

Annual update of Committee on Committees, Fall 2025–Spring 2026

CoC Members (2025-2026)

Alison Reynolds, Chair

Rana Alissa

Jennifer Hofer

Chirstine Overdevest

Cheryl Resch

Sudeep Sidhu

The responsibility of the Committee on Committees is to conduct a review of all Senate Committees, with emphasis on considering the selection process for members, the purpose of the committees, and attendance at committee meetings. Following these reviews, the CoC retains the responsibility of recommending to the Senate the addition, reclassification, or dissolution of any Senate Committee, transformation of existing Presidential Committees into Joint Committees, or vice versa, and assignments of committees to Senate Policy Councils as Contributing or Related Committees. The CoC is also responsible for recommending any special qualifications for Senate Councils and Senate Committees to the Faculty Senate. Such special qualifications will be reviewed and incorporated into the Constitution Senate Bylaws.

Following a triennial review in 2021, the CoC was charged with reviewing one-third of the CoC review eligible committees every year. This would facilitate a regular periodic review process of all the existing committees and help identify any concerns promptly. The [2024 - 2025 Committee on Committees Report](#) was presented to the Senate Steering Committee in April 2025. In 2025-2026, the Committee on Committees (CoC) reviewed two Senate Councils, three Senate Committees, and five Joint Committees as listed below.

A summary of annual reviews conducted by CoC in 2025-2026 is appended below.

Graduate Council Proposal to Create Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC)

Presenter: Dr. Tom Kelleher, chair

Date: September 8, 2025

Dr. Kelleher explained the role of the GCC, which reviews and approves all changes, new additions or deletions of graduate courses. Curriculum proposals that are level 5000 and above are submitted to the GCC. 4000 or below are submitted to the University Curriculum Committee (UCC).

12 members of the GCC are nominated by the Graduate Council and appointed by the Graduate School Dean and 12 members from the graduate faculty at large across the University. The list of the candidates is provided by Human Resources of Graduate schools.

Dr. Kelleher proposed the creation of the GCC so it can operate similarly to the UCC, and the Professional Curriculum Committee (PCC) so they would all operate parallel to each other. The GCC would be a true joint committee: half the appointment comes from the faculty senates: 12 members will be senate appointees and 12 will be appointed by the president/provost. Two

graduate student members selected by the Graduate Student Council. There will be an elected co-chair in the addition to the administrative chair who will be relatively stable from term to term.

Dr. Kelleher's proposal passed unanimously by the CoC members.

Concerns/Recommendations: The total number of the members (24) seems high. Twelve seems reasonable to represent the graduate faculty which will be like the PCC.

Sustainability Committee

Presenter: Colt Little, VP for Construction, Facilities, and Real Estate
Luisa Amelia Dempere, Faculty Senate Chair

Date: October 13, 2025

VP Little shared an update on the Sustainability Committee. With the closure of the Sustainability Office, a new liaison and committee support are needed. He asked the committee to reorganize, elect a chair, define its mission and function, and outline its role in supporting the university. He emphasized the importance of outreach and suggested someone from his office could assist the committee.

Chair Dempere met with Planning Design and Construction staff member Dustin Stephany who offered interim support while the committee determines next steps. Because the Sustainability Committee Chair attends the Senate Infrastructure Council meetings, Stephany attended Friday's Infrastructure Council meeting and can continue to attend along with the TBA, newly elected Sustainability Committee Chair.

The Committee on Committees discussed the Sustainability Committee review and agreed that Stephany and VP Little will report back at the December meeting.

Concerns/Recommendations: Awaiting updates.

Student Petitions Committee

Presenter: Caleb Sorgius, Chair

Date: November 10, 2025

Caleb Sorgius, Student Petitions Committee Chair, clarified the role of the committee, which is to review petitions by students seeking an exception of a university policy or rule. Chair Sorgius reported that meetings are hybrid and well-attended. There is never an issue with reaching quorum. The committee has 6 senate electees and 6 provost appointees, and is made up of students, advisors, and faculty members. Ron Anderson, the Ombudsman, is a non-voting attendee, since appeals will go to his office.

