

**MINUTES**  
**Undergraduate Policy Committee Meeting**  
**January 14, 2026**

Members Present: Dan Mears, Justin Shows, Jonathan Jackson, James Sickinger, Teresa Roach, Rylan Douthett, Enrique Alvarez, Jennifer Atkins, Michael Hanawalt, Carol Edwards, Henry Fuelberg, Lydia Hanks, Lisa Munson, Antonia Nemec, Brian Parker, Besiki Stvilia, Xinlin Tang, Lisa Tripp, Yanyun Yang, Xin “Henry” Zhang, DeOnte Brown, Amy Guerette

- I.      Approval of Agenda  
The meeting was called to order, and the agenda was approved.
- II.     Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2025  
The minutes from November 19 were approved.
- III.    New Business:
  1. Proposed request to offer a new undergraduate (BS) degree in Civics and Liberty Studies  
Dr. Ryan Owens presented the proposal for the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy for approval of a new degree. This degree is designed to provide students with a stronger base of knowledge about American civics. Students can earn this degree and have careers in diverse fields. The curriculum focuses on constitutional thought, free speech, political and moral theory, great books, and social science. The program consists of 27 credits of core courses and 18 credits in 1 of 4 concentrations. There is collaboration among several deans and department chairs in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship, and Social Sciences and Public Policy with signed MOUs. Staffing is planned and will be implemented by Fall 2026. The UPC membership voted, and the degree proposal was **APPROVED**.
  2. Discussion about Faculty Senate request to review UPC Bylaws  
UPC had 24 members determined by the Faculty Senate. After two colleges merged, the UPC total membership changed to 23. The members reviewed the Senate’s revised bylaws, then discussed whether any further revisions were indicated. After discussing providing a more detailed description of specific tasks that the UPC does, the committee determined that the more general description in the revised bylaws—that the UPC considers university-wide policies on undergraduate academic affairs—was best. The Chair will report back to the Faculty Senate President that the Bylaws revision was reviewed, discussed, and approved.
  3. Update from OFDA on Simple Syllabus policy  
Amy Guerette shared that Simple Syllabus is live and discussed the roll-out and how to navigate the Simple Syllabus website. Over 270 faculty have attended the most recent training. The Office of Digital Learning (ODL) is recording and posting Simple Syllabus trainings. The Office of Faculty Development and Advancement (OFDA) are working in collaboration with ODL. A one-page facts sheet is being created to help faculty to ensure that they post their syllabi in Simple Syllabi by the March 1, 2026, deadline.
  4. Update from Undergraduate Studies  
DeOnte shared FSU has reached 99% fall to spring retention for our FTIC undergraduate student population.

**2025-2026 UPC meeting dates:** All meetings will begin at 3:35 pm in 201 Westcott. Remaining meeting dates: January 28, February 11, February 25, March 11, March 25, April 8, and April 22