

Faculty Senate - Executive Committee
Minutes
Monday, March 2, 2026

Attendance: Rob Godby (*Chair*), Vladimir Alvarado (*Secretary*), Gregg Cawley (*Member-At-Large*), Brad Rettler (*Member-At-Large*), Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*), Ashley Hope-Carlisle (*Member-at-Large*), Ray Fertig (*Chair-Emeritus*).

Members Absent:

Guests Present: David Bagley (*Vice Provost – Academic Affairs*), Michelle Hilaire (*Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*)

Meeting was called to order at 12:31pm.

A motion was called to amend the agenda; seconded and carried.

A motion was called to approve the amended agenda; seconded and carried.

A motion was called to approve the minutes of February 23rd, 2026; seconded and carried.

Chair's Report

Chair provided an update regarding the legislative reconciliation conference that occurred last Friday. The proposed changes to the budget for the University is more secure, potentially facing only a 10 million dollar cut, depending on how continuing talks proceed with the potential resolution moving to the governor's office by end of business today. Chair further noted that state employee increases have been approved, which means raises are coming.

Chair provided an update on the actions of the Presidential Search Committee. The committee is selecting candidates for final interviews that will be sent to the trustees for final consideration.

Chair noted that a couple of people were nominated for positions on the Executive Committee have declined to stand for election. Chair discussed some of the other individuals who are standing for elections for the committee, noting that alternates are eligible for election to the Executive Committee. Elections are to proceed on March 23rd, 2026. Chair requested Faculty Senate Coordinator to send a reminder about the Faculty Awards closing Friday.

Chair Godby called on David Bagley to provide an update about the Academic Freedom Faculty compliant process. David discussed the various tools that are being used by Academic Affairs and provided some explanations as to how the tools work.

Chair noted that he would be participating in the Academic Planning Committee meeting, occurring tonight to address claims of conflict-of-interest being directed at Jared Studyvin, who co-chairs the Committee. Chair noted that the program currently under consideration, a BS in Data Science, takes most of the coursework from the Statistics program and substitutes some Senior level elective courses for Data Science. Chair noted some of the history of the School of Computing, being an administrative top-down decision, and that the faculty of the school needs to

be able to have a program that does not borrow an excessive number of courses of another programs requirements.

Chair provided an update on the ADA compliance team will be meeting with General Counsel regarding moving the ADA SAP forward.

Chair noted that the Research Misconduct SAP is still being evaluated by the Research Committee and various administrators on campus.

Chair noted that he requested a report regarding faculty to administrator ratios for the University related to the Great Colleges survey.

Chair noted that two programs have been marked as low-producing and are scheduled to be discontinued. Chair also noted that Philosophy & Religious Studies are being consolidated. Further information concerning new programs and their student constituencies are being drawn to provide information to the Trustees.

Other Business

Chair Godby reminded the committee that, regarding the continuing work of the Presidential Search Committee, the Faculty Senate can ask two questions of the candidates when they come to campus. Accordingly, the Faculty Senate will need to draft what questions to pose to the candidates. Work is being done to ensure that questions from the different bodies on campus are not repeated. The committee entertained several possibilities for the questions that could be recommended to the rest of Faculty Senate.

Chair noted that the proposed changes to the Committee Bylaws, currently tabled until the next session, is prompting a meeting with Brandon McElroy to address some of his concerns related to the proposed changes.

The Health Sciences PhD proposal has been returned to the committee for consideration, with additional language and clarifications that address concerns raised by the Executive and the Academic Planning Committees. Executive Committee feels that their concerns and questions have been addressed and is willing to put it back before the full senate for a final vote.

The Committee discussed Resolution 509, Academic Program Review, with members voicing some concerns. The SAP, as Michelle Hilaire clarified, seems to be focused on the documentation of programs under review, including any documentation related to external review bodies. Michelle received several comments about the SAP, it's intent and feedback regarding some of the standards involved.

The Committee discussed Resolution 510, Reconsideration of Procedures for Conducting Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion Reviews. The committee discussed some of their concerns with the RTP process, in concert with Michelle Hilaire. Ultimately the committee, after considerable discussion, closed the discussion on the note of "Is there a better way we can do things?"

Motion to adjourn at 2:27pm; seconded and carried.