The Medical Petition Committee is a sub-committee that communicates with SPC but works separately. Other than occasionally coordinating with the MPC, the SPC does not work directly with other committees. The committee does not have an SOP, but Chair Sorgius said he would be happy to develop one based on examples from other committees for reference.

One issue Chair Sorgius noted was that there has been an issue with the quality of

interviewing officer statements. The committee recently created officer interview training so that the quality of the intake statements will be more consistent and of greater use to the committee in making decisions. Students submit their petition to an academic advisor within their college, whose role as an interviewing officer is to review the petition, ensure documentation is sufficient, make suggestions to the student for improvements to petition, ask questions of student for clarification and make a recommendation to the SPC.

Concerns/Recommendations: The Committee on Committees is considering whether the Medical Petition Committee should be added to the list of committees that report to the CoC, or whether they should coordinate with the SPC for future reports.

University Libraries Committee

Presenter: Samesha Barnes, Chair

Date: January 12, 2026

The committee's responsibilities are maintaining and promoting the welfare of the University libraries.

Dr. Barnes Ivey relayed that the committee functions very well; they meet monthly, and it is well attended. The committee members work well together collegially.

The committee has good representation and the size is appropriate: 9 faculty members and 4 student members, but the students are not well engaged, however, they raise appropriate questions and concerns. The law librarian is the liaison and attends all the meetings. The committee does not work closely with chairs or other committees.

There are no major projects the committee is currently working on, and Dr. Barnes Ivey expressed that she needs help establishing an SOP.

Concerns and Recommendations: The major challenge for the committee is the budget. Budget cuts are negatively affecting library operations.

Research Policy Committee

Presenter: David Norton, Chair

Date: February 9, 2026

Representation from the faculty senate is helpful and the makeup is good. Getting many administrators on the same calendar is a challenge. Dr. Norton reported that committee reviews actions by federal government and states and how they affect research. The long government shut down and reduced staffing has made getting caught up difficult.

Concerns/Recommendations: None

Academic Personnel Board

Presenter: Chris Hass, Secretary

Date: February 9, 2026

Dr. Hass reported that the committee is jointly appointed and elected. Members are highest rank from TT and NTT. The committee reviews about 350 promotion packets per year. The committee is functioning very well, especially considering the increase in faculty since 2018. Candidates must be highest rank and have been promoted at UF.

The committee is a fact-finding and consensus-building group. They do not vote or make decisions. The committee is agnostic to decision making.

Concerns/Recommendations: Every year they seek nominations, and the senate could do a better job of finding viable candidates. The committee is a tremendous ask and perhaps they could be offered some kind of release.

Welfare Council

Presenter: Crystal Marull, Chair

Date: March 9, 2026

Dr. Marull reported that the Welfare Council is functioning well. She finds the size of the council to be an advantage, with the smaller membership allowing for better discussion of complex issues, more agile decision making, and collegiality. Because of the small membership, absences are noticeable, but members have consistent attendance. Melissa Curry and Christopher Hass serve as administrative liaisons. Chris Hass regularly attends meetings, and Melissa Curry usually sends another representative of HR (Brooke Mercier). There are two Contributing Chairs, one for AFTPRS and one for Compensation and Equity; they attend and provide reports regularly.

This year the work of the council has focused on the neutrality policy, ADA compliance, the new FEA platform, and the syllabus policy. They are also working to collect information about graduate faculty status across campus, which departments allow for non-tenure track faculty to serve as graduate faculty, and whether there should be standardization of eligibility. The council does not currently have a standard operating procedure, but Dr. Marull does not feel this negatively impacts the functioning of the council.

Concerns/Recommendations: None

Compensation & Equity Committee

Presenter: Sean Trainor, Chair

Date: April 13, 2026

Dr. Sean Trainor reported that the Compensation & Equity Committee is functioning reasonably well, though he noted that it may not be functioning quite as well as in the past. Committee membership is appropriately sized, attendance is generally decent, and the two administrative liaisons from the Provost's Office and Human Resources usually attend and are very helpful. The committee is currently working to institutionalize an annual workflow in order to develop a stronger and more consistent committee identity.

