

2023-24

# Faculty Senate

ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY  
OF MIAMI

## Faculty Senate Annual Report

### Overview

The following report encapsulates the initiatives of the University of Miami Faculty Senate, including a summary of the efforts and issues specific to the Standing Committees in the Senate, from August 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024.

In 2023-2024, throughout a time of transition, the Faculty Senate has emerged as a representative and collaborative voice for the University Faculty, and the vehicle by which the faculty are authorized to share in the planning and governance of the university.

The leadership of the Faculty Senate in 2023-2024 has been:

**Chair:** JoNel Newman, Professor, School of Law

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair:** Scotney Evans, Assoc. Professor, School of Education and Human Dev.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair:** Albert Varon, Professor, Miller School of Medicine

The Standing Committee Chairs for 2023-2024 were:

**Academic Planning Committee:** JoNel Newman (Law)

**Academic Standards Committee:** William Drennan (Rosenstiel)

**Administrative Services Committee:** David Steinberg (Communication)

**Athletics Committee:** Christian Diez (Medicine)

**Budget and Compensation:** Alex Horenstein (Business)

**Committee on Rank Salary and Conditions of Employment:** Linda Neider (Business)

**Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award Committee:** Linda Neider (Business)

**Equity and Inclusion Committee:** Latoya Lewis (Nursing)

**Facilities and Planning Committee:** Rocco Ceo (Architecture)

**General Welfare Committee:** JoNel Newman (Law)

**Library and Information Resources Committee:** Francesco Travascio (Engineering)

**McLamore Outstanding Service Award Committee:** JoNel Newman (Law)

**Outstanding Teaching Award Committee:** Burjor Captain (Arts and Sciences)

**Student Affairs Committee:** Diana Falsetta (Business)

**Tenure Review Board:** Teresa Scandura (Business)

**University Curriculum Committee:** Jennifer Krawec (Education)

Full committee annual reports are available on the Senate website: [fs.miami.edu](https://fs.miami.edu).

### Faculty Senate Contact Information

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## **Highlights and New Programs Approved by the Senate 2023-2024**

### **Centers and Institutes**

Center for Aerosol Science and Technology (CAST), College of Engineering  
Institute for the Mathematical Sciences of the Americas (IMSA), University-wide  
Sylvester Brain Tumor Institute, Miller School of Medicine

### **School of Architecture**

Certificate in Sustainable Construction (jointly offered with the College of Engineering)

### **College of Arts and Sciences**

5-year BA/MA and BS/MA in Global Health Studies  
Bachelor of Arts in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence  
Co-major in Innovation and Society  
Minor in Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Aid  
Minor in Spanish for Science and Healthcare Professions

### **Miami Herbert Business School**

Minor in Artificial Intelligence for Business Technology

### **School of Communication**

Master of Arts in Advertising  
Master of Science in Experience and Informational Design  
Minor in Communication Literacy  
Minor in Interactive Media

### **College of Engineering**

5-year BS/MS pathways  
Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering  
Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Physics  
Master of Science in Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering  
Master of Science in Medical Physics  
Minor in Biomedical Engineering

### **School of Law**

Online Master of Legal Studies

### **Miller School of Medicine**

Master of Science in Global Medical Sciences  
Dual MD/MS in Global Medical Sciences

### **Frost School of Music**

Bachelor of Arts in Audio Technology

## A Letter from the Senate Chair

Dear Colleagues,

As we come to the close of a very busy and productive year, I would like to thank the members of our General Welfare Committee, Faculty Senate, and standing Committees for their judgment, guidance and perseverance.

The Senate has approved over 100 pieces of legislation this year, including:

Working closely with Interim Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs Alex Wilson, the Faculty Senate Committee on Equity and Inclusion proposed a modification to the *Faculty Manual* so that the policies related to parental leave equitably supported married faculty members. The proposed changes entitled each parent to separate 12 calendar weeks of leave under FMLA; an extension to the tenure clock for faculty experiencing serious illness of or personal hardship; the ability for faculty to request a leave of absence during the tenure process for childcare or other family-related responsibilities; and an overall edit to those sections of the Faculty Manual to reflect more inclusive language and families establish through foster care or adoption.

The Senate also approved revisions to the Graduate Student Honor Code, including language that classifies the appropriate and inappropriate use of artificial intelligence in student work.

Among the establishment of several centers and institutes is the University-wide Institute for the Mathematical Sciences of the Americas (IMSA), to foster and facilitate research in mathematics and its applications across the hemisphere.

The Senate also accomplished the following:

The renaming of Schools and Departments, and Institutes: 2  
Inactivation of degrees, programs, majors, minors and tracks: 10  
The establishment of new degrees, programs, majors, minors and tracks: 22  
Amendments to clarify or revise sections of the Faculty Manual: 11  
Approval of Curricular Changes: 36

Along with the Senates 17 standing committees, 7 ad hoc committees were convened during the year.

If you would like more information on any of the legislation established this year, please visit the Senate website [fs.miami.edu](http://fs.miami.edu). I wish you all the best for a successful academic year.

Cordially,  
**JoNel Newman**  
Chair of the Faculty Senate  
and Professor of Law

## Advocacy

### *Faculty Office Access*

In the Fall of 2023, the Faculty Senate was alerted to a change in the policies related to faculty office access. Whereas faculty once had 24/7 access to their offices via physical keys, the new electronic door locks, while providing additional security, were also timed to limit access to certain areas, including faculty offices. At the request of the faculty, the Senate engaged in dialogue with the Office of Emergency Management and the leadership at Facilities and Planning to come to an agreement that allowed for appropriate access to faculty offices while also adhering to the much-needed campus security policies.

### *Parking*

Additionally, parking on campus has been a long-standing topic of discussion, specifically, the limited parking in the Red Zone, which serves the Dooly Memorial Classroom building, School of Nursing and Health Studies, Allen Hall, School of Communication, Merrick Building, and 1300 Campo Sano. Through the Faculty Senate's Standing Committee on Facilities and Planning, the leadership from the Office of Parking and Transportation were invited to the Senate to hear the concerns of the faculty: spaces were too small, and rows were too close together (resulting in several fender benders), and parking permits for the Red Zone were perennially sold out or unavailable.

After several meetings, it was agreed that the Red Zone would be restriped, over the winter break, on the advice of a parking engineering consultant. The subsequent modifications have reduced the number of reported accidents and increased the availability of permits and spaces in this popular parking lot.

### *Database Access*

When the Faculty Senate became aware that several database subscriptions, critical to the humanities, were being cancelled, the *Library and Information Resources Committee* and the Senate worked with the Provost's office and other senior leaders to ensure that the subscriptions were continued.

### *Faculty Salaries*

The Senate's *Budget and Compensation Committee* lead our efforts to consider and address the challenges in recruiting and retaining faculty, due to the high cost of living in Miami and the lower, on average, salaries, when compared with AAUP peers. We have successfully lobbied for increased transparency and an open dialogue in the consideration of faculty salary. At the final Senate meeting of the 23-24 year, Committee Chair Alex Horenstein presented data that was received and considered by university administration. Over the subsequent summer, Acting President Joe Echevarria committed to continuing

the discussion and providing actionable items to be implemented during the Fall 2024 term.

### *Merit and Performance Review*

The Senate, through the GWC, is and has been working with the administration to provide significant feedback on the merit and performance review process and its implementation.

### *Data Security*

The Senate engaged in dialogue with senior leadership, inviting them to come to the Senate in February to take questions related to the changes in remote access to key systems and the safeguards being established to secure the university from cybercrimes. The voice of the Senate was critical in ensuring that these new policies did not sacrifice faculty members' ability to collaborate with colleagues around the world.

## **Partnership with the Board of Trustees (BOT)**

The Senate continues to benefit from a healthy, robust collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the Offices of the President and Provost in the shared governance crucial to our University's success. At the close of the 23-24 academic year, incoming BOT Chair Manny Kadre created a new BOT position - Liaison to the Faculty Senate. Laurie Silvers, immediate past BOT chair, will fill this role in 2024-2025. We are also connected through the work of various committees, such as the Senate's *Academic Standards Committee* and the BOT's Academic Affairs Committee.

## **Consistency during transition:**

The Office of the Faculty Senate underwent several major transitions during the 23-24 Academic Year. The retirement of long-serving Senate Secretary Robyn Hardeman, and the vacancy of the Manager of Business Operations position, left two gaps in Senate office staff.

Gabriela Soto from the School of Law was hired at the new Manager of Business Operations at the start of AY24. She is tasked with supporting the standing committees of the Senate and managing the Senate Awards selection.

After an extensive search, Dr. Maryann Tobin from the College of Arts and Sciences was hired as the new Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Tobin has been integral in maintaining a consistently high level of service to the faculty throughout this time of transition, and the Faculty Senate felt no lack of productivity during these vacancies.

In addition, after an assessment by Dr. Tobin, the Provost's Office approved an overdue renovation of the Senate Office, to bring the physical space up to code and in line with current UM standards.

The Senate Office also supported University Faculty throughout several senior leadership transitions in the 23-24 academic year. Including the departure of Provost Jeffrey Duerk and the installation of Interim Provost Willy Prado and Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Alex Wilson.

In June 2024, it was announced that President Julio Frenk was leaving to become the Chancellor of UCLA and CEO Joe Echevarria was named Acting President.