

FACULTY COUNCIL
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
3:30 – 5:15 pm
Executive Boardroom (2390), University Capitol Centre

MINUTES

Councilors Present: B. Ayati, A. Bassuk, E. Carlisle, A. Farag, C. Hogden, J. Koch, M. Schroeder, E. Thomas, C. Vogel, E. Walker, E. Welder, F. Williams.

Officers Present: R. Curto, N. Greysen, C. Sheerin.

Officer Excused: C. Just.

Councilors Excused: M. Abou Alaiwa, E. Johnson, N. Mohr, D. Shane.

Councilors Absent: P. McGonagill.

Guests: M. Bruno (Division of Student Life), A. Hanson (Office of the Provost), L. Peterson (*Daily Iowan*), D. Schwebel (Vice President for Research), M. Stevenson (Graduate Student, SAA), L. Zaper (Faculty Senate Office).

I. Call to Order – Vice President Curto called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. She indicated that since President Just could not be here today, she would lead the meeting.

II. Approvals

- A. Meeting Agenda – Professor Walker moved and Professor Bassuk seconded that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Faculty Council Minutes (January 27, 2026) – Professor Ayati moved and Professor Vogel seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Draft Faculty Senate Agenda (March 24, 2026) – Vice President Curto indicated that changes may be made to the draft agenda prior to the Senate meeting. A final version will be approved at the meeting. Professor Thomas moved and Professor Walker seconded that the draft agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Committee Appointments (Roxanna Curto, Chair, Committee on Committees)
 - *None at this time*

III. New Business

- *David Schwebel, Vice President for Research*

Vice President Schwebel, newly appointed to his position in July 2025, commented that he is originally from Columbus, Ohio and is a third-generation academic psychologist. He completed

his doctorate in psychology in the late 1990's here at UI. He subsequently had a 25-year career at the University of Alabama Birmingham, moving through the faculty ranks and then holding the positions of associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and later assistant vice president for research.

Vice President Schwebel stated that his overall impression is that the UI Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is functioning well. Professor Williams asked if Vice President Schwebel has discerned any challenges thus far for the OVPR. He responded that challenges exist at the federal level, but that he remains optimistic for the future. As a result of government action, UI lost about 3% of its federal grants. He observed that this is a small percentage; nevertheless, the loss of those grants was devastating for the faculty members involved in those projects. The OVPR continues to monitor federal action related to indirect costs. State legislative action is also closely watched. Internally, he noted that budget is always a concern and we must use our funds wisely. Professor Farag commented that she recalled a program that provided seed funding for new faculty members. There no longer seems to be a university-wide program like this; she asked if there were any plans to resume it. Vice President Schwebel responded that, although some colleges and centers have such programs, unfortunately, there are no available funds, from either his office or the Office of the Provost, for a university-wide program.

Professor Walker asked Vice President Schwebel to describe what is going particularly well in the OVPR. He commented that the Office has skilled, knowledgeable, and dedicated long-time staff. It seems to him that these loyal staff members are proud to be Hawkeyes. Additionally, faculty and staff have mutual respect and good working relationships. Noting that Vice President Schwebel has returned to UI after a long absence, Secretary Greyser asked how he now views the university. Vice President Schwebel commented that he has been struck by how the campus community here values its history. Older buildings, for the most part, are renovated when possible rather than torn down, as they might be on other campuses. He has also grown to appreciate the uniqueness of a university that has excelled in both the humanities and the sciences, with outstanding scholarship across multiple disciplines.

Noting that the Research Council charter committee is another branch of shared governance, Vice President Curto asked how Vice President Schwebel interacts with the committee. He indicated that he attends the group's monthly meetings and gives an overview of OVPR activity, along with updates on federal and state issues. He also solicits the group's input on various topics, such as a large grant initiative. Research Council members bring issues to his attention, as well. They have recently expressed concerns about research computing, for example. The Research Council is currently working on a project to inventory all scientific equipment on campus. Vice President Schwebel emphasized that the Research Council is an independent, shared governance group that sets its own agenda.

Professor Schroeder asked about the connection between collegiate and central Information Technology Services as it relates to research. Vice President Schwebel commented that he anticipates building a strong relationship with newly-hired Chief Information Officer [Brad Rohrer](#). He suggested that the Faculty Council invite Mr. Rohrer to a meeting at some point to discuss these types of concerns. Professor Williams followed up, mentioning an equipment

failure in her department that was linked to a possible disconnect between departmental and central IT. She added that a “one-size-fits-all” approach is not always feasible when departments have very specialized IT needs. Vice President Schwebel acknowledged that a tension can exist between central and unit-specific IT. Centralized IT tends to be favored for its cost savings, but this can lead to problems within units when their specific needs are not met. Professor Vogel commented that units might be absorbing costs, thus creating a false impression of fiscal responsibility.

- *Collaborative Care Model (Maria Bruno, Assistant Vice President for Student Life, Division of Student Life)*

Dr. Bruno indicated that she has been in her position for almost a year. Her background is in clinical psychology; she began her career at UI in University Counseling Services as a staff psychologist and subsequently worked her way up into administration. Presently, she is leading the university’s effort to establish co-located mental health and well-being services for students. Plans call for moving Student Health and University Counseling Services from the west side of campus into the Iowa Memorial Union, specifically into the space where the Iowa House Hotel used to be. Also moving into that space will be Student Wellness, Student Care and Assistance, the Basic Needs office, and the program manager of the Well-Being and Mental Health Campus Collaborative.

Efforts are also underway to create a unified student-centered experience specifically for way-finding. Dr. Bruno commented that faculty members are unclear about where to send students who need assistance; data also indicate that students have help-seeking fatigue. There are so many assistance resources for students on campus that it is difficult to know where to begin. Some students give up the search before finding the resource that meets their specific needs. Dr. Bruno referred Councilors to a draft diagram of *Iowa’s Comprehensive Collaborative Care Model*. She indicated that the UI model is inspired by a model created by Eric Wood, director of the Counseling & Mental Health Center at Texas Christian University. Dr. Bruno highlighted an item in the upper left corner of the diagram, *Student Care and Assistance*. She emphasized that this is the office to which faculty members should refer all students in need. Staff in that office will then determine what specific assistance that an individual student requires. Once the diagram is digitized, each office in the model will have a link to its homepage. Hovering over the office name will generate a brief description of the office’s services. This is for information only; faculty should refer all students to [Student Care and Assistance](#). There are plans for the online diagram to be housed on the [Well-Being at Iowa](#) website.

Professor Vogel praised the model, but wondered how the diagram would appear on a mobile device. Dr. Bruno indicated that this issue would be addressed in the future. Professor Vogel then commented that many students initially search for assistance on their colleges’ websites; she asked if the diagram could be linked to collegiate websites. Dr. Bruno appreciated that feedback. Past President Sheerin wondered about the possibility of eventually installing a chat box feature on the digital diagram, to help faculty members better direct students to the appropriate assistance. Dr. Bruno indicated that she would look into this; in the meantime, she urged faculty members to send students to Student Care and Assistance as their first stop. Councilors suggested making that direction more clear on the diagram (“*If you don’t know*

where to go, please start here.”). It was suggested that a link to the diagram could be embedded in course syllabi. Dr. Bruno further explained that Student Care and Assistance engages in non-clinical case management on behalf of the university. She added that eventually a triage and referral system will likely be created. Councilors observed that some colleges have embedded counselors. They wondered when a student should reach out to a collegiate counselor vs. the Student Care and Assistance office. Dr. Bruno commented that the university is moving away from embedded therapists at the collegiate level towards a pilot program of “connected counselors,” who will come to a college to work with students there.

Professor Koch observed that many university websites are oriented towards students. She suggested that portals be created in the proposed digital triage system so that faculty members, and perhaps parents, could be able more quickly to find the information they are looking for. Dr. Bruno commented that, until a digital triage system is established, everyone should begin their search with Student Care and Assistance. Professor Farag noted that there appeared to be some overlap among the offices displayed in the diagram. It was suggested that Student Care and Assistance be placed in the center of the graphic to reinforce that office’s pivotal role in directing students to the appropriate resources. Dr. Bruno noted that the purpose of displaying all the different resources in the diagram is simply to educate the campus community about the vast network of assistance to which students have access. Secretary Greyser praised the university’s commitment, evidenced in these numerous resources, to the care of its students. Past President Sheerin suggested that text be added to the diagram clarifying its educational purpose. Dr. Bruno requested that Councilors not share the graphic with anyone yet because it is still a working document.

- *Professional Ethics and Academic Responsibility Policy Revision Overview (Roxanna Curto)*

Vice President Curto explained that the [Professional Ethics and Academic Responsibility](#) (PEAR) policy originated in the 1970’s and, despite various amendments over the years, has long been in need of a substantial update, especially since the introduction of new faculty tracks beginning in the 1990’s. Recent revisions of other significant policies impacting faculty ([Faculty](#), [Faculty Dispute Procedures](#), [Ethics in Research](#), [Conflicts of Interest and Commitment](#)) have only increased the urgency for revising the PEAR policy, so that contradictions and redundancies related to those policies can be removed. Compliance with Iowa Board of Regents policies must also be ensured. Vice President Curto reminded the group that major policy revisions typically go through a process of shared governance review by the Faculty Senate’s Faculty Policies and Compensation Committee (FPCC), the Faculty Council, and the Faculty Senate.

As has occurred with several recent large policy revisions, a faculty/administrator work group was formed to draft a revision to the PEAR policy. Members of the work group are Deputy General Counsel Maria Lukas and Deputy Counsel Ann Byrd (Office of the General Counsel), Associate Provost for Faculty and Strategic Operations Barry Thomas and Senior Director of Faculty Human Resources Alaina Hanson (Office of the Provost), and faculty members Professor Lindell Joseph (Nursing), Professor Dawn Anderson (Law), and Vice President Curto

(Liberal Arts and Sciences and Faculty Senate leadership). The work group has been meeting since August 2025.

The current policy is divided into sections describing responsibilities to students, scholarship, faculty and staff colleagues, the institution, and the community, Vice President Curto continued. Over time, many portions of the policy have begun to overlap with other policies. By December, the work group became convinced that this sprawling policy lacked cohesion and focus. The members reviewed a similar policy relating to staff and decided to reconceptualize the policy based on a new structure. Although she did not discuss specific revisions at this time, Vice President Curto did note that the detailed section regarding responsibilities to students will likely be removed from this policy and revised at a later date.

Shared governance participation in policy formation involves a “back and forth” process between the work group and the FPCC. Yesterday, the FPCC reviewed the draft policy for the first time and offered numerous comments, questions, and concerns, all of which will be conveyed back to the work group for consideration. Vice President Curto anticipated that a draft policy will be brought to the Council for review on April 14 and to the Senate on April 28.

- *Executive Session*

Professor Vogel moved and Professor Koch seconded that the Faculty Council move into executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilors discussed legislative bills of relevance to the university.

Professor Vogel moved and Professor Ayati seconded that the Faculty Council move out of executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

- *President’s Report (Craig Just)*

President Just had earlier sent individual messages to Councilors with the following items to report:

- UI Faculty Senator Hope Metcalf spoke about the Center for Intellectual Freedom at the February 2026 Board of Regents Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/live/DiMBV-8bl4Q?t=29620s>
- UI Faculty Senator Kara Whitaker presented a study conducted by the Physical Activity and Women’s Health Research Lab at the February 2026 Board of Regents meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/live/gXJgDlIKIsI?t=6952s>
- Regents President Cramer and President Pro Tem Tjaden met with President Just on Thursday, February 19. The discussion included topics such as shared governance, academic freedom, the Iowa Legislature, and the Center for Intellectual Freedom. During their visit, Regents Cramer and Tjaden also met with other faculty and with officials from athletics and health care.
- The Faculty Policies and Compensation Committee is reviewing proposed revisions to Chapter III.15, "[Professional Ethics and Academic Responsibility](#),” developed by a

working group of faculty and administrators. A brief update on the revision process will be provided at the Faculty Council meeting on March 10. The goal is to have the revisions available for Faculty Council review in time for a vote at the April 14 meeting, followed by Faculty Senate consideration and a vote at the April 28 meeting.

- The Board of Regents Office is preparing weekly summaries of Iowa legislative activities relevant to higher education. These summaries can be viewed here: [BOR 2026 Legislative Summaries](#)
- The Faculty Senate's administrative review of the Office of the Vice President for Student Life is underway. A self-study and self-assessment are due to the review committee by March 27, 2026. Caroline Sheerin is the committee chair, with Craig Just serving as co-chair. The review is scheduled for completion by mid-December 2026

IV. From the Floor – There were no items from the floor.

V. Announcements

- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, March 24, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Senate Chamber, Old Capitol.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, 3:30-5:15 pm, Executive Boardroom (2390), University Capitol Centre.

VI. Adjournment – Professor Bassuk moved and Professor Koch seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. Vice President Curto adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.