

University Council Minutes
May 4, 2026
3:30 p.m.
2420 North End Center and Zoom

Present: Tim Sands (presiding), April Myers, Menah Pratt, James Bridgeforth for Frances Keene, Kim O'Rourke, Guru Ghosh, Aimée Suprenant, Jill Sible, Susan Sumner for Mario Ferruzzi, Daniel Givens, Laural Belmonte, Tsai Lu Liu, Saskia van de Gevel, Lee Learman, Tyler Walters, Rebecca Bott-Knutson, Amanda Morris, Jennifer Johnson, Justin Lemkul, Rachel Miles, James Hawdon, Marlena Lester, Jennifer Jones, Gabe Petry, Jasmine Boyd, Emma Roshioru, Lindsay Ricci, Atharva Shashank Kokane, Thomas Feely, Pooja Bhagawat, Gyang Chung, Taylor Peele, Katie Drinkwater Gregg, Marc Michel, Nicole Pitterson, Gregory Kogan for Eric Martin, Jerald Walz, Ron Meyers, Kim Loeffert, Rebecca Hester, David Xie, Renée LeClair, Terri Pecora, Serena Young, Amber Robinson, Jennifer Clevenger, Ronnie Mondal, Jim Tokuhisa, and Jan Helge Bøhn

Absent with Notice: Julie Ross, Amy Sebring, Daniel Sui, Amber Hagan, and Clay Crumpler

Absent: Bryan Garey, Kevin Pitts, David Knight, Saonee Sarker, and Nicole Connors

Guests: Larry Cox, II, Ron Fricker, Rachel Gariele, Kyle Johnson, Monique Logan, Kat Nelson, Sally Shupe, Demetria Somervell, Rick Sparks and Lauren Surface

President Sands called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Announcement of Order of the Day

President Sands announced the order of the day for the meeting. Items to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the secretary at least ten days prior to the meeting date. Follow the procedures in Section 2(2) – University Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 2(2-3).

2. Announcement of review and approval of minutes of April 20, 2026

President Sands noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the [university governance website](#).

3. Unfinished Business

CFA Resolution 2025-26H

Commission on Faculty Affairs – Jim Hawdon

Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Expectations Guidelines for Non-Tenure-Track Instructional Faculty

Jim Hawdon presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

CFA Resolution 2025-26I

Commission on Faculty Affairs – Jim Hawdon

Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Section on Part-Time Faculty

Jim Hawdon presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

CFA Resolution 2025-26J

Commission on Faculty Affairs – Jim Hawdon

Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Regarding Additional Compensation for Faculty

Jim Hawdon presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

CFA Resolution 2025-26L

Commission on Faculty Affairs – Jim Hawdon

Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Section on Clinical Instructors

Jim Hawdon presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

CGPSA Resolution 2025-26A

Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs – Aimée Surprenant

Resolution to Update the GPSS Constitution

Ronnie Mondal presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

CGPSA Resolution 2025-26B

Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs – Aimée Surprenant

Resolution to Establish a Campus Working Group to Review and Optimize the Utilization of Student Activity Fee for Graduate and Professional Students

Ronnie Mondal presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

CUSP Resolution 2025-26A

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Jim Tokuhisa

Resolution to Review Process for Pathways Concept 7

Jim Tokuhisa presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

CUSP Resolution 2025-26H

Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies – Jim Tokuhisa

Resolution to Revise the Foreign Language Requirement

Jim Tokuhisa presented the resolution for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed.

4. Announcement of approval and posting of UC Cabinet, Commission, and Committee Minutes

These minutes have been voted on electronically and will be posted on the [university governance website](#). Note that the purpose of voting on minutes of the University Council

Cabinet, Commissions, and Committees reporting to University Council Cabinet is to accept them for filing. University Council Bylaws require that policy items be brought forward in resolution form for University Council action.

- Commission on Faculty Affairs
March 27, 2026
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
March 25, 2026
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
March 18, 2026
- Commission on Research
March 5, 2026
- Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs
April 23, 2026
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
March 23, 2026
- Budgeting and Planning Committee
April 6, 2026

Announcement of University Mission Initiative (UMI) Committee Report

The UMI committee report has been distributed, with University Council members encouraged to review the executive summary and recommendations. The report was submitted to leadership several months ago, and discussions have already taken place with key stakeholders.

Most recommendations are expected to move forward through shared governance processes, with a working group reviewing related assistantship policy items over the summer and into the fall. Additional resolutions are anticipated in the coming months. A smaller number of recommendations will require further budget consideration and have been referred to senior leadership for review.

Overall, the report is seen as a valuable roadmap that aligns with institutional priorities, particularly around global distinction and doctoral program growth.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

University Council Voting – May 4, 2026

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[illegible]