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, COPH	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, COPH	COPH Representative	x	
Kelsey Owsley, COPH	COPH Representative	x	
Collin Swafford, COM	Non-Main Representative		x
Krista Langston, COM	NWA Representative	x	
Mustafa Mithaiwala	Post Doc Representative	x	
Chimezie 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 COPH.
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 @ COPH 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