

**FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEETING
MINUTES FOR March 25, 2026**

2301 VOX 3:30-5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Tom Arne, Eric Bush, Albert Erives, Aixin Tan

Electoral Group Representatives:

Present: Elizabeth Tolman (sub for Casey DeRoo), Scott Shaw, Alex Voss, David Dowling, Megan Knight, Jonathan Allen, John Manak, Shawn Flanagan

Absent: Frederick Solt, Steve Duck, Yasmine Ramadan, Andrew Owens

Excused: Andrew Kitchen

Elected Committee Liaisons

Executive Committee: Alberto Segre (excused)

UEPCC: Anita Jung

GEPC: Nathan Platte

Guests: Sara Sanders, Christopher Cheatum, Cornelia Lang, Michael Venzon

Unit Representatives:

UNIT REPRESENTATIVES (Please Circle Name and Sign)

DEPARTMENT	UNIT REPRESENTATIVE	ALTERNATE
American Studies/Latina/o/x Studies	Jose Fernandez	
Anthropology	Excused	Excused
Art, Art History, and Design	Anita Jung	
Biology	Brandon Waltz	
Chemistry	Bess Vlasisavljevich	

Classics	Rosemary Moore	
Cinematic Arts		
Communication Sciences and Disorders	Inyong Choi	
Communication Studies	Jordan Conrad	
Computer Science	Peng Jiang	
Dance	Kristin Marrs	
School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability	Frank Weirich	
English		Doris Witt
Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies		Cinda Coggins-Mosher
Health and Human Physiology	Aaron Schneider	
History	Rob Roupail	
Journalism and Mass Comm	Travis Vogan	
Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures (Rep 1)	Waltraud Maierhofer	
Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures (Rep 2)	Elena Gavruseva	
Mathematics	Olga Sokratova	Frauke Bleher
Microbiology and Immunology	David Weiss	
Music	Jorge Montilla Morena	
Philosophy	Gabriel Siegel	
Physics and Astronomy		
Political Science	Seongjoon Ahn	

Psychological and Brain Sciences	Dorit Kliemann	Jeffrey Cockburn
Religious Studies	Ahmed Souaiaia	
Rhetoric		Anne Sand
Social Work	Aynsley Scheffert	
Sociology and Criminology	Jennifer Haylett	
Spanish and Portuguese		Alex Jimenez
Statistics and Actuarial Science	Boxiang Wang	
Theatre Arts	Paul Kalina	

- Agenda Approval (March 25)
- Minutes Approval from last meeting (February 18)
- Reports
 - EC: Alberto Segre
 - Discussion & feedback items: brainstorming CLAS contributions to reSPARC, early planning for the next strategic plan, and a more streamlined approach to instructional resource allocation.
 - Informational updates: state legislation, PDA-related issues, FH14 appointment changes, and CLAS facilities updates (e.g., Dance, IATL/CS, Van Allen).
 - UEPCC: Cornelia Lang
 - New syllabus information, digital accessibility, and approval of GE proposals.
 - Developing a short guide to support within-department conversations on grading consistency.
 - GEPC: Nathan Platte

- GEPC has been asked to help develop a graduate program review process starting in Fall 2026, aimed at promoting self-reflection, accountability, and identifying areas for improvement.
 - The review will also inform decisions amid financial constraints, giving the Dean's office a clearer picture of program health, including potential mergers or closures.
 - GEPC has served as a consulting body (e.g., on TA roles) and will continue to advise as EC drafts the review document.
- Guest Speaker 1 and Q&A

Sara Sanders, Dean of CLAS

Topic: Updates on College Strategic planning (2027-2032)

-Emphasis on nimble plan, data-informed decision-making, along with assessment, transparency, and regular progress sharing

-The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will lead the effort to come up with the plan, in partnership with EC and in consultation with shared governance groups. A college-wide survey will be distributed to gather input.

-Shift from past practice: instead of forming a committee, SLT will engage directly with departments (rather than holding open hearings) to better capture useful feedback.

Q&A: Recently Closed Programs

- Members of the FA inquired about how the college supporting faculty and students from recently closed programs (especially GWSS and African American Studies) while sustaining these communities and preserving them for future certificate programs.
- The dean indicated that only major programs have been discontinued; minors, certificates, and courses remain unaffected, and no faculty lines were cut as a result.

Q&A: Other Topics

- FA members asked for an update re: bills advancing in the legislature
- The dean gave an update and reminder of the highly capable university representatives who work directly with the BOR and lawmakers as the legislative process plays out.

- Guest Speaker 2

Michael Venzon, SDS

Topic: Accommodations and Technology

- There are 2,408 SDS students, including 1,277 from CLAS.
- SDS has moved from Student Life to the Provost's Office.
- Students are encouraged to visit the SDS Lounge in Old Capitol Mall.
- Recent improvements include ICON auto-quiz time extensions, more options for final exam duration, and the Note Depot.

Q&A was tabled to the April meeting due to time restraints.

- Updates from the Nomination Committee for FA officers 26-27AY (chaired by Cinda Coggins-Mosher)
- Announcements– None.
- New Business (from the floor)- None.
- Meeting Adjourned