

## **CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 2, 2025**

**8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

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

**Absent:** Roxanna Curto, Eric Gidal, Tammie Walker

**Guests:** Ben Hill, Becca Tritten

### **1. Approval of Minutes and Updates**

The minutes from the November 18 meeting were approved. Dean Sara Sanders informed the Executive Committee (EC) of plans for two Senior Leadership Team retreats at the beginning of spring semester focusing on strategic planning for the college.

### **2. Unit Review Collegiate Responses: French and Italian, Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures**

Associate Dean Roland Racevskis asked for feedback on the French and Italian and the Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures unit review materials distributed prior to this meeting, and in particular, on the collegiate response. EC agreed the packets are ready to submit to the Office of the Provost.

### **3. Office of Writing and Communication**

Danny Khalastchi, Executive Director of the newly formed Office of Writing and Communication (OWC) presented his vision and goals for the OWC. Last year, a committee reporting to the Office of the Provost studied how to best support writing initiatives across the campus. Inspired by the Office of the Performing Arts and Engagement's role in promoting the arts, the OWC's mission is to sustain the university's leadership in writing across the disciplines — a priority for both undergraduate, professional, and graduate education. OWC will also support the work and autonomy of individual units while strengthening shared resources and visibility. Key responsibilities will include overseeing a unified communications strategy and supporting programming and professional development efforts without duplicating the efforts of departments or overburdening faculty and staff. It will also work in close collaboration with the Office of Performing Arts and Engagement, colleges, and communications teams across campus to align and elevate storytelling about Iowa's writing and communication excellence.

### **4. Center for Language and Culture Learning (CLCL) Update**

Emilie Destruel reported on current work in the Center for Language and Culture Learning (CLCL), highlighting its facilities, services, and support for language and cultural studies. Currently undergoing a two-year reenvisioning process meant to redefine its mission, key milestones this term include implementing a SWIPE tracking system, conducting faculty and student surveys, and drafting a revised mission statement. Survey results showed strong faculty and student support for CLCL, with interest in expanding cultural programming and career-readiness initiatives. Spring 2026 goals for this effort include finalizing the CLCL's

mission, exploring branding and new programming opportunities, and seeking clarity with regard to scope, leadership, and funding.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 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, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Alberto Segre

**Guests:** Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the December 2 meeting were approved.

### 2. Unit Review Collegiate Responses: African American Studies, American Studies

Associate Dean Roland Racevskis asked for feedback on the African American Studies and the American Studies unit review materials distributed prior to this meeting, and in particular, on the collegiate response. Executive Committee (EC) agreed the packets are ready to submit to the Office of the Provost.

### 3. Voting Groups Discussion

Senior Director of Administration Becca Tritten showed EC a list of all of the academic units and their currently assigned electoral voting group, as per the CLAS Manual of Procedure. Dean Sanders then engaged in a discussion with EC regarding the movement of two departments from one voting group to another, which are, Cinematic Arts (moving from Humanities to the Arts) and Communication Studies (moving from Social Sciences to Humanities). EC was in agree with the proposed change, which will be effective July 1, 2026.

### 4. Collegiate Fellows Discussion

Senior Director of Administration Becca Tritten reviewed the CLAS Collegiate Fellow Award process and criteria with EC and provided an overview of the nomination process and a list of all awardees since its establishment in 2000-2001. Dean Sanders then led EC in a brief discussion about the desire to update the process for nominations and recognition, with the goal to reaffirm that this is the highest honor granted to faculty in the College. It was decided that the Collegiate Fellow Award will be put on pause for 2025-2026 academic year so that the Senior Leadership Team can work on a revision process. EC agreed with this plan.

### 5. Strategic Planning Discussion

Deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Acting Secretary Erin Irish

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

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

**Absent:** Emilie Destruel, Tammie Walker

**Guests:** Becca Tritten

**1. Approval of Minutes and Updates**

The minutes from the December 9 meeting were approved.

**2. CLAS Academic Unit Criteria**

Executive Committee (EC) voted (8 yes, 0 no) to grant American Studies an exception to the [CLAS Academic Unit Criteria](#) and thus retain departmental status.

**3. Workforce Analysis Report Discussion**

Dean Sara Sanders led a discussion with EC regarding recommendations of the undergraduate programs from the Workforce Analysis Report provided by the Board of Regents. In response to this report, the College has been directed by the Office of the Provost to file the paperwork for the closure of the following Majors: African American Studies, Applied Physics, Classical Languages, Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies (GWSS), Italian, Russian, and Science Studies (offered with College of Education).

Based on this directive from the Office of the Provost to close the GWSS major, EC is making the recommendation to close the department of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS). EC has determined that the department of GWSS does not meet the [CLAS Academic Unit Criteria](#). GWSS Faculty, all having joint appointments, will retain their appointment in other department(s). EC voted yes in support of this recommendation. (8 yes, 0 no).

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre

## **CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

**8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Monica Correia

**Guests:** Neda Barrett, Jonna Higgins-Freese, Ben Hill, Ryan Kirkey, Tiffany Schier

### **1. Approval of Minutes and Updates – approved**

The minutes from the December 16 meeting were approved.

### **2. African American Studies Program Discussion**

Dean Sara Sanders led a follow-up discussion with Executive Committee (EC) regarding recommendations of the undergraduate programs from the Workforce Analysis Report provided by the Board of Regents and the African American Studies program.

Based on the directive from the Office of the Provost to close the African American Studies (AFAM) major, African American Studies does not meet the CLAS Academic Unit Criteria, and EC recommends its closure. The African American Studies faculty, all having joint appointments, will retain their appointment in other department(s). The AFAM courses, certificates, and minor will move to American Studies. EC voted in favor of this recommendation. (6 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention).

Further details were also provided regarding the necessary housekeeping paperwork that will be provided to the Board of Regents. The Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) certificate and the Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) certificate will be noted in the memos as formally moving to American Studies.

### **3. CLAS Budget Update / reSPARC Discussion**

Dean Sanders reviewed the current MOU between CLAS and the Office of the Provost regarding the CLAS budget, reaffirming the need for annual balanced budgets as well as cautioning against relying on prior-year surpluses.

Dean Sanders also provided an update on the request from the reSPARC committee that colleges identify 3–5 activities that could be dropped or consolidated to meet a 2% savings. Examples of immediate cost-savings could be discontinuing printed materials, moving to exclusively digital formats for online distribution or indexed by QR code for direct distribution. Potential efficiencies were also discussed, such as administrative savings through compatible department mergers or revisiting enrollment thresholds for lecture versus discussion formats to better align TA and existing centralized academic resources like supplemental instruction. Dean Sanders requested that EC members bring suggestions for 2-5 CLAS services suitable for elimination or centralization for further discussion by March 2.

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Monica Correia, Cornelia Lang

**Guests:** Gwen Archibald, Matthew Shadle, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the January 20 meeting were approved. Associate Dean Chris Cheatum also gave an update on progress by the committee working on updating the clinical track faculty policy.

### 2. CLAS Undergraduate Programs Program Assessment presentation

CLAS Academic Assessment Coordinator Matthew Shadle presented an overview of current assessment efforts for undergraduate programs and the CLAS Core general education program. He emphasized the goal of making program assessment a meaningful, cyclical process that supports faculty reflection, identifies areas for improvement, and strengthens student learning, interest, and career readiness. Highlights included recent departmental initiatives such as curriculum mapping, revised learning outcomes, and expanded assessment tools; as well as common challenges like inconsistent reporting and limited use of student-learning data. Additionally, Assistant Dean Gwen Archibald provided a draft handout to guide a discussion around CLAS providing a structured, collaborative process to assist departments facing low enrollment in their majors.

### 3. Unit Reviews - Updated Unit Review Questions

Associate Deans Chris Cheatum and Roland Racevskis presented recent revisions to the self-study questions the CLAS Dean's Office uses for unit reviews. These revisions pertain to all areas within CLAS and include one additional question to help capture unit efforts dedicated to service, external relations, marketing and communications.

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Erin Irish

**Guests:** Ben Hill, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The approval of the minutes from the January 27 meeting were deferred to a future meeting due to the draft not being available for review ahead of the meeting.

### 2. reSPARC Discussion

Dean Sara Sanders led a discussion with Executive Committee (EC) regarding ongoing University-wide efforts on centralization and operational efficiency, including the reSPARC Efficiencies initiative. A key theme was exploring opportunities for CLAS to benefit from more coordinated, centralized, approaches to marketing, communications, HR, finance, technology, and other shared services. A future meeting will focus on identifying specific activities or processes that CLAS could reduce or discontinue to improve efficiency and better align with strategic priorities. The expectation is that the Senior Leadership Team will participate in deeper evaluation and development of CLAS-specific recommendations and will bring proposals to EC for input.

**CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**  
**8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Becca Tritten

**1. Approval of Minutes and Updates**

The minutes from the January 27<sup>th</sup> and the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings were approved.

**2. Professional Development Award (PDA) and Service Obligations**

Associate Dean Josh Weiner summarized how CLAS views faculty service obligations during professional development awards (PDA). During a PDA, the faculty member is engaged on a specific scholarly, artistic, or innovative instructional project supported by the assignment, and may, during the PDA, be located primarily off campus. Executive Committee (EC) supports the continuation of the current PDA service policy, which is that faculty members on PDA are released from classroom teaching, undergraduate advising, and possibly, in consultation with their DEO, some administrative and service obligations for one semester at full salary or two semesters at half salary.

**3. Shared Governance Meeting Minutes**

Senior Director of Administration Becca Tritten asked for feedback regarding how shared governance meeting minutes are distributed to CLAS faculty. The CLAS Manual of Procedure says that each elected committee and the Faculty Assembly shall take and approve minutes of their meetings, to be made available to all members of the Faculty after approval. EC membership felt the current method, which delivers meeting minutes through the CLAS Business Updates mailing as either a locked Word document or an accessible pdf sufficed to ensure transparency remains a priority.

**4. UICA Training Discussion**

Dean Sara Sanders engaged in a discussion with EC regarding the University of Iowa Center for Advancement and training for both UICA Development and the CLAS leadership team. Dean Sanders solicited feedback on what topics should be raised and how best to approach fundraising conversations within the academic units (e.g., through meetings with DEOs, disciplinary divisions, Departmental listening tours, etc.).

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. Dean Sara Sanders then outlined the anticipated timelines for both the next CLAS strategic plan, scheduled for Fall 2027, and the next Collegiate Review, which will begin during the 2026–2027 academic year.

### 2. CLAS Reception / First point of contact

Dean Sanders and Senior Director of Administration Becca Tritten asked for feedback from Executive Committee (EC) regarding a proposed draft policy on office reception and first point of contact. The proposed guidelines are meant to ensure consistent, accessible, and flexible reception and first-point-of-contact services across academic units while supporting hybrid work, operational efficiency, and clear communication of service expectations.

### 3. Annual Faculty Meeting Discussion

Dean Sanders described the evolution of the required CLAS annual faculty meeting. The CLAS Manual of Procedure, section I.4, states: *The Dean shall invite members of the Faculty to attend an annual faculty meeting, which shall be held every year with the Dean presiding. The Dean shall set the agenda for this meeting.* Currently, the annual faculty meeting focuses on the presentation of awards to faculty, and has recently been poorly attended. The Office of the Dean proposes, as an alternative, to refocus instead on a “state of the college” presentation, followed by a reception. Faculty award presentations would then revert to the department/unit level, with help and participation from the Dean’s office.

### 4. Pentacrest Facilities Update

Associate Dean Josh Weiner provided EC with an update on proposed facility changes within CLAS, particularly on the Pentacrest. Areas of focus includes a renovated meeting space on the second floor of MacBride Hall and potential space for the Department of Cinematic Arts (including a screening room, which is sorely needed) in MacLean Hall. Providing renovated space for Cinematic Arts would also enable much-needed space within the Adler Journalism Building for expected growth in other existing programs, such as the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Department of Communication Studies.

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders

**Guests:** Ryan Kirkey, Tiffany Schier, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. In the absence of Dean Sara Sanders, Associate Dean Chris Cheatum led us through the agenda. After approval of the meeting minutes, Associate Dean Cheatum provided an update to Executive Committee (EC) regarding the School of Social Work program and a greater need for resources to help with a critical need for a more robust field placement model, due to student demand. The improved model recommends a more robust structure, which would be the creation of an Office of Practicum Education, helping provide more clarity on how to structure faculty support for this need.

### 2. Faculty Affairs Updates

Director of Faculty Affairs Tiffany Schier described new CLAS procedures for practice-track or instructional-track faculty who wish to transfer from one classification to the other.

CLAS had previously announced an increase in funds allocated to faculty recruitment per line allocation to \$5000 for tenure track faculty and \$3000 for instructional track faculty effective AY2026-27. Senior Director of Business & Financial Administration Ryan Kirkey informed EC that this new funding model will now also apply retroactively to CLAS faculty searches that took place during the current academic year.

### 3. Faculty and Staff Merit Increase Process

Senior Director of Business & Financial Administration Ryan Kirkey and Director of Faculty Affairs Tiffany Schier reviewed this year's faculty and staff merit increase process and timeline.

### 4. reSPARC update

Senior Director of Business & Financial Administration Ryan Kirkey reviewed CLAS leadership progress on identifying a collection of 3-5 practices that could be modified or terminated, along with their estimated potential savings at the collegiate level. Once implemented, these actions can help support the President's effort to provide merit salary increases.

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Tiffany Schier, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

### 2. Faculty Affairs Updates

Director of Faculty Affairs Tiffany Schier described new CLAS procedures for the newly created job code (FH14 - Instructor) for fixed-term instructor positions (formerly the FH17 job code). These one-year renewable positions are meant to provide instructional support. A minimum of a bachelor's degree is required for appointment; the individual is not required to hold a terminal degree.

### 3. Strategic Planning Discussion

Dean Sara Sanders shared draft collegiate plans for the next strategic planning process (2027-2032). The intent is to align the CLAS planning process with the University's broader 2026-2032 strategic planning. At the University level, the goal is to write a shorter strategic plan that highlights Iowa's uniqueness and distinction, does not look like other university strategic plans, is flexible and adaptable given current climate of higher education, and includes clear metrics of success. Currently, Dean Sanders expects the UI strategic plan will embody a two-prong institutional mission: Education and Research. Dean Sanders proposes that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) lead the strategic planning process in partnership with EC and in consultation with other shared governance bodies. This proposed process builds on existing partnerships with shared governance committees, allows SLT to directly engage with the voices of faculty/staff in CLAS, and does not add unduly to the service burden of faculty and staff. The proposed timeline for strategic planning process starts this summer and extends through AY2026-27.

Dean Sanders then solicited feedback from EC about how to approach strategic planning at the academic unit/departmental level.

### 4. Office of the Dean Staffing Updates – Shared Admin Model

Dean Sanders and Senior Director of Administration Becca Tritten opened a discussion with Executive Committee regarding the continued development of the shared admin model across the college. The discussion focused on identifying gaps in current onboarding practices and areas where additional support may be needed. Members emphasized the importance of clearly setting and consistently communicating expectations between the Admin and DEO, as well as ensuring regular communication between the DEOs that work within the shared model. It was noted that unit size, departmental structures, and varying operational systems contribute to differences in experience, creating challenges in training and alignment. The group discussed opportunities to improve process standardization, better understand unit-specific needs, and reduce turnover by strengthening recruitment strategies and overall support for new staff.

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Roland Racevskis

**Guests:** Neda Barrett, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the March 3 meeting were approved. Dean Sara Sanders and Senior Director of Human Resources Neda Barrett described the new Office of the Provost procedures for faculty misconduct investigations, including the newly named faculty members of the investigative unit.

Dean Sanders also shared ongoing staffing challenges within the Office of the Dean, particularly in human resources but also for operational support in the 240 office. She asked for Executive Committee comment on a proposed change to the current shared Administrative Services Coordinator, who supports both the HR team (support for unit hiring, scheduling, report generation, projects as assigned, etc.) as well as provides administrative support in the main office (associate dean scheduling, annual events, first-point-of-contact responsibilities, etc.). Executive Committee feedback emphasized the importance of clear communication regarding how increased human resources support will impact departments and units. EC agreed that human resources would benefit from additional assistance, and felt that given the need exists, it should be met. EC did emphasize the importance of clearly communicating how the change will benefit the College as well as individual departments and units.

### 2. Graduate program assessment

Dean Sara Sanders and Associate Dean Cornelia Lang shared a draft of how CLAS would engage in graduate program assessment. The draft showed an outline for a multi-year strategic planning process in which all departments will complete comprehensive self-assessments of their graduate programs during AY 2026–27. The process includes providing narrative evaluations and data on admissions, funding, curriculum, mentoring, outcomes, and sustainability. Collegiate leadership, GEPC and EC would then review reports and offer recommendations in Fall 2027, with any resulting program changes occurring no earlier than Fall 2028.

### 3. Faculty Affairs Updates – Instructional resource allocation process

Associate Deans Cornelia Lang and Chris Cheatum proposed a new instructional resource allocation process for next year. Departments will be asked to submit a single, consolidated deployment chart to the Dean's Office that outlines all instructional needs, including regular faculty, TAs, visitors, instructors and adjuncts. The new process would provide a more wholistic view of staffing needs and would take place earlier in the academic year than the current TA allocation process as well as the adjunct and visitor MAX process, both of which it subsumes.

**CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 24, 2026**  
**8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

**Present:** Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Chris Cheatum

**Guests:** Becca Tritten

**1. Approval of Minutes and Updates**

The minutes from the March 10 meeting were approved.

Dean Sara Sanders informed Executive Committee (EC) that Faculty Assembly officers will attend the April 28<sup>th</sup> EC meeting in accordance with Section IV.5 of the CLAS Manual of Procedures.

Dean Sanders also asked EC for feedback on ongoing federal accessibility requirement efforts under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The University has been working to provide compliance related resources and information, and CLAS has identified contacts within CLAS that can be of assistance.

**2. Graduate program assessment, continued**

Dean Sanders and Associate Dean Cornelia Lang shared a draft of the values statement that supports the upcoming assessment of graduate and postdoctoral education in CLAS. EC feedback and discussion centered on deriving appropriate metrics for CLAS graduate programs while emphasizing that the process is not driven by predetermined outcomes. Areas of concern include whether the current structures of the graduate programs—especially the smaller ones—are sustainable and how new structures might benefit these programs, especially when other programs in CLAS are duplicating the same processes and systems. Next steps include creating awareness at a DEO meeting by the end of the semester and then using the summer 2026 DEO retreat to roll out the process.

**3. reSPARC Discussion**

Dean Sanders prompted discussion with EC on the proposed submission of 2-5 services/systems that might be moved to an enterprise system model. Reduced duplication of services across campus is an important reSPARC target.

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Neda Barrett, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the March 24 meeting were approved. Dean Sara Sanders also reviewed CLAS-contributed reSPARC suggestions for 2-5 services/systems that might be moved to an enterprise system model to help achieve reSPARC savings targets. These will be submitted to the Office of the Provost on April 6.

### 2. Academic Rebound

Associate Dean Cornelia Lang and Director of CLAS Retention and Student Services Monica Madura outlined the upcoming Academic Rebound model, a university wide initiative designed to replace traditional academic probation with a more supportive, student-centered framework focused on recovery and retention. They reviewed current CLAS academic standards, demonstrated trends in probation and dismissal rates, and explained the rationale for adopting new terminology such as *Academic Notice* and *Academic Warning*. The presentation highlighted the new model's evidence-based recommendations as well as the Provost's directive for policy standardization beginning fall 2025. They then explained how CLAS will implement the new model starting in fall 2026 and shared a few examples illustrating key differences and similarities between the current and new systems. Finally, anticipated impacts on retention, advising practices, and the need for ongoing assessment were also briefly discussed.

### 3. Personnel Session

Dean Sanders held a brief confidential conversation with EC members only.

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Ryan Kirkey, Tiffany Schier, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the March 31 meeting were approved.

### 2. Change in Nursing Enrollments

Associate Dean Cornelia Lang updated Executive Committee (EC) on pending changes to the College of Nursing admission process. Currently, the College of Nursing accepts around 80 students directly into their BSN program each fall, with an additional 80 students admitted each spring from within UI, usually from among CLAS Nursing Interest majors. Other students interested in nursing enter CLAS. The College of Nursing will be doubling the number of direct admissions and will end the spring internal admissions process altogether. Senior Director of Business and Financial Administration Ryan Kirkey explained how this change, expected in Fall of 2027, is expected to impact the CLAS budget.

### 3. DEO Professional Development Award (PDA)

Dean Sara Sanders reported several recurring themes that emerged during this year's DEO assessments. Many DEOs, especially in the science disciplines, fear losing their research programs while serving as DEO because of the current federal grant landscape. CLAS recognizes that loss of funding during a DEO's term(s) can make restarting one's research program difficult or impossible. Dean Sanders asked EC to brainstorm options to address the problem, including supporting inter-term DEO PDAs or some other means of effort reduction for DEOs who commit to a second term. EC was supportive of the Dean's Office continuing this planning discussion.

### 4. Faculty Line Requests

Associate Deans Chris Cheatum and Roland Racevskis reviewed AY2026-27 faculty line requests and preliminary recommendations by the dean's office. This year's recommendation is for approximately 39 faculty lines, which must first be approved by the Provost's office prior to notification of individual academic units.

