



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 26, 2023: [MS Teams, 3-5 PM](#)

PENDING MINUTES – Faculty Senate has not yet approved the minutes. Minutes are subject to change until approved.

Call to Order and Approval of Previous Minutes

Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Present: (attendance report did not populate for this meeting)

(S)- Senator (E) ExCo (O) Other Non-Voting Member

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ahmed Alsharif (S) | Donna Fairbanks (S) | Kenzie Jones ((E) | Peter Sproul (S) |
| Alex Yuan (S) | Doug Czajka (S) | Laura Ricaldi (S) (E) | Raiden Gaul (S) |
| Anthony Ciccone (S) | Dustin Shipp (S) | Lisa Hall (S) | Rich Paustenbaugh (E) |
| Ashley Nadeau (S) | Evelyn Porter (E) | Maria Blevins (S) | Rick McDonald (S) |
| Ben Moulton (E) | Gareth Fry (S) | Matthew Duffin (S) | Sam Gedeborg (E) |
| Bryan Sansom (S) | Jennifer Shubert (S) (E) | Maureen Andrade (S) | Sayeed Sajal (S) |
| Christopher Goslin (S) | Jim Pettersson (S) | Max Aeschbacher (S) | Sean Crossland (S) |
| Christopher Witt (S) | Jim Price (S) | Merilee Larsen (S) | Stephanie Dunn (S) |
| Colleen Hough (S) | John Hunt (S) (E) | Michael Hollister (S) | Tammy Parker (S) |
| Dallas Smith (S) | Jon Anderson (E) | Michaela Sawyer (S) | Terrance Orr (S) |
| Dan Perry (S) | Joshua Fagan (S) (E) | Ming Yu (S) | Tracy Sermon (S) |
| David Frame (S) | Joshua Hilst (S) | Nathan Jeppson (S) | Waseem Sheikh (S) |
| David Knowlton (S) | Kat Brown (E) | Nicole Gearing (E) | Wayne Vaught (E) |
| Diego Alvarado Karste (S) | Ken Adams (S) | Paul Morrey (S) | Wioleta Fedeczko (E) |

Senators Absent/Excused

Minutes stand approved

Faculty Senate President

UVU Financial Overview

Jim Mortensen, VP Planning, Budget, and Finance, will be joining us on October 10 to give an update on the state of finances at UVU. Start thinking about what you want to know, ask your colleagues, and be prepared for that meeting.

President Tuminez

Pres Tuminez will be coming to senate on Oct 24. Come prepared with questions or special topics. Her insight information about the legislative year would be appreciated.

Office of Faculty Development Learning Circles

Provost Wayne Vaught

- We are pushing close to 45,000 students. Our retention numbers are looking good.
- Thanks to everyone who participated in the Town Hall. We talked about Artificial Intelligence and its impact on education. Video from the Town Hall will be sent out tomorrow via email. It will include a link for feedback.

Pluralsight

- There is no attempt to remove faculty from their positions.
- The resources that you find and choose to use when teaching is up to you.
- You are not forced to use it, but it is available to you.

Transparency and Communication (Ask Wayne for PPT)

- Action Plan Template (Ask Wayne for this template to add to supporting documents)
- Great Colleges to Work For Survey results

Faculty Ombuds Proposal (Nizhone Meza, Anne Arendt, Hilary Hungerford)

- This position was created by the request of Faculty Senate
- Reporting to the Provost's Office for budget and administrative purposes
- Evaluation of the Ombuds individual and program will be jointly reviewed by the Provost Office and Faculty Senate Executive
- Researched how Faculty Ombuds are run at other higher ed institutions.
- We based this position on the International Ombuds Organization four standards of ethics.
 1. Confidentiality
 2. Impartiality
 3. Informal
 4. Independent
- It would be available for faculty only.
- We would like to open the position on Oct 12 which is Ombuds day.
- The program will run through Spring 2025. It will then be evaluated based on statistics (number of visitors but no identifying information). A charter will be initiated if it is approved to continue.
- Will they be able to be an advocate for the faculty member?
 - They are not legal counsel. They specifically serve in the official role of ombuds. No records are kept.
 - They can give advice, they can listen, they can be a resource, and they can link the faculty to policies that might be helpful in defending their position.
 - We do have to follow laws and statutes for this position.
- Faculty Exco will review all applications and recommend three finalists to the Provost who will make the final decision.
- Read the document and leave comments

General Ed (Evelyn Porter)

See supporting document (

- Share the slide with your faculty

- A comment document has been shared and we have already received comments on that.
- We will come back to the next meeting and conduct a straw poll.
- Have we (UVU) pushed back against the current recommendation?
 - Provost Wayne Vaught answered that we did push back with the previous UBHE board.
 - The former UBHE board pushed hard to create consistency between institutions so that students could go from one institution to another and not find themselves with additional requirements. The previous range varied between 27 and 39. The board was advocating for a single number so the current proposition of 27-30 could be considered a compromise.
- Encourage senators to get feedback from their department faculty before submitting straw poll
- Jim Price motioned that we hold a straw poll to see how many of the senators feel their constituents would be substantially concerned about a limit of 30 credits.
- Motion on the floor: Vote to determine if there is interest in pushing back on the 30-credit cap on GE
 - There is not an interest in continuing this topic any further.

Advancement of Teaching (Jonathan Allred)

Refer to supporting documents

- This is a committee with a direct report to Faculty Senate. They provide representation on different policy committees that have influence in teaching effectiveness, supporting faculty, and teaching recognition for good teaching.
- Requesting input from Faculty Senate regarding how they should direct their actions this next academic year.
- Senatore are asked to share the 2 documents in the folder with your constituents and get their feedback about how the committee should utilize their time and attention for this academic year.

Curriculum (Laurie Sharp and Ben Moulton)

Refer to supporting documents

- Senators as asked to share this document with their constituents.
- Senators are encouraged to get respective CCS curriculum committees involved as well.
- Would like to have them completed by April 2024.
- What is a program?
 - A program is anything that results in an academic award. That includes associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, and certificates for both undergraduate and graduate.

Announcements

No time allocated. Please review and send to your departments, as applicable.

- FEA Awards:** [Nominations](#) open on September 26, 2023
- Fulton Library:** Prepare for a successful semester with the Fulton Library's [faculty resource guides](#), which offer in-depth topic overviews to help kickstart your research. Our latest faculty guide addresses a higher education hot topic: ChatGPT and AI. Regardless of your stance on AI, the [ChatGPT and AI Text Generators guide](#) offers an introduction to the advantages, limitations, and potential applications of AI. With tips on writing AI prompts,

citing AI-generated content, and finding additional articles, our guide helps you use AI text-generators and understand their impact on higher education.

- c. **Office of Teaching and Learning:** The Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) has launched a [Request an Instructional Designer](#) form so you can request a consultation meeting with an Instructional Designer at any time. Consultations will typically be through Microsoft Teams but may be in-person if needed.

Good of the Order

- Policy process orientations have not been scheduled yet but hopefully soon. You don't have to be new to attend. Everyone is welcome.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned – 4:52 pm Wioleta