

University Faculty Council Chair's Report
7 November 2025

Beyond the usual curricular approvals and other routine business, the main activity of the University Faculty Council (UFC) so far this year has been the development of a proposal to move from three separate college-based Promotion and Tenure Committees to a single, university-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee. In keeping with its charge, the University Faculty Affairs Committee (UFAC) has taken the lead on this initiative, providing information for faculty discussion at department and college meetings and listening to faculty feedback as department representatives on the UFC report back on faculty response to the proposal at UFC meetings.

There are two main proposals being discussed at this time. First, UFAC has developed new language, adapted from the current college-based appendices of the Faculty Handbook, describing university-wide criteria for promotion and tenure. UFAC members provided feedback on this language at the October meeting, and we presently expect that revised language will be presented for a vote at the next scheduled meeting on November 19. Second, based on feedback received at the October UFC meeting, UFAC is crafting a proposal to adopt a single university-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee, based on a model of how the committee will operate that has been dubbed the "subcommittee" model. We expect that UFAC will bring to the November meeting a proposal that UFC charge each of the three colleges to vote on whether or not to adopt this single, university-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee. (The Handbook stipulates that newly created committees require approval of the faculty in each of the three colleges.)

Changes to the 2026-27 Faculty Handbook must be completed by January, 2026, so UFAC and UFC are working hard to meet that deadline. This may require either a special meeting in December or at least some means of getting feedback from faculty with respect to language that will need to be developed for Section 2 of the Faculty Handbook, where the new university-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee, if adopted, will be described.

The UFC Chair has also begun to revise and reorganize the UFC web page. For a variety of reasons, the current site is both out-of-date and hard to maneuver. The UFC Chair is working with the Web Content Specialist on the University Communications team to coordinate and execute this project. We hope to have most if not all updates completed by the end of the fall semester.

Following reorganization and changes to the Faculty Handbook adopted this past summer (allowing the two smaller colleges to appoint a UFC representative to the Executive Committee when no other position on the Executive Committee is held by a member of that college), the UFC Executive Committee now has seven members:

UFC Chair (Jonathan Levin)
UFC Vice Chair (Miriam Liss)

UFC Secretary (Michael Reno)
UFC Parliamentarian (April Wynn)
UFC Past President (Davis Oldham)
COE+ Representative (Janine Davis)
COB+ Representative (Kim Kinsley)

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Levin
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