### 5. Admin Updates

Senior Director of Administration Becca Tritten reviewed recent changes to the CLAS administrative structure and provided an update on the two open admin searches.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Cornelia Lang, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Miriam Landsman, Alberto Segre

**Guests:** Ben Hill, Tiffany Schier, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the April 7 meeting were approved.

### 2. Dean's Advisory Council and alumni strategy

Senior Director of Marketing and Communications Ben Hill presented a CLAS Alumni Relations strategy update that will be shared at the next Dean's Advisory Council meeting, highlighting a layered approach to alumni engagement that balances department-level depth with college-level connection. He also previewed work underway through the reSPARC initiative, including a social media audit and plans to consolidate and streamline institutional accounts to improve focus, impact, and coordination.

### 3. Graduate Programs Assessment

Dean Sara Sanders and Associate Dean Cornelia Lang provided an update regarding next steps for the graduate programs assessment. The group discussed timeline and overall approach for the process, which includes bringing in faculty admin fellows to help with the project. The timeline for the project would begin in the summer and continue into the fall semester.

### 4. Faculty requests to change budgeted appointment – selected departments

Faculty Affairs Director Tiffany Schier joined the meeting to review, with Associate Deans Roland Racevskis, faculty requests to change budgeted appointment and proposed CLAS response, specifically for faculty appointed in the Department of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies and the African American Studies program.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Acting Secretary Erin Irish

## CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Present:** Chris Cheatum, Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker, Joshua Weiner

**Absent:** Cornelia Lang

**Guests:** Susan Horan, Kate Metcalf, Melissa Wohlstein, Becca Tritten

### 1. Approval of Minutes and Updates

The minutes from the April 14 meeting were approved. Dean Sanders then provided Executive Committee (EC) announced the addition of two faculty administrative fellows on two-year contracts to help with the upcoming Graduate Program assessment project.

### 2. University of Iowa Center for Advancement

Kate Metcalf, Assistant Vice President; Susan Horan, Executive Director for CLAS; and Melissa Wohlstein, Associate Vice President for Main Campus, from the University of Iowa Center for Advancement, provided an overview of advancement operations directly related to CLAS. The presentation focused on the collaboration among advancement roles, the day-to-day work of development officers, and the core methodology guiding UICA's donor engagement and gift development process. Presenters also reviewed the criteria used to identify and manage top prospects, noting that CLAS currently maintains a strong pipeline of prospects with estimated gift potential of \$50,000 or more.

### 3. Changes to CLAS (Facilities and Administrative) F&A Policy

Associate Dean Josh Weiner shared with EC a summary of upcoming changes to the [Indirect Cost Recovery \(ICR\) and Facilities and Administration \(F&A\) Costs](#) policy and the [Service Center Policy](#).

### 4. CLAS Collegiate Fellow Discussion

The CLAS Collegiate Fellow award has been administered by the College since 2001 and was originally intended as CLAS' highest faculty honor. The College will pause selections for this award during the 2026–2027 academic year in order to revise the criteria and enhance the accompanying benefits in order to maintain its prestige. EC supports Dean Sanders' plan to work with the Dean's Advisory Council and the Executive Committee on these revisions, with the goal to relaunch the program in Fall 2027.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Alberto Segre

**CLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

**8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

***Special Joint Members-Only Session with Faculty Assembly Leadership***

**Present:** Monica Correia, Emilie Destruel, Roxanna Curto, Erin Irish, Miriam Landsman, Katherine Mellen, Tom Oates, Michael Sauder, Alberto Segre, Tammie Walker

**Excused:** Chris Cheatum, Cornelia Lang, Roland Racevskis, Sara Sanders, Josh Weiner

**Guests:** Eric Bush (FA chair emeritus), Albert Erives (FA chair)

Elected Executive Committee members met privately with Faculty Assembly leaders in a joint session. The purpose of the session was to review topics raised in each body over the course of the year while highlighting emerging topics of joint interest for next year. Briefly reviewed were the functioning of the recently adopted CLAS Manual of Procedures; recent Department realignments and closures; evolving SDS accommodation requests; efforts related to federally mandated web accessibility guidelines; and issues surrounding Artificial Intelligence, including instructional impact, possible creation of institutional policies or guidelines, and impact on teaching and learning. Emerging issues included future strategic planning efforts and upcoming graduate program assessments.