

AGENDA OF THE FACULTY SENATE – NORMAN CAMPUS

March 9, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

Thurman J White Forum Building

- **Call to order and determination of Quorum**
- **Approval of the Senate Journal for the regular session of February 9, 2026, and addendum**
- **Announcements**
 - Bios for candidates for Faculty Senate Chair Elect and Faculty Senate Secretary were included in the meeting materials. Please review the information in preparation for the vote to be taken at the April meeting.
- **Senate Chair’s Report** (attached)
- **Legislative Update** - Jeffrey Peters, Vice President of Government Affairs
- **OU Online** - Mark Morvant, Senior Vice Provost
- **Faculty Engagement Report**, Faculty Senate Recruitment, Retention and Development Committee
- **For Vote:** Proposed Resolution Honoring Joe Castiglione, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Programs and Director of Athletics (attached), Presented by Senator David McLoud
- **For Vote:** 2026-2029 Apportionment (attached)
- **For Discussion:** Revisions to the Faculty Senate Bylaws (attached)
- **Committee of the Whole**
 - SB 1782
- **New Business**
- **Adjourn**

Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the “Hasinai” Caddo Nation and “*Kirikir?i:*” Wichita & Affiliated Tribes.

We acknowledge this territory once served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations. Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people.

The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its Indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgement is aligned with our university’s core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community”

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The University of Oklahoma (Norman Campus)

Regular session – February 9, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

Oklahoma Memorial Union – Frontiers Room

Office: Chemistry Building, Room 207 | Phone: 405-325-6789

Email: FacSen@ou.edu | Website <https://www.ou.edu/facultysenate>

Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm by Chair Robbins.

PRESENT: Apanasov (1), Bert (0), Beutel (1), Bofferding (2), Cain (0) , Costa Miras de Sa E Silva (2), Cortest (3), Ernest(0), Ethridge(1), Fahes (0), Fithian (1), Gordon (0), Grigo (0), Grinnell Davis (0), Hambright (1), Hill (0), Hill (0), Hougen (2) , Kang (0) , Kazempoor (1) , Ketchum (0), Kibbey (0), Lamothe (0), Litov (0), Lungmus (1), Minks (0), Mortazavi (0), Mountford (0), Muraleetharan (1), Nollert (0), Sarmiento (0), Schmeltzer (1), Scrivener (2), Sharma (1), Tracy (0), Warnken (0), Wood (0), Youngbull (1)

ABSENT: Ashan (3) Bhattraai (3), Bork (2), Demir (2), Edgerton (2), Larson (3), Liu (2), Richter Addo (3),

Faculty Senate Officers and Staff

Chair: Sarah Robbins

Chair-elect: Rebecca Loraamm

Secretary: Stephanie Burge

Executive Committee Members (Non-senators):

Administrative Manager: Ann Seely

Guests: Stewart Birkinshaw, Senior Vice President for Strategy and Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Michael Crespin, Chair of the Reapportionment Committee

Col. Steve Bofferding, USAF, Commander – Air Force ROTC

Senator Matt Wood, Chair of Ad Hoc Senate Bylaws Revision Committee

Note: During the period from June 2025 to May 2026, the Senate holds eight regular sessions. The figures in parentheses above indicate the number of absences.

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DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

Quorum was achieved.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of December 8, 2025, was approved. Senator Tracy moved to approve, and the motion was seconded. The vote passed and the journal was approved.

MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION HONORING JOE CASTIGLIONE

Senator Hougen made a motion to postpone the resolution honoring Joe Castigolione and another senator seconded. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- o Faculty Senate extends condolences to the family and colleagues of Robert Shallhope, George Lynn Cross Professor Emeritus of History who passed away November 7, 2025
- o The Shared Governance Reception has been rescheduled to Wednesday, February 25, 2026, from 4 to 6pm in the lower-level library. If you did not receive a calendar invitation, please contact the Faculty Senate office (FacSen@OU.edu).
- o, Please encourage your constituents to review and complete the University Committee and Council Volunteer survey. Both regular and non-regular faculty members are eligible to participate unless tenure is required to serve.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, BY CHAIR ROBBINS

The report was distributed via email. Chair Robbins opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

STEWART BERKINSHAW, SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGY AND FINANCE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Senior Vice-President Berkinshaw offered comments on how OU has transitioned from financial instability to stability over the past decade. In 2018, OU’s unrestricted cash position had dipped very low relative to past years. Since 2018, OU’s unrestricted cash position has trended upward, due to four things. First, OU has exercised enhanced financial management and discipline due to the strategic plan. Second, the state has stepped up to support OU. Third, enrollment and student growth have increased significantly, which increases revenue. Lastly, the Foundation has been raising money for capital projects and strategic projects on campus.

Looking at ‘days cash on hand,’ in 2018, OU had dipped to 38 days cash on hand. Currently, we are at 99 days cash on hand, with a goal of 120 days cash on hand. Thus, the financial health of the university is getting better, which allows for funding of strategic priorities. During the 2010 decade, there was a steady decline in state appropriations for OU, which strained OU’s resources. However, between 2021 and 2025, there has

been an upswing in state appropriations due to good communication between OU administration, the government affairs team, and the legislature to communicate why this funding is necessary for achieving strategic priorities.

Dean Hougen asked whether these figures were inflation adjusted, and Berkinshaw reported that they were not. So, Berkinshaw noted, declines were even greater during that period.

OU is in better financial shape with respect to credit and debt rating than we were in 2018, due to greater financial management, as well as enhanced student enrollment and revenue. While the strategic plan was initially implemented at a time when the financial picture was less positive, the strategic plan helped to facilitate state appropriations and fundraising campaigns.

Senior VP Berkinshaw reviewed current strategic priorities –

Legislative request – Two-thirds of new money requested is for infrastructure support, expansion of Oklahoma’s promise, and a resident tuition freeze.

Faculty Hiring – Project 200 (Norman ~60 faculty hires, OU Health - ~150 faculty hires). Norman campus moved forward with the strategic plan for hiring earlier than OU Health, so the Norman campus has already hired approximately 80 faculty. The hiring focus will be on four key areas: Health, National Security and Defense, Extreme Weather, and Secure and Resilient Energy.

Merit Raise Program- This year, eligibility for top tier will increase to top 15 percent of evaluations, compared to top 10 percent. The goal is to get new merit raise program approved for this year. Efforts are being made to improve the raise program (e.g., up percentage of raise, increase top tier, etc.). The raise program is costly to fund each year ~ around \$25 million each year across all of OU. The tuition fee increase only raises about \$8 million. Growth in student enrollment and increasing revenue is important to this program.

Career Engagement - Spring Semester Sprint. Berkinshaw is putting aside about \$1.1 million in career engagement for students to develop programs on experiential learning, career development, and career engagement. OU is focused on becoming a national leader in career engagement and investing in that goal. Berkinshaw noted that they are looking to move the Career Center to a more focal place on campus so students can see and understand the value of career services.

Campus Master Plan – This is a planned review with a third-party company to help define the shape of campus for the next 30 years to have a plan for growth.

Cost-to-Grow – Growth is important, but cost-to-grow is important to keep in mind. Housing remains an important issue to navigate. Housing increasingly large freshmen classes makes it difficult to keep pace with the needed housing and educational infrastructure. The state has been helpful in alleviating some of the space issues on campus by allocating money for building. Thus, managing cost-to-grow from a sustainable perspective is important.

Deferred Maintenance – When the strategic plan was initiated, no dollars were allocated to deferred maintenance. Currently, OU is at \$25 million dollars in the recurring budget for deferred maintenance.

Senator Muralee asked about the strategy tax from departments to central administration, which was at 3% and increased to 4%. Will it grow and what is it for? Berkinshaw stated that this strategic plan tax was to reallocate the dollars correctly. Those dollars help fund the strategic priorities, along with money from donors, the state, and from students. Berkinshaw said that the plan was to take it to 5% and stop.

Senator Meeks asked about the investment in advising, given the increase in enrollment. Berkinshaw noted that this is a classic linear cost, and that there is both an advising fee and the colleges also collect fees that

finance advisors. If particular areas are feeling under-resourced, please reach out to Berkinshaw and he will investigate the ratios of students to advisors.

A Senator asked how faculty retention fit within the strategic priorities. Berkinshaw noted that in the initial strategic plan, Provost Wright requested faculty retention funds. He also stated that colleges often have funds to deal with issues of retention, without having to go to the Provost for funding.

A Senator asked if Stewart had any graphics on how unrestricted funds are allocated and how that's changed over time. Berkinshaw noted that this is difficult to explore, because college deans have a fair amount of leeway over how that works. Deans can ask the Provost for funding for priorities for which they do not have sufficient resources. The Senator also asked how athletics fits into the financial picture? Berkinshaw noted that the move to the SEC and player compensation have both been big sources of change in the financial picture. On the one hand, it has a \$20.5 million impact in terms of player compensation. When OU was in the Big 12, it would return around \$40 million to universities, and but that money got diluted. The SEC return will exceed \$40 million this year. If the player compensation caps hold, that helps hold those costs down. However, that may not continue. Athletics also pays the strategic plan tax, which historically has been a net contributor.

COL. STEVE BOFFERDING, USAF | COMMANDER – AIR FORCE ROTC

Col. Bofferding spoke about the ROTC program. For all of the ROTC program, the commanders are active duty, as well as college instructors. Bofferding has been in the air force for 24 years.

In terms of communicated values to cadets, Bofferding noted the following:

Standards are the strategy.

Mission First means people matter.

Execution requires trust.

Character is not situational.

Threat is real and watching.

You are training for the worst day, not the best day.

Students are given real world problems to solve, the same as they would solve in real-world active-duty situations. Cadets are being trained to become Air Force and Space Force officers. Currently, they are in a recruiting pause because there are more applicants than space. Cadets are trained to be a presence in our community that other people can trust. The ROTC program looks to strengthen partnerships with both OU departments specifically, and the university at large. Cadets are expected to perform in academics, leadership, followership, and fitness. Officers are required to have at least a master's degree to teach OU students. Currently, the program has approximately 75 freshman, 30 sophomores, 15 juniors and there is strong retention to senior year. OK ROTC offers free in-state tuition, which explains high numbers of freshmen.

Bofferding noted that the program faces the following challenges-

Facilities and space

Enrollment Priority (used to be able to get early enrollment for students, would like to get that back).

Scholarships

Manpower

Cadet and Cadres Medical Support

Cadre family support, when not on an Air Force Base.

FOR DISCUSSION: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FACULTY SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT, SENATOR DAVID MCLEOD AND MICHAEL CRESPIAN, CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Crespin noted that IRR provides the data for regular and non-regular faculty. Most people are in a college, but if not, they are placed in a 'tenure-home' or appointment home for non-regular faculty. There are now reapportioned 60 seats instead of 50, per the inclusion of non-regular faculty and increase in Senate size.

Changes in Reapportionment-

Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences gains due to the number of non-regular faculty in that college.

There are two pooled categories, each of which gets 1 Senate seat.

Senator Muralee noted that International Studies will not be a college, and Crespin responded that it will need to be changed, but that had not happened at the time the report was compiled.

Senator Fahes asked about DFCAS and how this increase happened. Crespin noted that is due to the inclusion of non-regular faculty, some of whom are research faculty.

FOR DISCUSSION: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FACULTY SENATE BYLAWS, SENATOR MATT WOOD

Senator Wood was asked to lead a committee on revising the by-laws to be in line with changes made to the Charter. Wood noted that by-laws needed to be aligned with inclusion of non-regular faculty, and to be current and clear.

Bylaws Revision –

Redline changes in packet – mostly minor (updating language).

Update procedure regarding Faculty Senate meeting virtually – to allow when necessary

Added non-regular faculty

Reflect committee changes (i.e.. Membership, duties)

Two additions:

1. Term limits – Two consecutive 3-year term limits. Nearly every other university at peer school has this in their by-laws.

Senator Muralee noted that it might cause problems in finding people to serve and stated we should communicate this early to the colleges.

2. Professional conduct – expectations about acting ethically and professionally as Senators, as well as including procedures for addressing instance of unethical or unprofessional behavior. Wood noted other universities also have this in Charter and By-laws.

Senator Fahes commented that two senators might be too few to bring charges, and that it might be helpful to bring an appeal process into the language.

Senator Muralee noted that the language concerning conflict of interest is vague.

Another Senator asked if a person who was released from their duties would be allowed to participate as a Senator in the future or never again.

Another Senator asked to remove the language concerning maintaining compliance with OU policies. That same senator asked why the decision would be made by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee as compared to the entire Faculty Senate body.

Senator Grinnell-Davis asked what happens if the person who is acting unethically is a member of Faculty Senate Executive Committee. In addition, clarification was sought on whether the aforementioned unethical behavior in context of job generally or in the context of Faculty Senate.

Senator Wood thanked the Senators for their comments on these proposed by-law revisions and noted that he would take these suggestions and queries back to the committee.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- o OU Create Follow-up
- o NVIVO Follow-Up
- o OU Online
- o Future Committee of the Whole Meetings

Senator Mountford motioned that we moved to Committee of the Whole, and another Senator seconded. Entered at 4:48pm. Exited at 5:13 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Robbins asked if there was any new business. Dean Hougen introduced a resolution for consideration regarding, co-sponsored by 7 senators. Another senator seconded the motion for consideration. Discussion ensued.

Senator Wood noted that the FSEC has concerns with factual inaccuracies in the whereas portion of the resolution. Wood noted that the original statement identified the FSEC as a partner in the decision regarding terminating instructional duties and noted that FSEC was not a partner. Wood suggested that language from the actual OU statement be implemented in the first whereas statement. Wood also suggested that in the third whereas, FSEC recommends removing the word negatively from the third whereas.

Senator Fahes thanked the FSEC for taking the time to look at the resolution but noted that the statement appears to imply the FSEC was in fact a partner in the decision, so she recommended retaining the language as the resolution originally stated.

Senator Mountford noted that we should not get hung up on slight wording, but the important part is the endorsement of the actions proposed by the Graduate Student Senate and the OUAPP.

Senator Grinnell-Davis noted that she had to explain to people outside of the university why the Faculty Senate and members of the OU community had not commented on this situation.

Senator Hougen noted that he accepted the first whereas changes as friendly amendments. Senator Fahes advocated keeping the original language.

The Senators engaged in further discussion to workshop the language of the resolution.

Farina King thanked the Faculty Senate for being willing to stay and discuss hard issues and that faculty need to band together.

Chair Robbins noted that we had lost quorum, and asked if we should advance this electronically, while noting that the resolution the was put forth in December did not pass due to the higher bar of passing electronically.

Senator Mountford noted that we need to move quickly, as further delays damage the reputation of the Faculty Senate.

Senator Robbins noted that we could send out the resolution for discussion for 24 hours and then have a vote following that discussion. The remaining senators agreed with this plan.

Senator Muralee asked if the resolution could be revisited if it did not pass electronically.

ADJOURNMENT

The February 9, 2026, meeting adjourned upon loss of a quorum. Multiple faculty rather than the Senate as a body remained until 4:45 pm. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting of this academic year will be held on March 9, 2026, at 3:30 pm.

Stephanie Burge, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2025-26

Addendum to the February 9, 2026 Faculty Senate Journal

The Process

At the February 9th Faculty Senate meeting, seven senators brought forward a motion for a resolution during the New Business portion of the agenda. The motion was discussed amongst those present; friendly amendments were made that the authors accepted. Amid the discussion, a quorum was lost. This meant we could not vote on the resolution during the meeting. Given that this has been an unresolved issue since December, the remaining senators asked that we conduct an electronic vote.

On February 10th, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee voted to put forward the motion to the Senate for an electronic vote (7 in favor | 2 against | 1 member did not vote). On February 11th, the resolution and accompanying ballot were sent to Senators for a vote via the Qualtrics personalized email feature. The deadline for voting was 8 AM on Friday, February 13th. A reminder to vote email was distributed to all senators who had not yet voted Thursday morning. Emails were sent to the senate distribution list to alert senators that ballots had been distributed, so they could check clutter or spam folders if their ballot was not in their inbox.

Results of the Vote

Forty-three senators voted; the resolution passed (34 in favor | 6 against | 3 abstained). Per Faculty Senate bylaws, electronic votes outside of the regularly scheduled meetings require approval by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the senate to pass.

The Resolution

Whereas OU issued a [statement](#) on Dec 22nd that identifies the University as having engaged in “repeated and detailed conversations with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to ensure there is an understanding of the facts, the process, and the actions being taken” regarding terminating instructional duties for a graduate teaching assistant.

Whereas the OU Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Senate were neither solicited for input on the decision nor endorsed the decision of the administration on this matter.

Whereas the OU decision on this matter has had, and will continue to have, significant repercussions that negatively impact trust within the OU academic community.

Let it be resolved that the OU Faculty Senate:

1. Fully endorses the requests for action outlined by the OU AAUP petition titled “[Defend OU Instructors and Academic Freedom](#)”

Addendum to the February 9, 2026 Faculty Senate Journal

2. Supports the requests for action outlined in the Graduate Student Senate resolution titled [“Call for Accountability, Transparency, and Academic Integrity”](#)

This resolution was sponsored by Senators Dean F. Hougen, Matthias U. Nollert, Fabio Costa Morais de Sa E Silva, Mashhad Fahes, Claudette Grinnell-Davis, Lauren E. Ethridge, and Lee A. Fithian.

Chair Elect

Julia Abramson

Associate Professor, French

Ph.D. Princeton University, at OU since 1999

jabramson@ou.edu

Thank you for considering my candidacy for the Chair-Elect position in the Faculty Senate.

My academic background is in French and home department is Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, where I research and teach about eighteenth-century France and contemporary society and culture. My research enters into dialogue with literary scholars, reflecting my early training, but also with colleagues from history, sociology, anthropology, and economics. Prior monographs addressed forms, motivations, and effects of discursive deceptions, and then French food culture, including impacts on health. I am currently writing a monograph that brings to light interactions between state financial structures and literary culture in the Enlightenment. This newer chapter has led to service roles such as chairing the university-wide Budget Council, where I advocated for transparency, faculty involvement in budget processes, and graduate student representation on the Council.

Within my home department, I led the French programs for nearly a decade, including spearheading curricular reform and program renovation, and have served on Committee A. In the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, I have chaired the Tenure and Promotion Committee and peer reviewed for multiple faculty and doctoral fellowship and award committees. During two years' service in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships, I worked to support faculty research across the disciplines and expanded infrastructure specifically supporting arts and humanities research and creative activity. At the university level, I have also served on the Research Council and as a Faculty Senator. In my field, I completed an elected four-year term on the Executive Committee for 18th-Century French Studies within the Modern Language Association (ca. 30,000 members) and an appointed term to the MLA Delegate Assembly. I have consulted such as for the NEH and PBS, served on journal editorial boards, and regularly peer review articles and book manuscripts for a variety of journals and university presses.

The cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural nature of my research has helped me to hear perspectives from the range of stakeholders in our institution. While serving in the OVPRP, I facilitated first meetings among faculty and other groups that allowed for communication leading to problem resolution and process improvement. Recently, as the current At-Large representative for the arts and humanities on the Faculty Senate's executive committee and as a current member of the DFCAS executive committee, I have advocated for direct, two-way communication between members of the administration and the Graduate Student Senate. If voted into the Faculty Senate's Chair-Elect position, I would warmly welcome the opportunity to draw from experiences such as these, to further the work of the faculty from across the university.

Chair Elect

David McLeod

Director | Anne and Henry Zarrow

School of Social Work

Thank you for considering me for Faculty Senate Chair-Elect. I am currently the Director and Zarrow Strategic Professor of Forensic Social Work in the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, where I have served since 2013. Over the course of my time at OU, I have had the privilege of serving in a variety of faculty, administrative, and university leadership roles that have allowed me to work across colleges, campuses, and units in support of OU's academic mission.

I currently serve as a Faculty Senator representing the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences and as a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. My prior university service includes chairing the Faculty Senate Publications Committee, service on the Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues, the Provost's Advisory Committee on Learning Technologies, the Academic Misconduct Board, Research Integrity Inquiry Committee, Service-Learning Committee, and multiple Athletic Council roles, including Chair. These experiences have provided me with sustained engagement in shared governance processes, faculty policy development, academic oversight, and cross-campus coordination.

In addition to my Senate service, I have served as Associate Director, Interim Director, and now Director of the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work. In these roles, I have worked closely with faculty, staff, college leadership, and central administration on issues related to budget stewardship, faculty recruitment and retention, program development, accreditation, research infrastructure, and strategic planning. I have also chaired multiple faculty search committees and led the development of doctoral programming, which has required careful attention to faculty workload, equity, and long-term institutional sustainability.

My national leadership roles as President of the Forensic Social Work Alliance and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Forensic Social Work have reinforced my commitment to academic freedom, scholarly integrity, and the importance of strong faculty voice within institutional systems. Across these roles, I have consistently worked to cultivate transparent communication, build consensus across diverse perspectives, and align policy decisions with both data and principle.

I believe deeply in shared governance as a structural safeguard for academic excellence and institutional health. Faculty voice is strongest when it is informed, collaborative, and engaged in constructive dialogue with administration. As President-Elect, I would work to strengthen clarity in Senate processes, support thoughtful faculty deliberation on emerging university challenges, and help ensure that faculty perspectives are meaningfully represented in decisions affecting compensation, academic policy, resource allocation, and the long-term trajectory of the University of Oklahoma.

It would be an honor to continue serving the faculty in this expanded capacity.

Secretary

Roksana Alavi

Associate Professor, Professional and Continuing Studies (PACS)

Ph.D. University of Kansas, at OU since 2012

Alavi@ou.edu

I am writing to express my interest in serving as the Faculty Senate secretary. I am a RRT Professor of Integrative Studies, lead faculty for the Integrative Studies major, and the interim lead faculty for the humanities discipline in our college. During my tenure at OU, I have been an active member of the university community, contributing across multiple departments and committees (both in service and teaching capacities). I am an affiliate faculty member in the Philosophy, Women and Gender Studies, and Iranian Studies programs, giving me a broader understanding of the university. My research is also multidisciplinary and collaborative. My ongoing research projects are (1) expatriate solidarity, (2) philosophical perspective on self-care in an unjust world, (3) research on the conceptualization of mental health in Afghan refugee women (multi-department research group), (4) study of the LGBTQIA Iranian community, and (5) human trafficking and Sharia Law.

I have an extensive service record with the community, the university, and my field of philosophy. I served one year on the FS DEI committee and chaired it for two years, which gave me the privilege of serving on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Prior to this, I spent three years as a liaison to the Graduate Council and served on its Graduate Course and Program Changes subcommittee. Additionally, I have served on Committee A for PACS since 2013, with a brief hiatus from 2016 to 2018. From 2019 to 2021, I chaired the Dean's Advisory Committee on DEI-related issues for our college. At the national level, I hold officer positions in two Social Philosophy organizations, contributing significantly to conference organizing for both. Additionally, I have served on the executive board of the Southwest Center for Human Relation Studies and play an active role in the leadership and planning of the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education.

My experiences with the OU community, the faculty senate, and my training as an intergroup dialogue facilitator, and my participation in the Provost Leadership Development workshop, give me the skills and training needed to serve as faculty senate secretary.

Thank you for considering me for this position. I look forward to continuing my service to the Faculty Senate and the larger university.

