

April 24, 2026

Members (Absent): Loren Jones, Rachel Hess, Shannon Kane, Meghan Comstock, Joann Kang, Natasha Cabrera, Brianna Rice, Veronica Kang, Taylor Woodman, Richard Shin, Brooke Dalesio, Emily Neer, Rachel Romeo, Margaret Peterson, Tiffany Coates, Maria Somarriba, Younger Oliver, Julian Livingston, Ana Sans

Agenda:

- Welcome
 - Final meeting... NOT our final commitment as Senate and Senate members
- Check-in: Voices from the College
 - Brooke: just on awards (more later)
- Updates (book drive - final donation total, school visit)
 - Close to 90 books purchased
 - 9:30am on Monday (4/28) to visit school & get pictures
- Dean Griffin's Updates
 - CONGRATULATIONS on the number of award nominations... huge deal.
 - Commencement on May 20th...
 - Xfinity Center
 - Don't forget main commencement
 - Three Campus Updates
 - Middle States Accrediation (every 10 years)
 - Visit went very well, no recommendations or requirements
 - Lots of growth in past 10 years
 - Title 2 compliance... pushed out one year by federal government (2027)
 - Budget
 - Managing a budget cut this year on top of two previous... another budget cut coming next year as well... whomp, whomp
 - Strategy not fully formed
 - 1% cut across the system... every university
 - Personnel (staff seems to be the focus) is the only area left to cut... waiting to hear from President & Provost about how the cut will happen
 - All searches on hold... not canceled.
- Awards
 - Discussion RE: process, procedures, considerations for next year
 - Rachel H shares notes already captured around the awards.
 - Two letters from DIFFERENT authors and/or consider removing two letters (only require one letter)
 - Categories that have "X out of Y categories met", but if someone meets that and doesn't submit all of the categories... they are at a disadvantage
 - What happens when there is a tie...
 - Length of submissions (too long to give fair time)
 - 2 pages for letter of nomination & 1 page for letter of support.
 - Review "range" from categories to help not make some folks seem stronger just by volume
 - Perhaps give specifics around College of Education "influence" in each of the categories.

- How does this candidate reflect the CoE values? Or support the CoE initiatives...
 - Revisit criteria for school based mentoring
 - Notification process for winners
 - Template for nominated (non-winners) to receive email/information.
- Awards Ceremony
 - Location + Set-Up
 - Please be prepared to help with the transition from awards to lunch and clean up after lunch!
 - Be there before 11am... help set-up but ALSO clean-up.
 - Program
 - Digital program: celebrating our nominees, award winners, retirees, years of service
 - Lunch
 - Set-up like Donna W retirement (Brianna will help set-up)
- Senate Membership 2026-27
 - Vacant seats
 - Lots of student positions open.
 - Reaching out to Department Chairs to fill open positions
 - At-large faculty role
- Updates from University Senate (for the purposes of sharing information only)
 - Focus was on Provost Rice's update on the *Fearlessly Forward* Strategic Plan. Detailed slides can be found [here](#). Summary: In her annual update, she highlighted nearly \$400M in investments over the past four years, emphasizing how this work has supported ALL the people (faculty, staff, and students). Key initiatives include major upgrades to learning environments, expanded teaching innovation grants (with a focus on accessibility and AI integration), growth in undergraduate research opportunities, and continued expansion of the AI (AIM) initiative. She conveyed that research funding and capacity remain strong *despite minor dips in federal funding* (13 million!), and that the university has received national recognition for its community-engaged research and teaching. Yay. Additional investments include expanded financial support for low-income students (including full tuition coverage for students earning under \$75K beginning Fall 2026), increased graduate stipends, and enhanced faculty support and mental health resources.