

SECRETARY'S REPORT NO. 425

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate met in regular session on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 3:30 PM via CarmenZoom, with President Ravi Bellamkonda presiding. There were 91 (73%) voting senators in attendance, either in person or remotely. This report, along with the agenda, materials, and verbatim recording constitute the minutes for this meeting.

The Senate:

1. Approved Secretary's Report #424.
2. Heard Secretary Gardner's opening welcome to President Bellamkonda in his first senate meeting as university president.
3. Heard President Bellamkonda's opening comments, acknowledging the range of opinions within the university community regarding the Board's decision to appoint him president without undergoing a full search, sharing his desire for Ohio State to be known as the best public university in the country, and inviting the senate and university community to engage in this work with him in service to our students, our state, and beyond.
4. Approved proposal from the Council on Academic Affairs to re-establish the Department of Aviation.
5. Approved proposal from the Rules Committee to change the membership rules for the Athletic Council in Faculty Rule 3335-5-48.5.
6. Heard an update from Senior VP for Student Life Melissa Shivers and Josh Bodnar, Director of BuckID, regarding the ongoing modernization of BuckID access control readers across campus and the need for those with older cards to upgrade to the new tap BuckID cards.
7. Heard summaries of two reports from the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility. The senate voted to create an ad hoc committee to address concerns raised in these reports.
8. Heard presentations from the Campus Free Speech Forum organized by Undergraduate Student Government. Presentations included an update from the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Free Expression, a presentation by USG leadership on the results of the Free Speech Survey shared with students, and from representatives from organizations impacted by current policies related to free expression on campus.
9. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.