The committee's major ongoing work includes tracking University turnover rates and faculty salary trends across years. It is also attempting to develop a compensation framework that could help

inform more strategic long-term planning around faculty compensation. Dr. Trainor noted that the committee has historically had limited leverage over compensation matters, which has complicated its mission, though the committee's broadened mandate after the change from the Compensation Committee to the Compensation & Equity Committee has allowed it to address a wider range of issues. He also indicated that there had earlier been some ambiguity about whether the committee would continue to have the ability to craft and advance resolutions, but that this issue now appears to have been clarified.

The committee does not currently have a standard operating procedure (SOP). Dr. Trainor indicated that an SOP would be more useful once the committee has more fully defined its long-term annual workflow and identity.

Concerns/Recommendations: No immediate recommendations. The committee appears to be functioning adequately but is still working to define a clearer annual workflow and stronger long-term identity.

University Constitution & Regulations Committee

Presenter: Rachel Burnside, Chair

Date: April 13, 2026

Dr. Rachel Burnside reported that the University Constitution & Regulations Committee has been very busy this year and is functioning quite well. The committee has strong participation from both members and liaisons, including regular attendance from Chris Hass and R. Ruiz. Dr. Burnside indicated that attendance is consistently strong and that the committee is managing its work effectively.

She noted that the committee plans to adjust its meeting schedule next year so that it meets before the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. This change is intended to ensure more timely review of policies and regulations before they move forward through the Faculty Senate process. Dr. Burnside also reported that the committee currently has a standard operating procedure, which is posted on the committee's webpage.

Concerns/Recommendations: None. The committee appears to be functioning effectively, though it is adjusting its meeting schedule to improve coordination with Faculty Senate Steering and the timing of policy review.

Budget Council

Presenter: John Kraft, Chair

Date: April 13, 2026

Dr. John Kraft reported that the Budget Council is functioning fairly well. The council has six members, with a core group attending regularly, and one administrative liaison from the budget office. Dr. Kraft noted that the council would benefit from an additional liaison from the Office of Institutional Planning and Research (IPR) because much of the council's work depends on understanding detailed data behind the budget model, including faculty size, student credit hours,

tuition generation, and research funding.

The council's current work focuses on compiling and interpreting these data and moving toward department-level reporting so that faculty can more easily access actionable information about their own units. Dr. Kraft emphasized that the council also needs someone on the committee who understands the budget model and knows what to request from IPR. He further noted that the council is somewhat stand-alone and isolated within the broader committee structure and that it lacks a regular workflow that naturally emerges from Faculty Senate business.

The council does not currently have a standard operating procedure.

Concerns/Recommendations: The Faculty Senate should consider whether the Budget Council could be strengthened by adding a regular liaison from the Office of Institutional Planning and Research or otherwise ensuring more consistent access to budget-model expertise and institutional data. The council would also likely benefit from the development of a standard operating procedure to improve continuity and clarity of mission.

List of committees and councils reviewed by the CoC: 2025-2026

- Graduate Curriculum Committee
- University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC)
- Academic Personnel Board
- Welfare Council
- Compensation & Equity Committee
- Student Petitions Committee
- University Libraries Committee (ULC)
- Sustainability Committee
- Budget Council
- Research Policy Committee

List of committees and councils reviewed by the CoC: 2024-2025

- Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations, & Standards Committee
- University Information Technology Committee
- Academic Policy Council
- Parking & Transportation Committee
- Research and Scholarship Council
- Professional Curriculum Committee
- Academic Assessment Committee
- Senate Nominating Committee
- General Education Committee

List of committees and councils reviewed by the CoC: 2023-2024

- Faculty Senate Steering Committee
- Honorary Degree and Distinguished Awards Committee
- Graduate Council

- **University Curriculum Committee**
- **Lakes, Vegetation & Landscaping Committee**
- **Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee**
- **Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites Committee**
- **Infrastructure Council**

List of committees and councils reviewed by the CoC: 2022-2023

- **University Constitution & Regulations Committee (UCRC)**
- **Academic Personnel Board**
- **Welfare Council**
- **Compensation & Equity Committee**
- **Student Petitions Committee**
- **University Libraries Committee (ULC)**
- **Sustainability Committee**
- **Budget Council**
- **Research Policy Committee**

+ Committee on Committees (Self-Reporting)