

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Christopher Walter, CHP	Past President	x	
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		x
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	x	
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		
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: Susan Long, Bridget Fitzhugh, Layla Simmons, Caraline Annichiarico, Tina Maddox, Vipul Sharma, Joann Scales, Kerry Evans, Nukhet Aykin-Burns, Brad Martin

UAMS Academic Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2026; 12-1 PM
Online: [Teams Link](#)

I. Welcome and Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Karaduta.

II. Approval of August 24, 2026, minutes

The minutes were approved.

III. The University of Chicago – Office of Post Doctoral Affairs- Vipul Sharma

- A. Faculty Partnership
 - 1. Postdoc office as a faculty recruiting tool
 - a) Review candidate pools and give faculty shortlists- reducing time-to-hire
 - b) Manage a full internal fellowship competition: call, materials, rubric, submission
 - c) Run proactive candidate sourcing for hard-to-fill areas
- B. External Funding
 - 1. Programming doesn't have to be self-funded
 - a) Grants to develop a structures career readiness program
 - b) Positions PME as an innovator, not a service provider
 - c) Creates outcome data that strengthens future grant applications
 - d) Most postdoc offices don't pursue external funding-it's a differentiator
- C. Three issues every institution is navigating
 - 1. International postdoc support in the current climate
 - 2. Stipend floors and compensation equity
 - 3. Postdoc-PI expectation alignment

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Affairs (Need Chair)
 - 1. Need a new chair
- B. Research (Need Representative)
 - 1. Need a new Representative.
- C. Communications (President-Elect)
 - 1. Academic Senate Instagram account has been approved.
- D. Administrative Council (Need Representative)
 - 1. Need a new Representative.
- E. Intercollegiate Faculty (Khairi)
 - 1. Wellness Seminar with Dr. Ward on September 24th

2. Pre-Retirement Series is scheduled for Fall
 3. Building a Strong Faculty Community on September 30th
 4. HLC Accreditation is October 6 and 7th
 5. WFDC Dinner is December 1st.
- F. Academic Policy (Gressler)
1. HLC Accreditation Visit discussion occurred.
 2. Testing center protocols have been updated.
 3. Academic Catalog was reviewed and approved.
- G. Space (Annichiarico)
1. No Updated.

V. College Reports

- A. Graduate School (Rojo, Jansen)
1. Visa struggles for graduate students
- B. College of Health Professions (Halverson, Jones)
1. The KRT fellowship of PA students presents 13th annual heroes against Hunger 5k on October 3, 2026.
- C. College of Medicine (Bogulski, Huitt, Steliga)
1. Meet with Dean to discuss the Senate. There will be a regular quarterly meeting.
 2. Increase clinical growth in Arkansas.
 3. Collaborate research efforts with the UA System.
 4. P&T guidelines are changing for the COM faculty. They are currently being reviewed.
- D. College of Nursing (Parks, Wallace)
1. No updates.
- 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.
 2. Working to get on Dr. Nemhard's calendar.
 3. Updating P&T guidelines.
- G. Academic Affairs (Taylor, Ford)
1. Associate Director of the Library is Lindsey Blake.

VI. New Members:

- A. NWA representative (Langston)
1. September 25th hosted a research showcase and partnered up with the University of Arkansas Fayetteville.
 2. New Dietetics program in the NWA campus.
 3. Two new nursing programs launched in NWA.
 4. Had a successful New Faculty Reception.
- B. Non-Main campus representative (Swafford)
1. No Updates.

- C. Associated Student Government (Nwadinigwe)
 - 1. Arkansas Travelers hosted an event in September.
 - 2. Student Center hosted Service Fair.
 - 3. Flag Football occurred in September.
- D. Postdoctoral Society (Mithaiwala)
 - 1. National appreciation week concluded in September.

VII. Announcements/Open Forum

- A. AS Instagram account was approved! Follow @uamsacademicsenate
- B. Coffee & Donuts @ CPH October 2nd
- C. Building a strong Community (September 30 at noon)
- D. AI conference (October 8-9)
- E. Joint November/December AS Meeting will take place on December 7th.
- F. Chancellor's Awards of Faculty Excellence will take place during February 22nd meeting.

VIII. Adjournment