

# Academic Senate Minutes

Friday, February 20, 2026, 1:30-3:00 PM DW1001

[2025-2026 Meeting Materials](#)

Agenda and Blog: <https://blogs.iu.edu/senate/>

Constitution and Committees: <https://academics.iusb.edu/academic-senate/index.html>

Recent Senate Documents: [LINK](#)

Senate Archives: <http://institutionalmemory.iu.edu/aim/handle/10333/3376>

## Members Present:

R. Adaikkalavan, A. Alwine, C. Austin, B. Bathaser, M. Batie, V. Bindroo, K. Burkholder, C. Borshuk, K. Bregu, J. Burch, H. Davis, J. Deranek, , D. Economakis, K. Ervick, J. Feighery, R. Frantz, C. Gerken, S. Gerencser, J. Guriel, S. Haithcox, J. Hatfield, C. He, D. Heller, M. Holland, S. Imes, N. Karakatsanis, E. Kelley, V. Kwong, A. Lindinski, T. Liechty, C. Lisoni, J. Liu, S. Lu, B. Lucal, M. Lynker, M. Mancino, D. Marr, T. Martinez, C. Matthews, J. Maddox, D. McMillen, A. Meisami, M. Merhi, S. Merken, A. Muhlstadt, J. Muniz, J. Muniz, M. Oake, O. Okanlami, S. Opasik, A. Pant, S. Pape, B. Pathak, J. Pearson, J. Resler, G. Reynolds, M. Roberts, C. Robinson, E. Roth, K. Rusnock, A. Savvopoulou, C. Schult, H. Scott, S. Sigety, M. Sniadecki, N. Somerville, B. Spinda, D. Surma, A. Swain, S. Thomas, J. Tompson, J. VanderVeen, C. Vlaeminck J. Wells, M. Wentz, B. White, M. Yadav, L. Zwicker

## Premeeting Slides

See file: [1. Faculty Senate Pre-show FEB 2026.pptx](#)

### 1. Call to Order 1:31 pm

S. Gerencser called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM EST after reaching a quorum (50 members)

See file: [2. February 20 2026 Senate meeting slides.pptx](#)

IU South Bend acknowledges and honors the Indigenous communities native to this region and recognizes that the campus was built on the homelands and resources of the Potawatomi, Peoria, Myaamia, Kickapoo, Kaskaskia, Mascouten and Meskwaki people: the past, present, and future caretakers of this land.

### 2. [2 min] Approval of January Minutes

Presenter: Steven Gerencser, Academic Senate President

See file: [Minutes 2026.01.23 Academic Senate.pdf](#)

Discussion

No corrections or additions.

*Action Items & Follow up*

Minutes stand approved.

No follow-up needed.

### 3. [3 min] Announcement of Distinguished Teaching Award

Presenter: Jill Pearson, EVCAA

See file: no files submitted

Presented information:

- Distinguished Teaching Award presented to Jake Maddox

*Action Items & Follow up*

- Congratulations Jake Maddox!

#### 4. [5 min] Undergraduate Research Conference Report

Presenter: Barb Spinda & Stacie Merken, Co-chairs URC Committee

See file: [3. 2026 URC presentation for senate.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- Committee Members
  - Stacie Merken (co-chair)
  - Barbara Spinda (co-chair)
  - Brett Labbe
  - Carlos Lisoni
  - AJ Schmitz
  - Natahsa Somerville
  - Huanan Xu (on leave)
- Important Dates
  - Friday, March 13 – Submissions due
    - Plan is to let students know March 17<sup>th</sup> if they were accepted
  - Friday, March 27 – Acceptance notices sent to students
  - Friday, April 3 – Submit posters to WERC for printing
  - Friday, April 17 – Undergraduate Research Conference!
- Call to action
  - Discussed the importance of submitting creative works, the arts, and work from business, health sciences, world languages, etc.
  - Added in “Exhibition” as a new category so that we can incorporate all of the work done by students.

Discussion:

- No discussion.

*Action Items & Follow up*

- Encourage students at all levels in all degree plans to submit their work.
- If interested in being a room moderator or judge, please contact the Co-chairs

#### 5. [10 min] Nominating Committee Slate for Elected Committees

Presenter: Scott Opasik, Alex Meisami, Elaine Roth

See file: [4. Nominating Committee PPT final.pptx](#)

Presented information:

- Nominating Committee 2026
  - Alex Meisami

- Scott Opasik
- Elaine Roth
- Goal: Campus wide representation on all committees to maintain continuity and also invite new people to the committees.
- Executive Committee Nominations
  - Senate President: Stacie Merken, Criminal Justice, CAS
  - Senate Vice President: Anna Savvopoulou, Math, CAS
  - Senate Secretary: Hong Zhaung, Economics, BUS
  - At Large (2)
    - Julie Feighery, Archives, Library
    - Barb White, Nursing, SHS
  - UFC Rep
    - Tenure Track University Faculty Council (UFC) Rep – Carolyn Schult, Psychology, CAS
    - Non-Tenure Track UFC rep – Curtis Matthews, Marketing, BUS
- Athletics
  - Jeff Luppess, German, CAS
  - Kurt Hanus, Counseling, School of Ed
- Faculty Board of Review
  - Member – Klajdi Bregu, Economics, BUS
  - Member – Justin Amellio-Ashbrook, Theater, ARTS, CAS
  - Member – Elizabeth Bennion, Political Science, CAS
  - Alternate – Vincci Kwong, Library
  - Alternate – Anurag Pant, Marketing, BUS
  - Continuing on Committee
  - Member - Jonathan Nashel, CAS
  - Member - Amy Gretencord, SHS
  - Alternate - Yi Cheng, CAS
- Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment
  - Teaching Professor – Nuran Bradley, Math, CAS
  - Clinical Associate Professor – Kristy Ludy, Nursing, SHS
  - Tenured Professor – David Blouin, Sociology, CAS
  - Non-voting member – Krishnamurthy Vinay, Decision Sciences, BUS
  - Non-voting member – Cristen Austin, Dental Hygiene, SHS

### *Discussion*

- After reading nominations a request for nominations from the floor occurred.
  - Hearing/seeing none from the floor for Executive Committee
  - Hearing/seeing none from the floor for Athletics Committee
  - Hearing/seeing none from the floor for Faculty Board of Review
  - Hearing/seeing none from the floor for PTR Committee
- Seeing no nominations to any committees on the floor. Call to close. Moved and seconded.

- Unanimous vote to close nominations
- All elected by acclamation.

*Action Items & Follow up*

- Please encourage your colleagues from your schools and different areas to serve on committees.

## 6. [5 min] High-Impact Practices Proposal (Action Item)

Presenter: Steven Gerencser, Academic Senate President

See file: [HIP Proposal from the Senate Executive Committee 2-20-2025.docx](#)

Presented information:

- Review HIP Proposal language
- Proposal comes moved and seconded as an action item from the Executive Committee

*Discussion*

- Unanimous vote to call the question
- Vote to endorse the proposal
  - Unanimous approval

*Action Items & Follow up*

- No action items or follow up.

## 7. [15 min] General Education, Update on Revisions Discussion in November 2025

Presenter: Matt Shockey & Andrew Swain, General Education Committee Co-Chairs and Jake Mattox, General Education Director

See file: No file provided.

Presented information:

- **Diversity and US Society requirement**
  - Most of the discussion suggested that most faculty who spoke at the meeting did not want to make a change
  - Discussed the topic further as a committee
    - Decision: keep the requirement as it
      - Rationale: committee unanimously agreed that they could not change the language without totally undercutting the requirement's original intent.
      - With all of the other changes occurring, assuming there will be implications for general education
      - Additional distant rumblings about making our general education curriculum match the rest of the system
      - Based on everything happening there wasn't enough to make us change at this time.
- **Information Literacy Tag**

- Have been doing this for about 5 years at this point
- Thank you to everyone who completed the survey ( at least 70 responses from faculty)
- *Takeaways*
  - Faculty and departments need more communication/discussion and clarity of how this tag is supposed to work
  - Need better communication with faculty and library faculty
  - Inconsistencies between the full 1 credit hour course and the tagging that only lasts for a week or two
  - Significant problems with logistics with Stellic
  - Could be time to review the SLOs and what the purpose of this course is
  - Two ways we have been approaching Q110
    - Is info lit a fundamental literacy, take in your first year without being disciplined specific
    - Is it 300-400 level class for specialized research?

