

FSEM Committee Minutes

February 25, 2026

HCC 310 3:00-4:00 p.m.

2025-2026 FSEM Committee

- 2026 Gary Richards (Professor, CAS): **Chair** [and Acting Secretary]
- 2026 Virginia Mackintosh (Associate Professor, CAS): **Secretary** [unable to attend]
- 2027 Ginny Morriss (Associate Professor, CAS)
- 2028 Lauren Cirino (Assistant Professor, CAS)
- 2028 Evan Coleman (Assistant Professor, COB)

2025-2026 Ex Officio

- April Wynn, Director of the First-Year Experience

2025-2026 Non-Voting Guest Members

- October Edwards (Research and Instruction Librarian)
- Lilly Lester (Assistant Director of New Student Programs) (beginning November 5)

The full committee, save for Virginia Mackintosh, who was ill, convened at 3:05 p.m.

Old Business

I. Late Proposals

Gary reported that, via electronic deliberation preceding the weekend of January 24-25, the committee approved two late proposals: Creating Arts and Ideas: The Shape of Space (Sidney Mullis) and Creating Arts and Ideas: Andy Warhol (Coorain Devin) and one late resubmitted proposal: Terrifying Women of the Ancient World (Jennifer Barry). April petitioned Jonathan Levin, Chair of UFC, for emergency approval on January 28, and Gary notified submitting faculty of their approvals on January 29.

II. Canceled Meeting

The committee did not meet for its scheduled February 4 session since they had handled the late proposals via electronic deliberation and thus had no pressing business.

III. FSEM Templates

The committee took up the request by Julia Delancey to discuss the development of an FSEM template that would focus on an artistic expression and a geographic location. The committee feels that a loose template system is already in place between the “add instructor” pathway and the ability for submitters to consult successfully approved FSEMs and modify those as appropriate. We agreed to disseminate model proposals and to remind chairs of the range of available pathways, all of which allow more flexibility than a single template.

IV. Blanket Approvals of FSEM Proposals

The committee took up the request by Zach Whalen to discuss the viability of a blanket approval process in which all members of a department would be approved to offer a single FSEM. Given the range of pathways discussed above and the need for individual professors to process and personalize the FSEM and its requirements, the committee declined to develop a blanket approval process.

V. Update of Strategic Plan and First-Year Experience Revision

April updated the committee on developments in these two areas, observing that the Strategic Plan has not directly addressed the first-year experience; therefore, the committee needs to press forward with revisions of the SLOs that was started during the 2024-2025 academic year. This discussion will be the focus of the committee's next meeting.

New Business

I. Spring Call and Deadline for FSEM Proposals

The committee determined that the spring call will be issued on February 26 or 27 before Spring Break, with a reminder sent on March 9 after Spring Break. The deadline for submissions in CIM will be 5 p.m. on Friday, April 3. The committee will assess the proposals at their next meeting.

II. Next Meeting

To accommodate the spring call for proposals, the committee changed its next meeting from Wednesday, April 1, 2026, to Wednesday, April 8, 2026. Since no FSEMs approved at that meeting will be eligible to be offered in fall 2026, we have flexibility in submitting those approvals to the UFC in August rather than for its final 2025-2026 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.