

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of October 07, 2025
FACULTY SENATE
<http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate>

Approved @ FS on 10/21/2025

Summary of Discussion

Note: The taped recording of this meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office or in the University Archives.

President Aidor-Reiss: Good afternoon. I am going to start. Do you hear us online?

Senator Javaid: Yes, we can hear you.

President Aidor-Reiss: Hallelujah. We are going to start with roll call. We have Suzanne Smith who volunteered today to call the roll. Please, Suzanne.

Dr. Suzanne Smith (Proxy for Secretary D. Coulter-Harris): I am ready, and apologies ahead of time if I mispronounce names. I only had the list for a short time. Can everybody hear me?

President Aidor-Reiss: Yes, we hear you.

Dr. Suzanne Smith (Proxy for Secretary D. Coulter-Harris): Okay.

Roll Call 2025-2026

Present: Allred, Aidor-Reiss, Balthus, Bamber, Barnes, Bellizzi, Benton, Bigioni, Bornak, Cheng, Cochrane, Diakonna, Duggan, Dwyer, Ekwenna, Elgafy, Fresenko, Gibbon, Gilstrap, Giovannucci, Glassman, Green, Haller, Hamer, Hamouda, Heberle, Javaid, Kalinoski, Kaw, Khanna, Kistner, Krantz, Kumar, Lapitsky, Lawrence, Lee-Smith, Machalow, Maktabi, Martin, Miner, Mungo, Osman, Padilla, Pryor, Reinert, Sahloff, Servick, Semaan, Servick, Sheng, Steven, Stoltz, Van Hoy, Wedding, Willey, Yonker

Excused Absence: Assaly, Brakel, Cooper, Coulter-Harris, Delaney, Eichner, Koch, McLoughlin, Moussa, Nazzal, T. Smith, Taylor

Unexcused Absence: N/A

Dr. Suzanne Smith (Proxy for Secretary D. Coulter-Harris): Alright, if anybody missed it, please put their names in the Chat and I will catch it. We have quorum, President Aidor-Reiss. Thank you.

President Aidor-Reiss: So, the next item is to adopt the agenda by general consent. Are there any motions to not accept the agenda? Okay, since there are not any motions, the agenda stands approved. ***Agenda Approved.***

The next item is to approve the Minutes. Again, we are going to use general consent. Are there any corrections to the Minutes? No corrections? Then the Minutes stands approved. ***Motion Passed.***

So, I am going to go to the ***Executive Committee report:*** Over the last two weeks, we have met with President Holloway and Provost McKinney and discussed the ParkUToledo situation and what faculty can do to help address the enrollment crisis.

1. Faculty Senate President-Elect Renee Heberle and I met with President Holloway to discuss a range of issues, including the negotiations between Medical Mutual and ProMedica. The university's human resources sent an email on October 2nd addressing the issue.

We were all informed that if negotiations continue into next year, university employees will still have access to ProMedica providers. However, after January 1, ProMedica providers will move from in-network to out-of-network until a contract is finalized. While employees will not be forced to change providers, they may see a temporary cost increase.

You should have received an email from Benefits on October 2nd explaining the implications of the negotiations for your benefits and costs.

- a. Regarding the ParkUToledo situation, following the discussion of this issue at the university's Board of Trustees meeting, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration and CFO Matt Schroeder reached out to us, and we agreed to establish two working groups: one focused on ParkUToledo and another on dining. We emphasized that the parking and catering issues are central to enhancing enrollment, and changes must be made to allow the community better access to our campus. We are seeking volunteers for a small committee to collaborate with the University Administration in resolving this issue.
- b. FS President-Elect Renee agreed to be part of the ParkUToledo committee, and we need one or two more volunteers.
- c. We also need two or three faculty members for the dining group.

2. Regarding the enrollment crisis, we have discussed ways that faculty can help resolve it. Currently, there are three clear methods for faculty to participate: through 1:15 meetings, university-wide recruitment events, and college-initiated events. We are working with Tony Bourne, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management, to identify additional options.
3. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with Provost McKinney and discussed a variety of issues, including advisor centralization and faculty participation in advising on SB1 policies that will need to come before the Board of Trustees at their next meeting. We discussed the process for collaborating with the Faculty Senate Committee on Core Curriculum regarding the legislative mandate to review and evaluate the general education curriculum by December 31, 2026.
 - a. Regarding the centralization of advising, when we inquired about the specific issue of the Engineering advisers being relocated, it was explained as part of the move of all professional advisers to Rocket Hall. It is a continuation of the process, not a new policy.
 - b. Regarding the Core Curriculum question, we emphasized the need to collaborate with experienced experts on the Faculty Senate Core Curriculum committee and to include members on the task force being formed to comply with SB1.
4. Today's guest presentation by Sammy Spann, Vice Provost and Dean of Students, has been rescheduled for the December 2nd meeting.
 - a. The next Faculty Senate meeting features UToledo Foundation Interim President Derek Groves. (Cancelled)
 - b. The following Faculty Senate meeting will feature Meghan Cunningham, Vice President, University Marketing and Communication.
5. To enhance communication with faculty, the Executive Committee reports and the PowerPoints from our meetings will be emailed to all faculty after Senate meetings.

Are there any comments from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee? Hearing none. What about Faculty Senate?

Senator Barnes: All the advisors will be working from home?

President Aidor-Reiss: Not from home, from a central location.

Past-President Van Hoy: For now.

Senator Heberle: Until they find another place.

Senator Barnes: Thank you.

President Aidor-Reiss: Okay, next is Provost McKinney.

Provost McKinney: Thank you, Tomer. I turned and said to Jerry, 'wow, next week is midterm.' It is hard to believe.

For reminders and updates, I wanted to focus on October. Next week is the inaugural ceremony for President Holloway. We have a full week of activities. On Monday we have a chance to interact with President Holloway in a lunch at 11 am. That will be followed on Tuesday with the President's Backyard Barbecue on Centennial Mall. And then Thursday is the inauguration. Wednesday evening, a respective symposium based on artificial intelligence (AI) will take place at 6 pm. The impact and implications of artificial intelligence including commissioner folks will participate in that symposium. And then on Thursday, I would encourage all faculty if you can attend in the Student Union for robing of regalia and a procession to Savage Arena at 2pm. The ceremony begins at 3 pm at Savage Arena, followed by a reception for the public inside Savage Arena.

I want to encourage you to participate in welcoming the first candidate for the position of Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs. The first open forum was this morning online and here on the Health Science Campus, I believe it was HEB 103. The second candidate will be here on Thursday at the same time for the open forum, 8:15 to 9 am. Then the third candidate, there's a bit of delay. The third candidate will be here for a week from next Tuesday on October 21st, from 8:15 to 9 am for the open forum on that Tuesday. So, those three candidates will be here for Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs.

Another item, and Tomer, I would encourage you to work with your students, the undergraduates, about ways to address past cycle problems in our graduate programs. So, on October 15th from 11 am to 2 pm in Carlson Library, second floor, our Grad Fair will take place where all our graduates who may be thinking or considering graduate school.

I would also encourage you to think about nominating staff for our staff award. Nominations will continue until October 24th, which is an excellent opportunity for us to recognize the amazing work that our staff do. So, please consider. If you've not done so, the nomination form is there to nominate staff for the Outstanding Staff award.

Also, our faculty colleagues who reached promotion and/or tenure will be recognized in a reception on October 30th in the Student Union from 3:30 to 5 pm. Let me also remind you about our AI in Healthcare Symposium that will be on this campus on Friday, November 7th. Now the symposium will feature our faculty researchers who use AI in some form. When planning the forum, it started at one hour, then went on to a two-to-three-hour day. Now it's up to an eight-hour symposium to 4pm. So that's happening on Friday, November 7th. Lots of things are happening here at UT.

Senator Bamber: Hi. I wanted to make a comment. I didn't mean to interrupt. Can you hear me?

President Aidor-Reiss: Yes, we can hear you. Go ahead.

Senator Bamber: Okay, well, I have some comments about the science major. Is this the time to do it?

Provost McKinney: Yes.

Senator Bamber: Okay, I can do it later.

President Aidor-Reiss: It is okay, you can go ahead.

Senator Bamber: I can't hear anybody now. Maybe we need to do this some other time.

Senator Heberle: Write your statement/question in the Chat box so we can read it.

Senator Bamber: Maybe we should let Dr. McKinney finish.

President Aidor-Reiss: You can ask the question or put it in the Chat and then Provost McKinney can respond.

Senator Bamber: Okay, I have it written. I'm going to put it in the Chat. We can address it if we want and if there's time.

President Aidor-Reiss: Okay.

Senator Heberle: I think Senator Bamber is texting.

Senator Hamer: I will yield my time.

Senator Heberle: Can someone read it out, somebody who can see?

Senator Hamer: I will read it. [Question from Chat] "Hi. I'm Bruce Bamber, I'm one of the two organizers of the new Neuroscience major which is hosted by NSM on main campus and the college of medicine – the other organizer is David Giovannucci, who I believe is in attendance this afternoon. I had a couple of comments I'd like to make. 1. We have been successful in bringing students to UT Toledo who otherwise would not have come – this is according to multiple students in the program who have told me this. So, our numbers are not just showing cannibalism, but the program has real recruiting potential 2. As we progress, it is very important that we continue to develop exciting new upper-division electives. I think the program could lose momentum if we don't overcome current limitations in this regard. For this, we will need an investment in new neuroscience faculty on both campuses who will contribute to this program. Right now, we have the basics covered, but we can and must increase the overall appeal of the program through expansion 3. We do not currently have an active effort to market this program, which I think is holding it back. My larger point is that IF we want to identify and develop programs that have potential to reverse our enrollment declines over the next 5-10 years, we must coordinate investments in program development with investments in specific and targeted marketing. Over the past few years, I have personally observed a vacuum in strategic thinking when it comes to developing and promoting/advertising new programs, and I think this is an area we need to improve if we are to lead the university to a better future."

Provost McKinney: So, need more faculty? Yes. We used to stay in this cycle of identifying programs with this growth and then marketing. You've made very good points, and we will continue pushing that. Please raise this in a couple of weeks. On the faculty issue, the hiring needs – I have spoken with deans on the faculty hiring needs and I'm working with them to find resources.

Senator Heberle: I'm wondering if I can follow-up with a broader question. Back in the day, we would have hired...transparent programs would be invited to put in...I'm wondering if there's any movement, message or understanding of trying to build faculty, not just...like in the old days? Is there any plan? I know you've only been here for two-and-a-half months, I know. But I'm just thinking about that.

Provost McKinney: I actually do expect or have thought that when I ask the deans to prioritize, they are working with their faculty in the units to identify. What I hear is that it is some sort of a transparent process to participate.

Senator Heberle: So, we are in the first step of sort of assessing...?

Provost McKinney: Make a request from the deans and then develop with your unit. And then I'm sure I can follow proof as you develop with your unit.

President Aidor-Reiss: The provost says it to the dean; the dean makes it a priority. Do we have a separate area where the deans base their...off from?

Provost McKinney: Well, we are just now in the process for the coming year, so I think as to... And what Tomer had just described is what...a number of faculty have come to me and making these hiring requests. I've said to ask the deans to prioritize those requests and bring them to me as I will...

President Aidor-Reiss: Good. I think there is another comment in the Chat from Senator Bigioni. "Our new BS in Materials Science has similar concerns."

Provost McKinney: I hear it is across campus. I pointed out the necessity, the first question and materials sciences. Again, a new product. Regarding the first question, there is some evidence of growth as in this past cycle as I mentioned in terms of student enrollment, that and resources.

President Aidor-Reiss: Anything else? Okay. Do you have the PowerPoint?

Senator Hamer: Alright, I am Lynne Hamer, and I am the co-Chair of UGCC. This is our wonderful committee. I believe from the Committee on Committees we are missing representatives from Medicine and Life Sciences, so if anyone wants to join us, please let us know. I've been in this role for two-and-a-half years now. We are going to share the...for submitting a revised in March. That is very misleading. To meet that, you really need to get your proposal in at least November. We look at every single proposal and every single syllabus, and we actually talk about that. It really is very fun. It is a trend. ... the main thing we do is send it back and say you need to follow this. So, the proposals we get are really good.... *[Indecipherable]* ... So, we cannot help you with your timeline. Make sure that you're building that in. We talked about trying to specify...because there are so many factors to suggest that you get it in by November to meet that March deadline. Are there any questions?

President Aidor-Reiss: So, going back to the list of committee members. Are there any colleges that you still need representatives for? And is it important to have a representation?

Senator Hamer: The colleges of Engineering and Medicine. And yes, we can do it, but it is best to have their college representative on the committee because they understand things about programs, about how things are worded. That will make a big difference. It was very busy last year, and we hadn't really kind of planned ahead of that. We got it done, but it was hard work. We met for a couple of hours every week for about six weeks.

Senator Heberle: This is not to 'scare' anyone off from participating because it is essential we have a representative from each college on it.

Senator Hamer: Yes. So, the next slide...I believe Rob...if you don't know how to do that, then you can contact Rob or me, and we will...help you out. We will send you the courses and so if you need to look at those ahead of time, that would be great, you can. I believe we have four today.

- Course: **COMM 2160** (Single Camera Production) Contact Karon Price. New/Change: Existing course (Updated SLOs to be in line with OH Tag requirements).
- Course: **COMM 2210** (Introduction to Audio Production) Contact Karon Price. New/Change: Existing course (Updated SLOs to be in line with OH Tag requirements), also changed the course description in the catalog.
- Course: **COMM 2220** (Television Studio Production) Contact Karon Price. New/Change: Existing course (Updated SLOs to be in line with OH Tag requirements)

- Course: **COMM 3340** (Visual Communication) Contact: Karon Price. New/Change: Existing course (removing pre-requisite to offer more choice and flexibility to students. The course description has been updated to reflect the aforementioned change, as was one SLO).

Senator Hamer cont'd: Are you ready to have a vote on it?

Group of Senators: Yes.

Senator Miner: Can I just? First of all, the sound is so bad. It is almost impossible to clearly hear anybody. And secondly, none of the slides were moving so we couldn't follow along with what you were saying, Lynne.

Senator Hamer: Can you hear me now?

Senator Miner: Yes, that is better.

Senator Hamer: Can you hear now?

Senator Miner: It is slightly better.

Senator Hamer: I apologize that you couldn't quite hear everything I said.

Senator Miner: Is there any way to see the slide so that we can understand and follow along with you, Lynne?

Senator Hamer: Well, if you look at your mail from Quinetta yesterday, it is there.

Senator Heberle: We could resend it later.

Senator Hamer: All right, approval from the floor. Do I need a motion.

Past-President Van Hoy: No, you don't need a motion; it's coming from a committee.

Senator Hamer: All those in favor say 'aye.' Any opposed? Any abstentions? {two abstained}. ***Motion Passed.***

President Aidor-Reiss: Next is President-Elect Heberle.

Senator Heberle: We have had concession with ParkUToledo... *[Indecipherable]*... policies associated with...This year we are determined to... schedule events that bring our community here...and also with our community. Parking has become unbearable. We will share our concerns with Matt Schroeder in a meeting. It is appropriate that Faculty Senate take this up because our programming, our units are being...in the public relationship we have with our...*[Indecipherable]*... We have to reduce the barriers... that was used...the parking for... *[Indecipherable]*... on this campus. And to me as a regular 'ole' know nothing faculty member, that makes no sense. It is the core asset. It...the public. This is not about...*[Indecipherable]*... So, we need a few...I have compiled them all into the report...running the show here can see through our perspective what...That is... *[Indecipherable]*...I have talked to many staff. You know, up to a thousand kids that's been to our campus have been cancelled because of parking. So, this is not...for any of us...Both of these committees...*[Indecipherable]*...with our CFO, Matt Schroeder. Thank you.

President Aidor-Reiss: Thank you, Senator Heberle. Hopefully this year we will be able to make some progress.

Past-President Van Hoy: Senator Heberle, do you want volunteers? And where should they send their names?

President Aidor-Reiss: Yes, you can send your name to the Faculty Senate Office or to me.

Senator Heberle: *[Indecipherable]*...

President Avidor-Reiss: We are getting done early today. The next item is items from the floor. Are there any items from the floor?

Senator Barnes: Banned books celebration vigil is today in Carlson Library...*[Indecipherable]*...

President Avidor-Reiss: Thank you. Are there any other items from the floor? Hearing none. The next item on the agenda is adjournment. Meeting adjourned.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Deborah Coulter-Harris
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary

Tape summary: Quinetta Hubbard
Faculty Senate Office Administrative Secretary