



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
ARKANSAS™

FACULTY
SENATE

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

12:45 pm, Wingo 315

Chris Craun, Secretary

I. Call to order: FS President Dunlap. 12:46

Present:

President Davis & Provost Hargis

FS President Dunlap & VP. Thomas

Senators:

At Large Senators: Mukherjee, Spivey, Rosenow

CAHSS Senators: Burley, Craun

CHBS Senators: Rose, Downey, Jamerson

COB Senators: Appiah-Otto, McCalman, Britton

COE Senators: McClellan, Couture

COSE Senators: Yarberry, Johnson, Naumiec

Honors: Frank

II. Notification of Online Approval of Minutes from Faculty Senate meeting 1/13/2026

Vote: 16 approved; 2 abstentions

III. Comments

A. President Davis

Thanks to everyone for trying to continue some sense of normalcy in your classes amidst the shift to remote instruction. Many students remain living on campus during the storm, so we are working to keep essential services and offices open. Roughly 150 faculty and staff provide the core services on campus even if we are officially in remote operation.

I am pleased to announce the UCA Innovation Campus which is a partnership

with the Conway Development Corporation and the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton (UACCM). This initiative of the College of Science & Engineering will involve other colleges and units and provides a great opportunity for the program expansions. See the official announcement here: <https://uca.edu/news/uca-announces-innovation-campus-to-strengthen-arkansas-workforce-economic-growth/>

We are taking over half of what many know as the former Hewlett Packard facility on the Southeast side of town. Gainwell Technologies was most recently in the facility. In addition to providing opportunities to develop interdisciplinary partnerships with the business community, the facility will provide much-needed space for UCA's College of Engineering open classroom and lab spaces as well as the Arkansas Coding Academy. The other half of the building will be occupied by technology and STEM-oriented businesses and provide many opportunities for internships and partnerships in technology transfer.

Question: what will this partnership with UACCM mean for our UCA CORE course enrollment?

Answer: (Provost Hargis) No decrease is expected. We may see some UACCM students coming to UCA earlier in their academic careers—therefore there is a possibility that we will see an increase in general education course enrollment.

Question: Will some UCA programs be moving all their offices to this space?

Answer: (Provost Hargis) Arkansas Coding Academy will be moving there, but the initial opening phase will see other UCA faculty having office space at the new site for short-term or specific courses/applications.

Question: Is this focused primarily on Science or Engineering disciplines, or are their plans to incorporate others as well?

Answer: (President Davis) Yes, we hope this will become very much inter-disciplinary and expect that multiple academic programs will see opportunities to locate courses and experiential learning activities. The specific programs and departments initially involved will be spearheaded by COSE, but the growth will be the result of organic interactions between both faculty, students, and business leaders.

Answer: (Provost Hargis) Yes, this is designed from the beginning to include inter-disciplinary engagement across all academic colleges. This is an exploratory process, one that will evolve as we teach and learn in the space. In addition to the coursework and programs described earlier, we also anticipate offering professional development courses at this site from multiple disciplines

and in partnership with the Outreach team.

Question: Will there be a shuttle service between the new site and UCA?

Answer: (Provost Hargis) Yes, that is included in the plan.

Question: Do interested faculty members have a point of contact for further information regarding programming?

Answer: (Provost Hargis) Dean Stephen Addison (COSE) is the appropriate point of contact right now.

B. Provost Hargis

I have no additional comments right now except to echo President Davis's appreciation for our Faculty and Staff during the current weather.

Question: Can you speak to the difference between the pillar within our Strategic Plan regarding becoming a "Campus of Innovation" and this new "Campus of Innovation"?

Answer: Yes, the Campus of Innovation pillar is intended to describe a university-wide mindset in which innovation is integrated into teaching, curriculum design, student support, and learning pathways so graduates are adaptable and able to clearly articulate their skills and knowledge to employers. The UCA Innovation Campus is a related place-based and partnership-driven initiative that operationalizes that mindset and advances that work. The Innovation Campus focuses on partnerships with community, industry, and entrepreneurial organizations to expand applied learning opportunities, strengthen workforce alignment, and support collaborative teaching and research activities. In summary, the pillar articulates the institutional framework for innovation in teaching and learning while the UCA Innovation Campus serves as one mechanism through which this work is implemented.

C. FS President Dunlap

We are starting to prep for next year's senate. We will soon begin promoting our Constitutional Amendments as well as organizing Senatorial elections for 2026-2027.

Please work on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) so we can improve senate performance in years to come.

We need a web-archivist. I have sent a rough-draft of the Web-Archivist duties to your in-boxes. Please review the document and suggest clarifications. **If you are interested in serving the senate in this capacity—please self-nominate!**
We'd love to have you!

Question: Does President-Elect Thomas have any visions for next year that might be used to recruit senators for future service?

Answer: (VP Thomas) Yes, I plan on emphasizing clarity and continuity within the senate by publishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) within a manual that can be used to both explain the various duties within the senate and to guide new officers and committee chairs in their roles. Historically, each year's executive officers have been forced to recreate new methodologies with little guidance aside from their own 1-2 years of prior service. We need a continuing strategy for archiving files, updating necessary public-facing documents, and maintaining websites impacted by our decisions (Faculty Handbook, for instance).

IV. Constituent Concerns

None

Pres. Davis left the meeting at 1:10 pm.

V. Senate Committee Reports

Committee on Committees: Nothing to report.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report but hope to meet as soon as weather allows.

Academic Affairs: We had 5 applications as of this morning for the Faculty Empowerment Grants. We are moving ahead with the Purchase Order procedure to acquire signage but need to get a written estimate from Conway Copies. We plan to get that this week.

Faculty Advocacy and Engagement: We met with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Academic Leadership (CETAL), and Sen. McClellan will summarize the results of that meeting at our next FS meeting. CETAL were excited to see that our charge included Career Trajectory—particularly during a faculty-member's middle and later career. The committee is working with CETAL to develop a survey regarding faculty attitudes and needs.

VI. New Business: None

VII. For the Good of the Faculty: Stay Warm!

VIII. Reminders and Announcements:

A. Faculty Senate meetings are now held on the second and last Tuesday of each month.

B. Next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 12:45pm
Senator Rose moved to adjourn. Seconded by Sen. McClellan.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:35 PM.