

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Christopher Walter, CHP	Past President		Excused
Oleg Karaduta, CHP	President	x	
Madison Howe, CHP	President Elect	x	
Summer Khairi, CHP	Secretary	x	
Clare Brown, CPH	Parliamentarian		Excused
Mauricio Moreno, COM	Member at Large		
Laura Gressler, COP	Member at Large		x
Aaron Woodall, CHP	Member at Large		x
Melissa Halverson, CHP	CHP Representative		x
Lesley Jones, CHP	CHP Representative	x	
Lisa Jansen, GS	GS Representative	x	
Martha Rojo, GS	GS Representative		
Brian Parks, CON	CON Representative	x	
Cesalie Wallace, CON	CON Representative	x	
Lara Rains, COP	COP Representative	x	
Amanda Stolarz, COP	COP Representative		x
Lian Taylor, AA	AA Representative	x	
Jordan Ford, AA	AA Representative	x	
Matthew Steliga, COM	COM Representative	x	
Cari Bogulski, COM	COM Representative	x	
Tiffany Huitt, COM	COM Representative		x
Rachel Hale, CPH	CPH Representative	x	
Kelsey Owsley, CPH	CPH Representative		x
Collin Swafford, COM	Non-Main Representative	x	
Krista Langston, COM	NWA Representative		x
Mustafa Mithaiwala	Post Doc Representative		x
Chimezia Nwadinigwe, ASG	Student Government Association	x	

Guests: Wendy Ward, Kerry Evans, Layla Simmons, Caraline Annichiarico, Nukhet Aykin-Burns

UAMS Academic Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026; 12-1 PM
Online: [Teams Link](#)

I. Welcome and Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Karaduta. Dr. Karaduta discussed his professional and personal history with UAMS.

II. Approval of July 28, 2026, minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. Updates:

- A. Academic Senate Instagram account has been approved and on air:
[@uamsacademicsenate](#)
- B. Letters of Recommendation/Support for your P&T for your active participation in AS life!

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Affairs (Aykin-Burns)
 - 1. Need a new chair
 - 2. Dr. Aykin-Burns will send Dr. Karaduta an email with committee updates and updated roster.
- B. Research (NEED Representative)
 - 1. Not present
 - 2. Need a new Representative.
- C. Communications (Hayar)
 - 1. Academic Senate Instagram account has been approved.
- D. Administrative Council (Hayar)
 - 1. Not Present
 - 2. Need a new Representative.
- E. Intercollegiate Faculty (Khairi)
 - 1. New Faculty Receptions in NWA/LR are in September.
 - 2. Last Lecture is on October 29th
 - 3. Wellness Seminar with Dr. Ward on September 24th
 - 4. Pre-Retirement Series is scheduled for Fall
 - 5. Building a Strong Community on September 30th
 - 6. HLC Accreditation is October 6 and 7th
 - 7. WFDC Dinner is December 1st.
- F. Academic Policy (Gressler)
 - 1. Not Present
- G. Space (Annichiarico)

1. 5 IDHI staff is moving from 5th floor central building to 5th floor Shorey
 - a) SEHS will move to 5th floor central building

V. College Reports

- A. Graduate School (Rojo, Jansen)
 1. Visa struggles for graduate students
 2. Graduate school coming up with letter to Senator Boozman
- B. College of Health Professions (Halverson, Jones)
 1. 5 programs that have summer graduates: Cytology, Nutrition, Nuclear Medicine, PA and RIS.
 2. CHP total students – 1952 students. 13% increase
 3. Nuclear Medicine has increased enrollment by 126%.
 4. MLS has increased in students. Waiting for final numbers.
 5. Dietetic and Nutrition are officially in NWA.
 6. Visibility study being conducted for a dental hygiene program in NWA.
- C. College of Medicine (Bogulski, Huitt, Steliga)
 1. No updates.
- D. College of Nursing (Parks, Wallace)
 1. Enrollment is up in graduate programs.
- E. College of Pharmacy (Rains, Stolarz)
 1. No updates
- F. College of Public Health (Owsley, Hale)
 1. Dr. Wendy Nemhard is the new Dean for CPH.
- G. Academic Affairs (Taylor, Ford)
 1. HLC will be hosting open forums.
 2. UAMS is changing core values to CARES.
 3. Nominate your peers for the Faculty Awards of Excellence.

VI. New Members:

- A. NWA representative (Langston)
 1. Not present.
- B. Non-Main campus representative (Swafford)
 1. No Updates.
- C. Associated Student Government (Nwadinigwe)
 1. Flag Football will start in September.
 2. ASG will have a resource fair on September 17th
- D. Postdoctoral Society (Mithaiwala)
 1. Not present.

VII. Announcements/Open Forum

- A. AS Instagram account was approved! Follow @uamsacademicsenate
- B. Letters of recommendation/Support for your P&T for your active participation in AS life

- C. Next meeting: September 28, 2026
- D. September meeting presentation: **Vipul Shurma**, Member Board of Directors of *National Postdoctoral Association*, University of Chicago
- E. Building a strong Community (September 30 at noon)
- F. AI conference (October 8-9)

VIII. Adjournment