#### *Discussion*

- Q: Do we have any stackable credentials that students can get throughout their general education courses, like a certificate? Is it possible to work on this to help with retention?
  - A: Currently we do not have stackable credentials. Anything is possible.

#### *Action Items & Follow up*

- Complete the survey from Jake as the Gen Ed Director when it arrives.

## 8. [15 min] Budget Report

Presenter: Andy Williams, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance

See file: [5. Financial Update for Senate - February 2026.pptx](#)

#### Presented information:

- **Campus 3 Year Financial Model (Previously known as the 5 Year Model)**
  - Budget Office tool that allows the campus to project the financial health of the campus for the next 3 years.
  - Rely heavily on revenue and expense projections in future years
  - Submitted to University Budget Office in January
- Year-end projections discussed: predicting to be about \$493,865 ahead this year. This takes into account the \$1M cash “plug”
  - FY27- just about break even
  - Fy28 & FY29 will be in the red
- 3-year model notes and takeaways
  - In prior years, we have used the fall enrollment study to predict tuition and fee revenue to predict that we will have a decline in enrollment.
    - This year we decided to hold enrollment flat for future year projections.
      - If we continue to grow that will be positive.
      - If we decline the deficit will be worse
  - Assumes no increase in our state appropriations or tuition rates for the next 3 years

- Assumes we will have a general salary increase every year with a 3% increase
- **Visit from VP Iwama and Philemon Yebei on January 29th**
  - Overall, they were complimentary on how we've managed the budget in recent years, considering the challenges we've faced.
    - Expense control will continue to be an area of focus.
    - We all need to continue to "daylight" the great work that is being done at the regional campuses.
    - There's a lot of excitement for Regionals at the Rotunda on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Expense Control:** FY27 Budget Guidance memo from VP/CFO Jason Dudich calls for a university-wide net reduction of \$20M.
    - Operating expenses at many campuses, colleges, and schools exceed operating revenues. Other income, such as gifts and investment income, cover the difference.
    - This is not the case at IUSB
    - Due to volatility of other income streams, there is a need to close the gap between operating revenues and expenses
  - FY27 Budget Guidance
    - Total FY27 net reduction requirement for regional campuses=\$1,074m563
      - East: \$170,635
      - Kokomo: \$165,057
      - Northwest: \$211,359
      - South Bend: \$299 ,922
      - Southeast: \$227,589
    - How we will manage as a campus
      - Our portion of the expense reduction is \$299 ,922
      - ***Reductions in the "Use of Cash" budget line item will count toward our campus target.***
        - Our plan was to reduce the \$1M cash that was already in the plan. This was something we would have done anyways.
      - Recall that we had a use of cash in our FY26 budget of \$1,007,307 to offset the state appropriations reduction and holdback.
      - Ultimately, we will not need to use cash to offset expenses in the FY26 budget, largely due to revenue from enrollment gains and tight expense control
      - We are confident that our FY27 budget construction will include a large reduction (if not elimination) of the use of cash. This will satisfy our expense reduction target.
- **Looking ahead to year end**
  - After reserve contribution, if there is money left over, where should we invest?
    - Keep in mind:
      - There may not be a year-end surplus
      - Any investment/expenditures should be considered one-time in nature
      - This will be an ongoing discussion, and will ultimately be the Chancellor's decision

- If you have ideas, please share with the faculty members of the Senate Budget Committee, and CBAC

#### *Action Items & Follow up*

- Contact the Senate Budget Committee members or CBAC members with your ideas for “After reserve contribution, if there is money left over, where should we invest?”

## 9. [5 min] Time for Questions Andy Williams

See #8 above

#### Q&A:

- Q: What are the chances that we could fill the 18 faculty positions?
  - A: Jill has a great process for this. It will depend on how much money is available, ROI, and areas of investment that help to bring in more funds. Jill uses a lot of data to support decisions. Knowing what we do about our budget in terms of money, we do not believe there will be a lot of “net new” funds, so we will have to find funds.
- Q: Where did this \$300,000 come from and why is it larger than the rest of the campuses?
  - There is a formula. We are larger than the other campuses so we have a bigger number.
  - Salary study will be coming for the Regionals.
- Q: Which decisions stay on this campus versus off campus approval becomes very laborious and impactful. I understand the need for expense control, the future will rely on revenue growth, so it needs to be a focus as well.
  - A: If we have a budget problem and we know tuition is locked in and state appropriation is locked in, then we can control expenses or recruit more head count. The off-campus oversight is truly delaying everything. Cannot promise anything will change but will continue to make our needs known.
- Q: It feels like there are a lot of retirements without replacements in the last few years. How does that or doesn't that figure into how we are doing a reduction in costs? In particular to faculty retirements, replacements, and our budgets.
  - A: We are not looking to eliminate positions necessarily to meet the expense reduction. We are at a structural deficit by \$1M due to the 10% hold back. If we weren't able to reduce cash in our budget, we would then reduce our budget with supplies and positions. In the past we have made reductions in faculty and staff positions, but because we have done that work we have been able to maintain operations due to the reductions in many areas.
- Q: This request for reduction in the use of cash, will this be difficult with what we are doing right now?
  - A: We need to reduce cash in our budget no matter. We are likely next year to have less use of cash in our budget. We are holding enrollment flat, so we will have a larger budget next year.
- Q: About the reduction, did we as a campus get any type of credit for the 1% reduction to retirement? How did that impact the overall budgetary everywhere.
  - A: Yes it did, especially last year when we had to make a 5% reduction in the state appropriations from last year.

- Q: We see the \$20M deficit provided without the equation. We know a good portion of that is the in-direct costs on grants. Will the money that they took from us ever come back to us?
  - A: I wouldn't count on getting money back. Money was not taken away from us; we just received less. It is true that our indirect recovery is much less than at the R1 (Indy and Bloomington) due to less activity with federal grants on the regionals.
- Q: Office chairs? Has there been an update?
  - A: ordered 3 weeks ago with a 6–8-week delivery window.

#### *Action Items & Follow up*

- No action items or follow up.

## 10. [10 min] President's Remarks

Presenter: Steven Gerenscer

See file: [6. IU and Chicago Principles Feb 2026s.pptx](#)

#### Presented information:

- Chicago Principles
  - Origin: In November 2025, President Whitten charged the UFC Co-chairs to study the Chicago Principles.
  - The Taskforce: In December 2025, UFC Co-Chairs appoint a taskforce to address this matter; this taskforce is diverse group including disciplinary experts, faculty of all ranks, and both undergraduate and graduate student representation from all IU campuses.
    - Taskforce issue Report: In January 2026, the Taskforce issues a report recommending adoption by the UFC of the Chicago principles, though dependent upon several understandings articulated within the report.
    - This report is adopted by the whole UFC at February 18, 2026
    - UFC Chicago Principles Taskforce Report [here](#).
  - Information to know about the principles from the perspective of the committee
    - **First**, the Principles are not just about controversial speakers or campus protests; rather, they are widely understood as a comprehensive commitment to both free speech and academic freedom.... The principles would underscore IU's commitments to *both* free expression and academic freedom.
    - **Second**, the Principles do not alter the authority of faculty when they are carrying out their teaching responsibilities or give students who are passionate about a subject a license to commandeer the classroom. While vigorous discussion and debate are part of the learning process in many areas of study, their role and boundaries are matters of pedagogical judgment reserved to the instructor.
    - **Third**, the Principles are a statement of values, not a policy. They are not self-executing. Rather, they must inform institutional practices, the making of policies, and the enforcement of policies in individual cases. Continued vigilance and monitoring will be required to assure that IU lives up to its commitment in adopting the principles.
    - **Fourth**, provide IU with a powerful argument to resist external pressures over speech or political attempts to interfere with our curriculum. The Principles

have clear relevance to these matters, as such external pressures potentially force the administration into the position of controlling, even censoring, faculty speech and pedagogical choices in the classroom.....faithfulness to the Chicago Principles would require IU to work to oppose such political intrusions.