SECRETARY

Sarah Breen

Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering

PhD. University of Limerick, Ireland, at OU since 2021

sabreen@ou.edu

Thank you for considering me for the role of Secretary of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. I am a tenured Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Associate Director of the Stephenson School of Biomedical Engineering, where my academic role is teaching-focused with expertise in biomechanics and creative activity emphasis in engineering education. My role as associate director as well as my duties as Co-PI on an NSF-funded National Research Traineeship (NRT) in Materials Science and Engineering, have connected me with faculty and programs across colleges and campuses and provided a broad perspective on faculty needs and institutional processes. I have served as Co-Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee for the past two years and, through that role, on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, where I have worked to document faculty concerns, support transparent communication, and advance issues related to faculty welfare and shared governance. At the international level, I previously served as Vice President (Publications) for the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports (2014–2021), gaining extensive experience in organization, documentation, and communication across diverse stakeholders. As Secretary, I would focus on clear record-keeping, timely communication, and continuity of Faculty Senate work, and I would be honored to serve in support of our shared governance mission.

Faculty Senate Chair's Report – February 2026

At our February Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meeting, Stewart Berkinshaw, Senior Vice President for Strategy & Finance, provided a financial briefing, indicating that the institution's financial situation is improving, with cash on hand at 99 days, moving toward the goal of 120 days cash on hand. He also confirmed that Ayers Saint Grosse has been selected as the firm for the campus master plan and that the spring 2026 strategic sprint is related to improving career services across campus.

The Faculty Senate meeting on February 9th included a financial update and discussion of university strategy from VP Berkinshaw, a report from Colonel Bofferding about ROTC, Senate Bylaws, and senator reapportionment for 2026-29. During the new business portion of our meeting, seven senators introduced a resolution supporting the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Resolution and a statement from the AAUP. While the senate was able to discuss the resolution during the meeting, we lost quorum before a vote could be conducted. The senate voted electronically, and the results are reported in the February journal.

At the request of the GSS, the officers met with representatives from the GSS to discuss how the Faculty Senate and GSS might work together moving forward. The GSS representatives expressed an interest in better understanding our process for resolutions, etc. We also discussed the possibility of a jointly appointed task force to address issues of concern for graduate students who teach. The GSS was going to work on defining a list of outcomes they think would be most useful.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Faculty Advisory Group met to discuss how the various campuses were using the data from the Faculty Survey. We were also told about the possibility of an executive order from Governor Stitt related to tenure at the regional schools and community colleges in the state. The executive order was signed later that week; the order was distributed to Senators via email.

The FSEC meeting with the Provost on February 16th covered several academic and policy items. Discussions included the timeline for Sub-120 Degrees (a.k.a. 90-hour degrees), with the earliest possible implementation noted as Fall 2027, and updates on four-year graduate degrees driven by proposed visa changes being led by the Department of Education. As noted in the February Senate meeting, the University is pushing forward with OU Online; Dr. Liz Karr has been appointed as the new Vice Provost of Online Education. FSEC also raised questions regarding the Sabbatical Policy.

Thank you to Mashhad Fahes who has agreed to serve as our Parliamentarian for the remainder of the academic year. FSEC voted to approve that appointment at our meeting on February 16th. Also, thank you to all senators and administrators who attended the Shared Governance Reception on February 25th.

Submitted by Sarah Robbins, 2025-26 Chair, Faculty Senate

	Total FTE	2026	Current	Change
College	Total FTE	2026	Current	Change
Architecture	55	2	2	0
Arts and Sciences *	730.45	26	22	4
Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences	187.75	7	2	5
Business	129.75	5	3	2
Earth and Energy	49.74	2	2	0
Education	71	2	2	0
Engineering	216.09	7	7	0
Fine Arts	133	5	4	1
Journalism and Mass Communication	28	1	1	0
Law	35	1	1	0
Pooled (Research and Partnerships: Microscopy Laboratory and VPRP)	23	1	N/A	N/A
Pooled (Library, Writing Center, Honors College, Southwest Center for Human Relations, CPACS, Office of Global Engagement, Student Association)	32.5	1	N/A	N/A
*International Studies is now in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences				