

Sept. 8, 2025
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Cook 206AA
Chair: Melissa Brooks, reelected
Secretary: David Holt, elected in meeting
Meeting Start: 3 PM
Meeting End: 4:40 PM

1. Adopt agenda
2. Approve previous minutes
3. Officer reports
 - a. Chair
 - a. Called guests to discuss potential issues in the coming year
 - b. Changes made to the handbook 2025-2026, most approved, several not approved – mainly about the ombud vs Ombud language (office or function)
 - b. Secretary
 - a. No report, office vacant
4. Chair and Sec. Elections
 - a. Melissa Brooks and David Holt nominated, Melissa Brooks elected
 - b. David Holt nominated, David Holt elected
5. Old Business
 - a. No Old Business
6. New Business
 - a. Invited guest Andrew Haley – report on Ombuds for AY2025
 - a. Discussed role and activities over the last year
 - b. 58 unique visits, half-time appointment was a heavy load at times during the year
 - c. Charge of the Ombud is signed and posted on the provost's website
 - d. Complaints about communication of changes to faculty handbook not getting to faculty
 - b. Invited guest Brad Smith – information on conflict-of-interest process changes
 - a. Required annually
 - b. Many are not filling out the online survey (filtered to junk mail for some)
 - c. Committee shared instances of it looking like click bait and being marked as outside of USM
 - d. Working on improving outreach – we need this for federal compliance
 - c. ORA name change – Erica Kennedy
 - a. Discussed the name changes and direction of ORA (still ORA online, but changing)
7. Discussion/Decision/Action Items
 - a. None
8. Good of the order

Voting Elected Members Group One (September 2024 – August 2027)

Member of Faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences – **Heather Slur – Proxy**

Member of Faculty from the College of Nursing and Health Professions – **Hyunmin Kim (Felix Twum – Proxy)**

Member of Faculty from the University Libraries – **Melissa Brooks**

Voting Elected Members Group Two (September 2025 – August 2028)

Member of Faculty from the College of Business and Economic Development – **Gregory Bradley**

Member of Faculty from the College of Education and Human Sciences – **Stacy Reeves**

At-Large Member of the Gulf Coast Faculty – **David Holt**

Voting Appointed Members

Member of the Faculty Senate (Appointed by the FS Executive Committee) – **Franklin Heitmuller**

Member of the Dean's Council (Appointed by the Dean's Council) – **Trent Gould**

Member of the Council of Directors (Appointed by the Council of Directors) – **Sara Jordan**

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members

Representative from the Office of General Counsel – **Subrina Cooper**

Representative from the Office of the Provost – **Kelly Lester**