- **Finally**, adoption of the Principles should be the starting point, not the end point, of a University-wide dialogue on the meaning and values of free speech and academic freedom. A structure should be established to assure ongoing monitoring of our fidelity to the Principles. The UFC and other faculty bodies can play a useful role in collaborating on forums, workshops, and other educational programming around these issues.
  
- If you are served with a subpoena or someone from ICE contacts your office, please do the following:
  - Take them to the Chancellor's Office (see Elizabeth Paice, Admin 250) or call Elizabeth at (508) 369-7389 or to Student Engagement (see Kory Vitangeli, Admin 177L ) or call Kory at (317) 523-1609.
  - Elizabeth or Kory will contact the Office of the Vice President & General Counsel before releasing any information about a student.
  - The Office of the Vice President & General Counsel would review the subpoena or warrant and determine its legal obligation under the law.
  - Additional resource information is listed at [daca.iu.edu/campus-resources](http://daca.iu.edu/campus-resources)

#### *Discussion*

- Q: My concern is what happens next?
  - A: Additional concerns as well.

#### *Action Items & Follow up*

- No action items or follow-up needed.

## 11. [10 min] Chancellor Remarks

Presenter: Chancellor Brian Pappas

See file: No file provided

#### *Presented information:*

- Acknowledged the faculty and students who made Regionals at the Rotunda event
  - Thanked Stacie Merken for her work on the planning committee and supporting students
  - Thanks faculty who had students at the event
- Thanked faculty for their work with our students.
- Acknowledged the hard work that has gone into the ICHE process
- Said we would be working hard on communications and marketing, enrollment, retention and advising, and developing influence with legislature
- **AOD process**
  - Proposed over the next 2 months we study how the AOD process is going

- Survey faculty and staff (5-6 questions) to know
  - Impact on teaching, research, service,
  - Impact on students
- Promise we cannot go back to how things were before. Can only move forward.
- Committed to making changes where they are needed for us to improve
- Want to understand the perspective of those who disagree or are resistant to change.
- Hearing from staff will support us in that work.

### *Discussion*

- Q: I appreciate the phrase “change purposefully” the recent task that occurred in the last week, which seemed like a task set up for failure. It felt bad not to hear from administration, not even an acknowledgement that this was happening. Excited about the marketing hiring. If students, alumni, and administration, any one of those 3 got together on the same page is muscle that we need at this moment. Faculty feel so vulnerable with what has happened at the BOT. Our students need guidance on how to be empowered to articulate what is happening about our programs. People in our community deserve a fully liberal arts education. I have a couple of students who were at the rotunda. I would love to see the work that went into this. Can it be brought to our campus?
  - A: There has been very little about the process that we have undergone with ICHE that has made sense. It is a case study of how law is enacted into policy in a not positive way. The constant turn is frustrating and demoralizing. The person in charge of K12 and dual enrollment was Chancellor Pappas’s teacher. There is a substance and there is a process. We are at the back of the bus on this, the whiplash affects us more. If we could be included, we need the *why* and be part of the process to get buy in and better results. All the opportunities available to Bloomington or Notre Dame need to be available to our students. It is not a sacrifice to come to a Regional Comprehensive. It is an opportunity.
    - Stacie Merken idea was highlighted: to have posters brought here to have students do a session.
- Q: Thank you for listening to the concerns of the business faculty of their concerns on the impact of the AOD. Thank you for taking the time to make the survey and go through the results. Please remember that B&E is smaller faculty and the feedback is often drowned. There might be scaled items to show the degree of anxiety rather than open ended questions.
  - A: Hoping to do a combination of survey response options. This is not a vote that I am trying to take. I am interested in taking an interest-based approach. How can we accomplish this in a slightly different way that might be more useful and helpful. I think 2 months is a good use of our time to take a look at this. I promise the goal here is not to create a campus wide initiative to rethink things. We will want to be deliberate in the future if we decide to engage in those types of activities.
- Comment: I am always interested in hearing what you think. We have to focus on what we can control.

### *Action Items & Follow up*

- Complete the survey as it becomes available.

## 102 [5 min] Announcements

- Announcements were made about upcoming events and other important happenings.

## 13. Motion to Adjourn 3:05 PM

---

Respectfully submitted,

Mallory Roberts (secretary)