

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Ron Sanders, COM	Past President		x
Christopher Walter, CHP	President	x	
Oleg Karaduta, CHP	President Elect	x	
Summer Khairi, CHP	Secretary	x	
Clare Brown, CPH	Parliamentarian	x	
Sarah Maggie Coffield, COM	Member at Large		x
Laura Gressler, COP	Member at Large	x	
Nukhet Aykin-Burns, COP	Member at Large	x	
Melissa Halverson, CHP	CHP Representative	x	
Madison Howe, CHP	CHP Representative	x	
Lisa Jansen, GS	GS Representative	x	
Martha Rojo, GS	GS Representative	x	
Brian Parks, CON	CON Representative	x	
Brittany Beasley, CON	CON Representative	x	
Lara Rains, COP	COP Representative	x	
Amanda Stolarz, COP	COP Representative		x
Lian Taylor, AA	AA Representative	x	
Caraline Annichiarico, AA	AA Representative	x	
Reid Landes, COM	COM Representative	x	
Jarna Shah, COM	COM Representative		x
Sophia Hollenburg, COM	COM Representative		x
Kari Weber, CPH	CPH Representative	x	
Kelsey Owsley, CPH	CPH Representative	x	
Bushra Zaman, ASG	Student Government Association	x	

Guests: Noelle Danylchuk, Kayla Bell, Grover Miller, Joann Scales, Kristen Muller

February 23, 2026; 4-5 PM
TEAMS

I. Welcome and Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Walter.

II. Approval of January 26, 2026, minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Old Business

- A. Stocked and Ready Food Drive
 - 1. Flier for the food drive has a QR code to donate to Stocked and Ready in Little Rock or a pantry in the NWA area.
 - 2. Dr. Walter will send out pdf of the flier.
- B. Faculty survey updates
 - 1. The PowerPoint and Word document with the restatement of comments will be sent out with the meeting minutes.

IV. New Business

- A. New Chancellor
 - 1. Dr. Barnes was selected as UAMS' new chancellor.
 - 2. Dr. Walter sent him an open invitation to Academic Senate meetings.
- B. Monthly meeting with Provost
 - 1. Dean of Public Health has stepped down. Dr. Stowe will be leading the search committee.
 - 2. Brought up the concern about the Department of Education releasing their Reimagining and improving student education proposed rule that would reclassify Professional degrees. Dr. Gardner is being intentional about creating more scholarship opportunities.
 - a) Dr. Gardner will discuss this issue with Andy Davis.
 - b) Dr. Howe suggested an email being sent to all colleges about what is happening on the topic of professional degrees and offer resources that will be affected by this proposed change.
- C. Upcoming Senate Elections
 - 1. Volunteer to serve on the Membership and Election committee
 - 2. Ballots will go out by April 15th

V. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Affairs (Aykin-Burns)
 - 1. Faculty Handbook updates is the next project for the faculty affairs committee.
 - 2. Dr. Walter will send out Faculty Affairs committee list. Please let Dr. Aykin-Burns know if you want to stay on the committee or be removed from the email list.
- B. Research (Landes)

1. Jen Gan is no longer working at UAMS.
 2. Need a new chair for the research committee.
 3. Need faculty to become judges for student research day (LR/NWA).
- C. Communications (Howe)
1. Idea: sharing personal stories about being on Academic Senate so more people would be more inclined to get involved.
 - a) Dr. Howe will reach out to Dr. Gressler to interview on “Why I Love Academic Senate.”
 - b) Academic Senate hosted CHP with donuts and coffee to discuss all the work Academic Senate does and to be more visible.
 - c) Academic Senate will serve donuts and coffee to COPH in April.
- D. Administrative Council (Hayar)
1. Need a new Academic Senate representative
- E. Intercollegiate Faculty (Khairi)
1. No Updates
- F. Academic Policy (Gressler)
1. No Updates
- G. Space (Annichiarico)
1. Office of the Registrar and HR will be moving to Admin West. No expected move date.

VI. College Reports

- A. Graduate School (Rojo, Jansen)
1. Discussing international student admissions.
 2. Dr. Lisa Jansen is a new representative.
- B. College of Health Professions (Howe, Halverson)
1. Discussion on professional degree status.
- C. College of Medicine (Hollenberg, Landes)
1. No Updates
- D. College of Nursing (Beasley, Parks)
1. EDII building repairs are ongoing
 2. Environmental mold concerns are being addressed.
 3. Increase enrollment and undergraduate numbers look great. Midwifery program applications are open.
- E. College of Pharmacy (Rains, Stolarz)
1. No Updates
- F. College of Public Health (Owsley, Weber)
1. Dean of COPH is retiring.
 2. Assistant Dean of Finance is retiring.
- G. Academic Affairs (Annichiarico, Taylor)
1. Elevators in EDII
 - a) 2 out of the 4 elevators will be operational in a week.
 - b) Environmental Safety office will be conducting a survey of all of the building.
 - c) Feb 25- Informational session on the NIH Public Access Policy.

- d) ESSC is hosting a workshop on 2/26 on active learning and hybrid settings
- e) Book Club has availability.

- H. Associated Student Government (Zaman)
 - 1. Working on volunteering in Stocked and Ready
 - 2. Working on student participation in events.

VII. Announcements/Open Forum

- A. 2024 NIH Public Access Policy update Webinar- Wednesday Feb 25 @ noon
 - 1. <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/22768560157399?p=YV7kPQDnHWbJrYDMLm>
- B. Student Research Day- March 10
- C. Faculty Engagement and Networking Week- April 13-17

VIII. Adjournment