

CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Present: Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Roxanna Curto, Emilie Destruel, Eric Gidal, Erin Irish, Brian Lai, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Joshua Weiner

Absent: Tammie Walker

Guests: Becca Tritten

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 6th meeting were approved. Alberto Segre will serve as Secretary for this year, and Brian Lai will serve as the liaison to Faculty Assembly.

2. Updates from Sara

Dean Sara Sanders welcomed the committee back for the start of the 2025-2026 academic year. Dean Sanders then talked about the DEO Retreat and welcomed feedback on Executive Committee's participation in the retreat. Additionally, Dean Sanders provided updates about the creation of the Office of Writing and Communication and the Magid Writing Certificate moving into School of Journalism and Mass Communication on/around January 1, 2026.

3. Faculty Line Shifts

Dean Sanders and Associate Deans Roland Racevskis and Chris Cheatum provided an overview of the timeline for bringing faculty line shifts to Executive Committee (EC) for discussion. EC also held a brief initial discussion on the meaning, utility, and viability of joint appointments, particularly those split evenly across two departments.

4. Extra compensation for service roles

Associate Deans Racevskis and Cheatum described a project they are leading to better understand the use of extra compensation for service roles (e.g., serving as Director of an area within a unit, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of Undergraduate Studies, etc.). Issues to consider include what service is above and beyond the standard 20% service allocation, ensuring fair service load distribution across units, and if/when paying faculty for service assignments is appropriate.

5. Plan for evaluation/revising Clinical Track Policy

Associate Dean Cheatum discussed plans for working on the clinical track policy in CLAS. We currently have 23 faculty appointed in the clinical track. A committee has been formed to review and propose revisions to the current policy.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre

CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Present: Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Roxanna Curto, Emilie Destruel, Eric Gidal, Erin Irish, Brian Lai, Katherine Mellen, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

Absent: Cornelia Lang

Guests: Neda Barrett, Tiffany Schier

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 26 meeting were approved.

2. Working at Iowa Survey Action Plan

Senior Director of Human Resources Neda Barrett provided an update to Executive Committee (EC) regarding the Working at Iowa survey results for CLAS. She then introduced an action plan to address three items that represent opportunities for improvement: *I feel valued as an individual at the UI, UI recognizes accomplishments, and my unit distributes workloads fairly.* Members then discussed aspects of this proposal.

3. Student Worker Programs in CLAS

Dean Sara Sanders spoke to EC about the growing use of student workers to supplement staff in academic units. Subsequent discussion centered on how CLAS can communicate and foster best practices for managing and utilizing student workers.

4. Academic Unit Operations Meetings

Deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre

CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Present: Chris Cheatum, Roxanna Curto, Emilie Destruel, Eric Gidal, Erin Irish, Brian Lai, Katherine Mellen, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

Absent: Monica Correia, Alberto Segre

Guests: Becca Tritten

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 2 and May 27 meeting were approved.

2. CLAS AI and Accessibility Updates

Senior Director of IT Jonna Higgins-Freese and Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Programs Gwen Archibald provided an update on the Accessible Iowa Initiative. The update provided additional information on how CLAS is focusing their work on the initiative, which ensures compliance with federal requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) related to digital accessibility standards across Iowa's course content, websites, programs, systems, services, and activities by April 24, 2026.

Along with Associate Dean Cornelia Lang, the team then provided updates around how CLAS is organizing their efforts around AI. Strategy work that is currently in development for CLAS involves providing a charge to departments to elicit discussion and creation of a departmental approach to AI and creating a page on the CLAS website outlining our response to university charge and link to University AI pages Links available so far. There is also a recommendation from the team to create a CLAS specific AI taskforce.

3. Fall 2025 CLAS Unit Reviews in progress

Kelly Kauffman and Catherine Moore provided Executive Committee (EC) with updates on the CLAS academic unit reviews that are currently in progress.

4. Academic Unit Operations Meetings

Becca Tritten, Senior Director of Administration, provided an update regarding the Academic Unit Operations Meetings. Updates included work the group focused on last year and priorities for their work this year.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Acting Secretary Erin Irish

CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Present: Chris Cheatum, Emilie Destruel, Erin Irish, Brian Lai, Katherine Mellen, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

Absent: Monica Correia, Roxanna Curto, Eric Gidal

Guests: Bob Cargill, Paul Dilley, Becca Tritten

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 9 meeting were approved.

2. Department of Religious Studies and Department of Classics merger

Associate Professor Paul Dilley (DEO Religious Studies) and Associate Professor Bob Cargill (DEO Classics) reviewed the proposed Department of Religious Studies and Department of Classics merger, currently pending approval at the September Board of Regents Meeting. EC, which had previously approved the proposed merger, explored related issues including the new unit's faculty to student ratio and the future of (currently vacant) named appointments.

3. reSPARC Discussion

Dean Sara Sanders provided EC with a brief reminder and overview of the Revenue and Efficiencies Strategic Plan Action and Resource Committee (reSPARC), which seeks to identify opportunities for revenue growth and increased efficiencies across campus to ensure Iowa maintains a sound financial trajectory.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre

CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Present: Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Roxanna Curto, Emilie Destruel, Eric Gidal, Erin Irish, Brian Lai, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

Absent: None

Guests: Becca Tritten

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 16 meeting were approved.

2. Rhetoric Self Study - Collegiate Response

Associate Dean Roland Racevskis asked for feedback on the Department of Rhetoric unit review materials distributed prior to this meeting, and in particular, on the collegiate response. Executive Committee (EC) agreed the packet is ready to submit to the Office of the Provost.

3. Instructional and clinical track reappointment deadline change

Associate Dean Chris Cheatum provided an update that the dean's office is currently working on adjusting the instructional and clinical track reappointment deadlines for this year. EC expressed interest in having the adjusted deadlines match the already established promotion and tenure deadlines.

4. Updates

Dean Sara Sanders provided EC with updates including the social media guidelines that were shared with faculty and staff on September 22, the current information regarding H1-B visas, and the current climate regarding the state budget. Additionally, Associate Dean Cornelia Lang provided an update on conversations with the Graduate Educational Policy Committee (GEPC) regarding the topic of reviewing graduate programs and what that process might look like for the college.

5. Reimagining Commencement

Dean Sanders talked to EC about the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) commencement ceremonies held at Carver Hawkeye-Arena each year. Current CLAS goals are to both enhance the celebratory nature of the event as well as increase faculty participation, and EC expressed its support for both goals. Dean Sanders also indicated that she will strongly encourage individual departments not to use the terms "commencement" or "graduation" in reference to their own departmental events in order to minimize confusion among students and families. "Commencement" and "graduation" should be used exclusively to denote the larger, CLAS sponsored, event at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

6. Adapting to Structural Changes in CLAS

Deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre

CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Present: Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Roxanna Curto, Emilie Destruel, Eric Gidal, Brian Lai, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

Absent: Erin Irish

Guests: Gwen Archibald, Liz Lundberg, Becca Tritten

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 23 meeting were approved.

2. Announcements and Updates

Associate Dean Chris Cheatum discussed recent changes to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) course release policy, which will be presented at a future Departmental Executive Officers (DEO) Meeting.

3. AY2024-25 Curricular Changes

Associate Director of Curriculum and Instruction Liz Lundberg reviewed last year's CLAS curricular changes. Changes to academic units included the establishment of the School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability (in which offerings are now more efficient and streamlined), the establishment of the Department of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures, and adjustments made within the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. She noted that the Economics program has been moved to the Tippie College of Business, and reviewed other changes to programs of study and subprograms, new course codes, changes in degree requirements, and changes to the GE CLAS Core. Overall trends identified in degree requirement changes included more choice/flexibility, addressing bottlenecks, highlighting the BA/BS identity, experiential learning, and language plus culture.

4. Adapting to Structural Changes in CLAS

Dean Sara Sanders asked for EC to discuss what the Dean's office can do to help faculty better adapt to structural change. Suggestions included having Dean Sanders attend departmental faculty meetings to address questions and facilitate deeper discussion; early communication of upcoming changes (already underway), and new strategies to support departments navigating transitions (under development by Associate Deans). Recognizing that budgetary cuts and structural adjustments may vary across units, it was emphasized that solutions must be tailored accordingly: some units may require new policies, tools, or frameworks to adapt effectively. Clear, concrete examples will be especially helpful in guiding departments through this process. . The more the College can articulate the broader vision underlying the changes and provide guidance on how departments and units can collaborate and respond at a local level, the more successful the adaptation will be.

5. Scholarships

Deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre