senate agenda. Ziurys asked to have Josh Wright return to explain in more detail the Master Space Plan because the discussion was rushed at the end of the last Faculty Senate meeting. Top Hat voting system will be explained to Faculty

Senators for incorporating into the Faculty Senate voting system. Elliott Cheu will be invited to answer questions about IT matters. Committee members shared personal experiences with IT misgivings. Vetter said new attribute resubmissions to Gen Ed have taken months. Ziurys said the problems are symptomatic of centralization and no one person is responsible. Hudson asked if a fast-track, top-down solution could be implemented. Prelock asked Vetter to send her the issues outlined in a paragraph so she can discuss with Richard Cate. A report from the Chair Roy Spece of the Micro-campus committee and a report on the Kyl Institute were added to the agenda. Maggert suggested having a directive from Campus Security on safety protocols pertaining to law enforcement on campus. The agenda was approved.

Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders

No report.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

The inaugural meeting of the Grievance Policy and Protocol group will take place later this week. Participants include Maggert, Hymel, Cherry, Guzmán and Hudson. A Provost Retreat was held to discuss Constitution and Bylaws discrepancies. Hudson is part of a committee working on the WASC shared governance details. Hudson will send Maggert meeting information on a new staff policy group, which reinstated after the Honorary Degree repeal. The *ad hoc* Committee on Surveillance will have a report by May 2026.

UA Staff Council – Danielle Barefoot

Barefoot announced that a staff social will be held on the Mall hosted by the President. The event is open to all University Staff. The Crossroads Conference will be held May 21, 2026 for staff professional development. The Emily Krause Professional Development Fund for staff will be up and running and the application should be available soon.

SGRC – Mona Hymel

Hymel reported that departmental bylaws are being looked at for continuity.

Provost's Report – Patricia Prelock

Alumni were honored last week. Marsha Reike won the Educator of the Year for the Big 12.

Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren

No report.

President's Report – Rachel Reinhardt

The President will respond to the Honorary Degree motion when it's received.

SPBAC – Greg Heileman and Melanie Hingle

A meeting was held on January 28, 2026 with the Provost Fellows. The committee discussed strategic initiatives. The upcoming meeting on March 25, 2026 will focus on task force work related to academic success goals. On Wednesday, a special meeting with Richard Cate is scheduled to discuss the budget model.

Curricular Affairs – Greg Heileman

Heileman reported that a handful of items are moving forward and under review in the Provost's Office.

APPC – Keith Maggert

Maggert reported that the committee weighed in on the Weapons on Campus Policy and gave its recommendations.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

Ziurys reported that the committee met and discussed certain agreements that have surfaced and faculty not being aware of proposed deals or contracts. IT centralization is an ongoing source of anguish.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch

Little reported that Kris Wong Davis will attend the first meeting of the semester to be held next Wednesday.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

No report.

UWGEC – Jeremy Vetter

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.

University Committee on Community Relations – TBA

No report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry

