

Minutes
The University of Toledo Board of Trustees
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
March 16, 2026

The meeting was conducted virtually via WebEx. Committee members Ms. Lidia Ebersole, Ms. Eleanore Awadalla, Mr. Steve Ciucci, Mr. Zac Issac, Mr. Patrick Kenney, Mr. Matt Kripke, Mr. Joe Napoli and were present. Student Trustee Mr. Nate Boley was present. National Trustee Mr. Thomas Wakefield was present. Others in attendance were Dr. Imran Ali, Dr. Peter Andreana, Mr. Saad Andalib, Dr. Brian Ashburner, Mr. Tomer Avidor-Reiss, Dr. Dan Boden, Mr. Tony Bourne, Dr. Chuck Callahan, Dr. Frank Calzonetti, Ms. Carrieanne Campbell, Dr. Rupali Chandar, Dr. Jonathan Culp, Ms. Meghan Cunningham, Mr. Jon Curtis, Ms. Katie DeBenedictis, Dr. Mohammed Elahinia, Dr. Kristen Geaman, Dr. Melissa Gregory, Mr. Derek Groves, Dr. Renee Heberle, Dr. James Holloway, Ms. Mary Humphrys, Dr. Bill Kalies, Dr. Mark Merrick, Dr. Scott Molitor, Ms. Shannon Neumann, Mr. Jack Newsome, Ms. Angela Paprocki, Dr. Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch, Mr. Mark Reising, Dr. Barb Ritter, Mr. Terence Romer, Mr. Matthew Schroeder, Ms. Ira Snahoshchenko, Dr. Stan Stepkowski, Ms. Sabrina Taylor, Ms. Lindsey Vandagriff, Ms. Bethany Ziviski, and representation from the UT AAUP.

Committee members Mr. Adam Levine and Mr. Mike Miller were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Committee Chair Ebersole. Ms. Katie DeBenedictis, Secretary to the Board, recorded the minutes.

Trustee Ebersole mentioned that all stakeholder reports were shared in the board packet and reviewed by trustees prior to this committee meeting. She invited representatives from each group who submitted a report to present highlights. The full reports are included with the minutes.

Ira Snahoshchenko, Student Government Report – Attachment 1.

Saad Andalib, Graduate Student Association Report – Attachment 2.

Dan Boden, Graduate Council Report - Attachment 3.

Tomer Avidor-Reiss, Faculty Senate report - Attachment 4.

Trustee Ebersole said there were no discussion items for the meeting. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the December 15, 2025

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

**STAKEHOLDER
REPORTS**

ACTION ITEMS

committee meeting and approve them as written. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Awadalla, seconded by Trustee Isaac and approved by the committee.

Dr. Molitor presented Resolution 26-03-01: Approval of Distinguished University Professors and Distinguished University Lecturers. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Awadalla, seconded by Trustee Kenney and approved by the committee.

**RESOLUTION
26-03-01**

Dr. Molitor presented Resolution 26-03-02: Award of Honorary Degree. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Awadalla, seconded by Trustee Isaac and approved by the committee.

**RESOLUTION
26-03-02**

Dr. Molitor presented Resolution 26-03-03: Approval of Tenure for New Faculty Appointee. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Awadalla, seconded by Trustee Kripke and approved by the committee.

**RESOLUTION
26-03-03**

Dr. Molitor presented Resolution 26-03-04: Approval of 2026-2027 Sabbatical Leave Applicants. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Ciucci, seconded by Trustee Kripke and approved by the committee.

**RESOLUTION
26-03-04**

Dr. Molitor presented Resolution 26-03-05: Adoption of Curricular Approval Process. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Kripke, seconded by Trustee Isaac and approved by the committee.

**RESOLUTION
26-03-05**

Mr. Matt Reising presented Resolution 26-03-06: Approval to Add New Degree Program: Accelerated BA in Professional Studies. Mr. Scott Molitor and Mr. Matt Reising answered committee member questions regarding the advanced nature of the degree. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Awadalla, seconded by Trustee Kripke and approved by the committee.

**RESOLUTION
26-03-06**

Dr. Mark Merrick presented Resolution 26-03-07: Approval to Add New Degree Program: Accelerated BS in Public Health. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the

**RESOLUTION
26-03-07**

next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Ciucci, seconded by Trustee Kenney and approved by the committee.

Dr. Jonathan Culp presented Resolution 26-03-08: Approval to Add New Degree Program: BA in Constitutional Studies. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Kripke, seconded by Trustee Isaac and approved by the committee.

**RESOLUTION
26-03-08**

Dr. Brian Ashburner and Dr. Bill Kalies presented Resolution 26-03-09: Approval to Add New Degree Program: MS in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. Trustee Ebersole requested a motion to approve the resolution as presented in the committee materials and forward to the consent agenda of the next Board of Trustees meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Kripke, seconded by Trustee Isaac and approved by the committee.

**RESOLUTION
26-03-09**

There was no need for an executive session. With no further topics to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Iryna Snahoshchenko

President of the Student Body

Stakeholder Report

March 5, 2026

Spring Semester 2026 Report

My term as student body president comes to an end, and, as I look back on the academic year, I am beyond proud of what our team accomplished with the support of the wide campus community, staff, administrators, and the board of trustees. As the spring 2026 semester is wrapping up, I would like to provide an update on several key student government initiatives and issues affecting students.

Current Student Government Initiatives

- **Rocket Fest**
 - Student Government is excited to be organizing Rocket Fest, a week of student appreciation events scheduled for April 6-12. First started in 2022 through the collaboration between student government and several major student organizations, Rocket Fest has become one of students' favorite and newest traditions, celebrating students through large-scale events and activities.
 - This year, the week will be hosted in partnership with several university offices and organizations, including Black Student Union, Global Latin Student Union, Campus Activities & Programming, WXUT, Sexuality and Gender Alliance, and National Pan-Hellenic Council.
- **Presidents' Roundtables**
 - Presidents' Roundtables continue to serve as collaborative meetings connecting leaders of major student organizations. These meetings have improved communication between UTSG and student leaders, making it easier to facilitate events like Rocket Fest. Key issues discussed this semester include:
 - **Room reservation delays**
 - Student organizations reported that Student Union room reservations often take 2-3 weeks to approve or deny, which can limit programming opportunities. Some events had to be postponed or canceled because of the delay.
 - At the beginning of the spring semester, the central event scheduling platform, InvoNet, had over 300 pending event requests awaiting review.

- We had the opportunity to meet with the Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services & Business Development, Mr. Joshua Krupinski, to discuss a plan that would allow faster room reservation decisions for student organizations.
 - Student organization office maintenance
 - Several student organizations with offices in the Student Union reported facility concerns, including HVAC-related issues and leaks in their spaces. With the upcoming renovations of the Student Union, we hope that these concerns will be addressed with the help of the administrators from Facilities and Construction, Auxiliary Services, and the Student Union.
 - The remaining sessions will take place on March 10 and April 7 to continue discussions and follow up on current initiatives.
- Policy Email Notifications
 - SG Senate unanimously voted in support of the resolution to include students in campus-wide notifications of university policy changes during the 30-day public comment period. We are currently working with university administrators who can help us implement this change and allow students to comment on policies that may affect their student experience.
- Mental Health Support Services
 - In light of the recent changes to the operations of the Counseling Center, students have expressed their uncertainties regarding access to student mental health support. Some of the key student concerns include:
 - Affordability of long-term care
 - Maintaining confidentiality when using family insurance
 - Refusal of care because of perceived financial burden
 - In February, vice president Jaden Bollinger and I met with the Chief Executive Officer of UToledo Health, Dr. Charles Callahan, and the Chief Administrative Officer of UToledo Health, Dr. Marci Cancic-Frey, to discuss the future of the Counseling Center services. The UT Health team has been especially attentive to student feedback and has expressed its commitment to maintaining communication with students as the Counseling Center undergoes structural changes.
 - Student trustees Nate Boley and Ashton Widenhoefer have been conducting additional research about student mental health support services across campus.
- Supporting Lourdes University Students During Transition

- Student government will meet with student leaders at Lourdes University on March 6th to discuss ways to support students affected by the university's upcoming closure. Potential collaborative initiatives include:
 - Tabling events at Lourdes focused on highlighting programs and campus life at UT.
 - Joint workshops on available campus resources.
 - Networking and mentorship opportunities connecting students from both campuses.
- Student Government Elections and Student Trustee Search
 - All presidential and senatorial tickets have collected the required number of signatures to appear on the ballot this spring. This year, we have an over 50% increase in the number of senate candidates and a contested presidential election. The official presidential tickets are:
 - Jaden Bollinger and Sanjna Singhal
 - Armahd White and Emily Wells
 - The student trustee application closed on February 27, and the first round of interviews will begin in the upcoming weeks. I look forward to sending the best candidates for the next round of interviews.

Thank you!

As my term concludes, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the board of trustees, university leadership, and the many members of our campus community who have supported student government throughout the year. It has been my profound honor to serve in this role, and I feel excited to prepare the leadership that will come after me for their impactful year ahead. I know that the collaboration between students and administrators will continue to elevate the experience at the University of Toledo. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to students and their success!

Graduate Student Association Stakeholder Report

Prepared by Saad Andilib, Graduate Student Association President
Monday, March 16, 2026

1. Spring 2026 Semester Update:

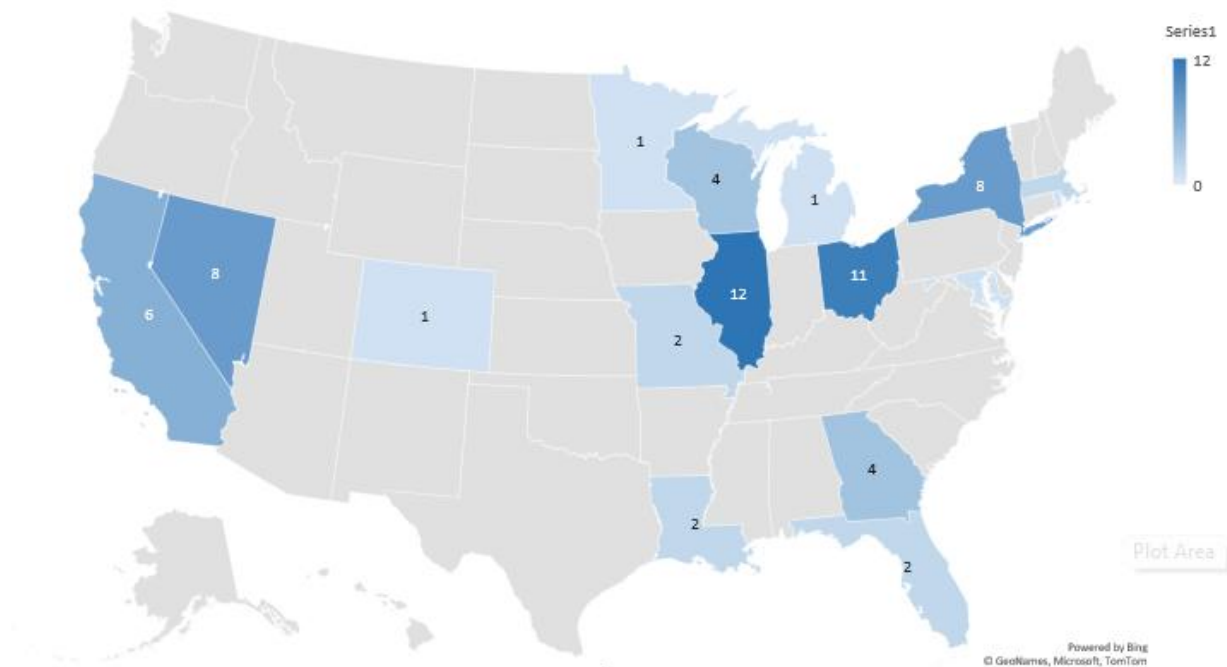
A. Midwest Graduate Research Symposium | Saturday, April 11th, 2026

- i. The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is pleased to announce that it will be holding its 17th annual Midwest Graduate Research Symposium (MGRS) on Saturday, April 11th, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on The University of Toledo Main Campus in Memorial Field House.
- ii. The MGRS is the GSA's annual showcase of graduate and professional student scholarly and professional work. Students present their work in seminars, lightning talks, and posters to audiences of various academic and professional backgrounds.
- iii. This year's symposium theme is **Authenticity and Integrity (AI)**. The program will feature a conversation exploring how artificial intelligence is transforming higher education.
- iv. This year's presentations come from students at the University of Toledo as well as students from the Arizona State University, Bowling Green State University, Miami University, Michigan State University, Oakland University, University of Cincinnati, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota Duluth, and Youngstown State University.

B. Research Travel and Conference Registration Reimbursement Program

- i. The GSA is pleased to report that it has been able to provide funding for a total of 71 students to date for participation in academic conferences and competitions. GSA funding has supported 39 students presenting at conferences, 4 students participating in academic competitions, and 28 students attending conferences for their professional development.
- ii. Below is a map of where our graduate and professional students have been traveling within the United States.

Research Travel and Conference Map for UToledo Graduate and Professional Students



C. Social and Professional Development Programming

- i. The GSA is offering programming for graduate and professional students this Spring 2026 including a Trivia Night on March 10th as well as an intercollegiate sports tournament on April 19th.

D. Graduate Research Awards

- i. We have received 19 applications for the 2025-2026 GSA Graduate Research Awards.
- ii. Our Graduate Research Awards are small grants to fund graduate student research and fieldwork. The Graduate Council Graduate Student Affairs Committee is reviewing these proposals and anticipates awarding five graduate students funding to support their scholarly work.

**Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees
Academic and Student Affairs Committee, March 16, 2026**

prepared by Dr. Daniel Boden,
University of Toledo Graduate Council Chair, 2025-2026.

This report includes the activities of Graduate Council (GC) since our last report on December 15th, 2025. Since the beginning of the Spring 2026 term, Graduate Council has had three bimonthly meetings to conduct regular business, hear presentations from guest speakers, and address new business brought forth by members.

On January 28, 2026, the CG Constitution and Bylaws Committee met to discuss a proposed change to the Graduate Council Bylaws. These changes were ratified by the Graduate Council during our regular meeting on February 3, 2026. These changes removed the requirement for having a tenured or tenure-track position at the University of Toledo to qualify for full or associate membership to the GC, allowing lecturers to obtain full GC membership. Previously, these faculty needed to apply for special membership if they otherwise met the qualifications regarding terminal degree, research activity and involvement in graduate education and supervision of graduate students. The change allows lecturers to be eligible for consideration of full membership based on their qualifications. Additionally, this change will also allow research faculty who previously had to seek special membership to participate in graduate education at UToledo. These changes are significant in that we currently have a number of externally-funded research faculty who supervise the thesis and dissertation research of our graduate students. These faculty members will now have an opportunity to seek full membership.

GC has approved numerous applications for new and renewed graduate faculty status, which enables individuals to teach graduate courses and serve in various capacities on graduate advisory committees, mentoring graduate students as they complete their degrees. Our Curriculum Committee is populated and continues to review and approve proposals for new and modified graduate programs and courses. As we head into the second half of the term, we expect many more curriculum adjustments to come through the GCCC, as departments and programs are thinking ahead to the next academic year.

On February 3, Maura Conner, Assistant Director, Student Financial Aid and Graduate and Professional Programs, attended Graduate Council to discuss changes to Federal Financial Aid and how graduate and professional programs should anticipate those changes impacting their students. On February 17, Provost McKinney joined our meeting to share his impressions of graduate education at the University of Toledo and to answer questions relevant to graduate faculty and the larger UToledo community, such as external funding, cross-college collaboration, graduate student recruitment, etc. Alana Malik, Assistant Vice Provost for Accreditation and Assessment, will present an update on program review to the Graduate Council on March 17th.

On February 26, Scott Molitor, Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Graduate Affairs, held a Graduate Faculty meeting to discuss issues related to graduate education, such as open access

publishing, student employment and health insurance, state legislation updates, ninety-hour baccalaureate degree programs, and the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium. Dr. Michael Weintraub, 2025-2026 Graduate Council Vice-Chair, and I continue to meet regularly with Provost McKinney to discuss issues relevant to GC and graduate faculty. Additionally, I continue to attend University Leadership Council meetings.

In addition to regular business and committee reports, Graduate Council continues to focus on several important issues that have been raised by faculty and students related to graduate affairs and academic programs. We also receive regular updates from Dr. Scott Molitor, Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Graduate Affairs, Research Council via Dr. F. Scott Hall and Dr. Grace M. Bochenek, and the Graduate Student Association by GSA President Saad Andalib.

As this will be my last report as chair of Graduate Council, I would like to express appreciation to the members of Graduate Council, our executive committee, President Holloway, Provost McKinney, Senior Vice President for Academic and Graduate Affairs Dr. Molitor, Whitney Valencua, the staff of the College of Graduate Studies, and members of the Board of Trustees for their support and assistance as we all collectively participate in shared governance to celebrate and acknowledge our successes, while also considering challenges and future opportunities for graduate education at the University of Toledo. It has been my honor and privilege to serve in this role during the 2025-26 academic year, and welcome my successor, Dr. Michael Weintraub, Department of Environmental Sciences, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, who assumes the role of chair of Graduate Council effective April 28th, 2026. I would like to extend my best wishes and encouragement to Dr. Weintraub and members of the academic leadership for continued efforts to undertake the important conversations and collaboration needed to secure the future growth and sustained excellence of our graduate programs, and associated education plus career preparation for all our graduate students.

Dr. Daniel Boden

Faculty Senate Presentation

UToledo BOT Meeting

March 16, 2026



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2025/2026 Faculty Senate Executive Committee



Jerry
Van Hoy
Past-
President



Tomer
Avidor-Reiss
President



Renee
Heberle
President
-Elect



Raghav
Khanna
Fall Executive
Secretary



Robert
Steven
Ohio Faculty Council
Representative



David
Giovannucci
Health Science Campus
Representatives



Andrea
Kalinowski



Karen
Green



Yakov
Lapitsky

Main Campus
Representatives



Fall 2025
Deborah Coulter-Harris
Executive Secretary

The Faculty Senate

- Faculty Senate meets every two weeks
- We discuss issues related to the 11 standing Committees and one ad-hoc committee
 - Academic Programs
 - Committees
 - Elections
 - Student Affairs
 - Undergraduate Curriculum
 - Constitution and Rules
 - Faculty Affairs
 - Academic Regulations
 - Budget
 - Core Curriculum
 - Recruitment and Retention
 - Creativity and innovation designation

Due to state-level changes and the faculty's many initiatives to help resolve the enrollment crisis, these committees work intensively.

This year, two committees had an extraordinary amount of work:

- **Undergraduate Curriculum** – reviewed 17 new courses and 64 course changes, and has 119 pending review.
- **Academic Programs** - reviewed 9 new programs and 7 program changes, and has 73 pending review.

The university faculty service needs are not met by the declining number of faculty

- Faculty Senate is working to understand the service requirements faculty are being asked to support across our colleges.
- Service responsibilities include:
 - To the public;
 - To disciplinary professional associations and journals;
 - To the University at the department, college, and university level.
- With a smaller number of faculty and increasing demands for new programs, courses, and initiatives, the service component is becoming difficult to sustain.
- Service must be valued and evaluated fairly across the university.



Meetings with the President and Provost

We have regular productive meetings with President Holloway and Provost McKinney, and we feel the collaborative spirit is strong.

We noted a positive change in the university's trajectory.

- The continued emphasis on three launch pads (Advantage Toledo, Innovate Toledo, and Healthy Toledo)
- Better understanding of the needs to maintain R1 status and investment both in hiring and research instrumentation.
- And providing every student with the opportunity to have a practical experience related to their academic studies.