

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 5, 2024: MS Teams, 3-4 PM

Call to Order; Silent Roll Call (0 min.)

Present:

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

Abdenmour Seibi (S)	Doug Czajka (S)	Matt Flint (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Matt Withers (S)	Shelton Weech (S)
Aicha Rochdi 9	Dustin Shipp (S)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Stephanie Dunn (S)
Alex Yuan (S)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Max Aeschbacher (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Alma Laney (S)	Ezgi Sertler (E)	Mel Gurr (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
Anthony Ciccone (S)	Howard Fullmer (S)	Merilee Larsen (S)	Tyson Riskas (S)
Ben Moulton (E)	Farzad Ahmadi (S)	Michaela Sawyer (S)	Waseem Sheikh (S)
Christopher Goslin (S)	Jennifer Shubert (S) (E)	Ming Yu (S)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Chris Lindquist (S)	John Newman (S)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Wioleta Fedeczko (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jonathan Allred (E)	Nichole Ortega (S)	
Dallas Smith (S)	Joshua Fagan (S) (E)	Nicole Gearing (E)	
Dan Perry (S)	Kat Brown (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)	
Dan Sutliff (S)	Ken Adams (S)	Raiden Gaul (S)	
David Frame (S)	Kevin Smith (S)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)	
Deb Dowd (S)	Laura Ricaldi (S) (E)	Richard Cho (S)	
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Laurie Toro (E)	Rick McDonald (S)	
Donna Fairbanks (S)	Maria Blevins (S)	Sayeed Sajal (S)	

Absent/Excused:

Ian Gotcher (E)	Peter Sproul (S)	Ron Miller (S)	Terrance Orr (S)
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Approval of Previous Minutes (available in Faculty Senate teams/[website](#))
Minutes stand approved

Faculty Senate President, Wioleta Fedeczko

[3:00-3:10]

Don't forget to vote today.

Homework Assignments: Evelyn demonstrated how to find homework and comment documents in the faculty Senate Teams channel, emphasizing the importance of knowing the correct dates for policy homework.

Linking documents: Evelyn explained that within the homework document, links to all policy comments or non-policy documents, such as faculty award guidelines, are provided. This helps in easily locating the necessary documents.

Document dating: Wioleta clarified that policy homework documents are dated from the previous Senate meeting rather than the current date. Evelyn confirmed this, stating that Josh dates them based on when the homework was assigned.

Comment links: Wioleta agreed with Maureen's comment that having comment links in the agenda is helpful, as it avoids the need to search for them in different files.

Academic Affairs, Laurie Sharp

[3:10-3:35]

Accreditation Update: Laurie provided an update on the recent accreditation site visit, highlighting commendations for the institution's commitment to its mission, planning efforts, and student support. They also discussed recommendations for improving data access, general education assessment, and academic program assessment.

Site visit conclusion: Laurie mentioned that the site visit concluded on October 25th, with visits to the West Campus and Thanksgiving Point. Forums for faculty, staff, and students had tremendous attendance, and the evaluators were very complimentary of the campus and its mission-focused commitment.

Commendations: Laurie highlighted several commendations, including the campus-wide commitment to the institutional mission, planning efforts to increase retention and completion of first-generation students, the self-study process, the administrative structure that drives us toward mission fulfillment, the public and transparent stewardship process, and our continuous focus on the needs of all diverse student populations.

Recommendations: Laurie discussed four main recommendations: improving data access, enhancing general education assessment, refining academic program assessment, and ensuring regular and substantive interaction in online courses. The institution has already taken steps to address these recommendations.

Next steps: Laurie mentioned that the Commission will meet in late January to vote on the accreditation report, and the institution will likely receive the official letter by early March. She also noted the importance of addressing concerns that did not elevate to recommendations but are still significant for improving student success.

Curriculum Procedures, Ben Moulton

[3:35-3:38]

Ben requested a vote on the curriculum procedures document, which will be scheduled for the next meeting. Faculty were encouraged to review the document and ask questions if needed.

Faculty Senate Awards, Jonathan Allred

[3:38-3:40]

Jonathan reported that there were no comments on the Faculty Senate awards guidelines. The committee will draft new guidelines and present them for discussion and approval in the next meeting.

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught and Kat Brown

[3:40-4:00]

Temporary Policy 616: Regular and Substantive Interaction

Wayne explained that the new temporary policy 616 was created in response to the Northwest Commission's requirement for a policy ensuring regular and substantive interaction in online courses. This is necessary to comply with federal guidelines and maintain eligibility for federal financial aid.

Policy details: The policy defines regular and substantive interaction as providing direct instruction, assessing or giving feedback on student work, and participating in discussion groups. It applies to all fully online courses.

Implementation: The Office of Academic Affairs ensures that all courses for which students could use financial aid incorporate regular and substantive interaction. The Office of Teaching and Learning will help instructors know what it means and how to incorporate it into their online course. Deans and department chairs are responsible for ensuring compliance with the policy including verifying that instructors are engaging with students regularly and substantively in their online courses.

Future review: Wayne mentioned that the temporary policy will go through the regular policy process for further review and feedback from faculty. The goal is to ensure that the policy is comprehensive and effective in maintaining compliance with federal and Northwest Commission guidelines.

Silicon Slopes Summit

Wioleta and Wayne discussed the logistics for the upcoming Silicon Slopes Summit at UVU, emphasizing the need to ensure faculty can access campus and encouraging alternative teaching methods to alleviate traffic congestion.

Event logistics: Wayne explained that the Silicon Slopes Summit will be hosted at UVU in January, with an expected attendance of 12,000 people. The primary venue will be the UCCU Center, with additional breakout sessions in other locations on campus.

Traffic concerns: Wioleta emphasized the need to ensure that faculty can access campus and park without issues. She suggested that summit attendees be parked elsewhere and bused in to alleviate congestion. Faculty can alter their class modality during these dates.

Academic Affairs, Kat Brown

Faculty Vacation/Sick Leave Guidelines

Moved to the next Faculty Senate meeting

Good of the Order

[4:00-4:03]

Wioleta shared insights from the recent Faculty Senate Presidents' Council meeting, noting that other institutions' primary concern was the DEI bill. She will continue to engage with the council and provide updates.

Adjourn

[session end time 4:03]

Meeting ended at 4:03 pm

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

Use this form to suggest items that need to be brought before Faculty Senate:

<https://forms.office.com/r/0E2nE8dekR>

a. AI Resources

- Fulton Library's student AI [Guide](#)
- Fulton Library's faculty AI [Guide](#)
- Faculty Senate and OTL's AI [Resources](#)
- AI Task Force [Events](#)

b. Fulton Library: Check out Fulton Library's [faculty resource guide](#), which offers helpful information about publication in academic journals.

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.