

Innovation News Center Faculty Meeting Minutes

- Date: September 3, 2025
- Time: 10:30 a.m.–11:25 a.m.
- Location: Innovation News Center Conference Room
- Faculty unit attendees: Ethan Magoc, Matt Abramson, Jeremy St. Louis, Dave Barasoain, Alicia Coleman, Shemar Woods, Maria Fernanda Camacho
- Other attendees: Rose Schnabel, Daron Dean

1. Review of bylaws

- Faculty reviewed the INC bylaws, first passed in spring 2024.
- Key sections covered: tenure and promotion procedures, committee assignments, and faculty rights.
- The bylaws were approved as presented. No changes requested.

2. Committee assignments for 2025–26 academic year

- Unit-level assignments are as follows:
 - Salary Equity Committee: Jeremy St. Louis, Kalisha Whitman, Maria Fernanda Camacho
 - Professional Outreach & Awards Committee: Alicia Coleman, Shemar Woods, Dave Barasoain
 - Budget & Long-Term Planning Committee: Andre Sanders, Dania Alexandrino, Matt Abramson
- Additional service: Shemar Woods volunteered for the college-level CJC Space and Renovation Committee, which will support a Weimer Hall update feasibility study.

3. Response rate strategies

- Goal: Achieve higher student evaluation response rates (Nov. 19–Dec. 5 window for fall semester).
- Two strategies proposed:
 - Dedicate time in the final in-class meeting for students to complete evaluations.
 - For immersion courses without designated class time, provide time for students to complete evaluations at the start of their final newsroom shift.
- Faculty are encouraged to prompt feedback on key areas (e.g., new course additions, workflow adjustments, instructor teaching style, course materials, etc.).
- Higher response rates will strengthen tenure and promotion cases and keep course/immersion design responsive to student feedback.

4. Guest speakers & recruiting visits

- Upcoming fall recruiting visits:
 - Tegna – Sept. 23–24
 - Scripps – Oct. 22–23
- Telemundo Academy dates remain TBD.
- Guest speaker dates will be requested soon via Jessica Osegueda to keep the college apprised of alumni and others returning to provide students with industry insights and networking.

5. WUFT Noticias partnership

- Maria Fernanda informed the group of a new partnership via the Center for Community News.
- Advisory committee will share best practices for Spanish-language news. This is a significant opportunity for Noticias faculty to showcase national leadership and can be a model for elevating our profile newsroom-wide.

6. Other business

- Platform updates began with Gator Gameday team reporting early successes and great buy-in from all involved students — even on the Labor Day holiday. Matt Abramson also offered additional studio capacity as needed.
- Guest outreach: Plan to invite the Gainesville city PIO for student discussions. Ethan to follow up about location/possible times with Dave.
- Investigative pitch: Staff member Rose Schnabel is submitting a Report for America proposal on inland flooding.
- Collaboration: Shemar Woods raised the potential for a Hoops HQ partnership to create paid opportunities for students.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.