

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		Excused
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	
Lin-Xi Li, 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: Ashok Philip, Kristen Muller, Lisa Jansen, Amit Tiwari, Marjoree Harper, Reaid Hasan, Wendy Ward, Bridget Fitzhugh, Bitra Favaz Farkhad, Jan Gan, Tina Maddox, Marjan Boerma, Joann Scales, Charia Hall, David Caldwell, Kristen Sterba

UAMS Academic Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026; 4-5 PM
TEAMS

I. Welcome and Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Walter.

II. Approval of December 8, 2025, minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Old Business

- A. Faculty Survey Preliminary Results (Brown)
 - 1. Collected data from December until January 23rd.
 - 2. Discussion of draft of the findings will be conducted during the executive session on Monday, February 2nd. Please let Dr. Walter or Dr. Brown know if you want to attend.
 - 3. After the meeting, results will be distributed.
- B. Holiday/Winter Food Drive
 - 1. UAMS Stocked & Ready food drive is the program/initiative we are supporting this year. Dr. Walter is working with the UA pantry to see how we can support NWA.
- C. Proposal to increase Academic Senate Representation
 - 1. Ensure Academic Senate is represented by everybody throughout UAMS.
 - 2. Dr. Brown made a motion to amend the bylaws as proposed at the last meeting. Dr Karaduta seconded. Modifications included:
 - a) One faculty elected from facilities, programs, or buildings not located at the main UAMS campus (including but not limited to any of the UAMS regional programs, sites away from the Main Little Rock location, remote work, CAVHS, or Arkansas Children's Hospital)
 - b) One faculty elected from the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus
 - 3. Dr. Karaduta made a second amendment adding an elected representative member of the UAMS Postdoctoral Society. Dr. Landes seconded the motion. Motion Passed.
 - 4. Dr. Landes made a motion to change quorum number from nine to fourteen. Dr. Karaduta seconded. Motion Passed.
 - 5. A vote was called to accept the proposed amendment as motioned in C.2 and amended in C.3 and C.4. Motion Passed.

IV. New Business

- A. Council of Deans update
 - 1. No December meeting
 - 2. Next meeting- January 27

- B. AS exec team meets monthly with Provost
 1. Discussion on the Professional Status was brought up during the meeting. Dr. Gardner is aware of the situation. UAMS is talking with the Arkansas representatives. Dr. Walter described that his understanding is that Dr. Gardner suggests speaking to your professional societies.
- C. UAMS Faculty Speakers Bureau
 1. This is a list of faculty and their respective topics they can speak on. The list is distributed internally and externally. Dr Walter suggested that Academic Senate assists Center for Faculty Excellence in updating the list. If interested in helping, please reach out.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Affairs (Aykin-Burns)
 1. Not Updates.
- B. Research (Gan)
 1. Student Research Day judges are needed. There are 344 student presenters. Draft email will be sent to all the Senators.
 2. Let Jen know if you want to join an Academic Senate judge committee.
- C. Communications (Howe)
 1. Thoughts on how to distribute communication to all the colleges.
- D. Administrative Council (Hayar)
 1. Not Present
- E. Intercollegiate Faculty (Khairi)
 1. Dr. Connor spoke about the 12th Street Center. They need volunteers (students/faculty).
 2. AI Policy is under revision.
 3. The application for the Leadership Development Funds should be announced soon.
 4. Mentorship programs are currently open.
 5. Faculty Appreciation week is from April 13th – April 17th.
 6. App is live and ready for downloading.
- F. Academic Policy (Shah)
 1. Need to fill Dr. Shah position. She is no longer at UAMS.
 2. Dr. Laura Gressler has been attending meetings, so Dr. Walter will ask if she wants to formally fill this opening.
- G. Space (Annichiarico)
 1. No updates.

VI. College Reports

- A. Graduate School (Rojo)
 1. No updates.
- B. College of Health Professions (Howe, Halverson)
 1. Admission cycle is underway.
- C. College of Medicine (Hollenberg, Landes, Shah)
 1. Not updates.
 2. Need replacement for Dr. Shah.

- D. College of Nursing (Beasley, Parks)
 - 1. Welcoming a new Associate Dean for Research and Associate Dean for Finance.
 - 2. Admission cycle is underway.
 - 3. CON is starting Nursing Midwifery program this Fall.
 - 4. Full accreditation to the CRNA program.
- E. College of Pharmacy (Rains, Stolarz)
 - 1. No updates.
- F. College of Public Health (Owsley, Weber)
 - 1. No updates.
 - 2. Faculty questions raised about the new NIH open access policy.
 - a) Annichiarico suggested to reach out to Susan Steelman and invite her to executive meeting.
- G. Academic Affairs (Annichiarico, Taylor)
 - 1. ESSC hosts a monthly book club. The book is called *Small Teachings*.
 - 2. ESSC is offering monthly educational workshops.
 - 3. Elevators in the RAHN building are working and library elevators are out of service due to flooding.
 - a) Additional statements regarding faculty frustration and health concerns noted by CON.
- H. Associated Student Government (Zaman)
 - 1. Increasing student participation for volunteering for UAMS Stocked & Ready.
 - 2. Identifying guest speakers for February. Please contact Bushra with ideas.

VII. Announcements/Open Forum

- A. Faculty Excellence Seminar Series
 - 1. Feb 11 @ noon; Dr. Micah Hester, “Humanities and Ethics Across Curricula: What may be possible and how we can help”
- B. Student Research Day
 - 1. March 10
 - 2. Please volunteer
- C. Faculty Appreciation Week
 - 1. April 13-17
 - 2. Academic Senate will sponsor a day
- D. Re-Op committee
- E. Next meeting:
 - 1. Monday, February 23, 2026, 4-5pm (TEAMS)

VIII. Adjournment