MINUTES
SPECIAL FACULTY SENATE MEETING
APRIL 10, 2023

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate, Mona Hymel, called the April 10th Faculty Senate meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. via Zoom. Secretary Tessa Dysart and Parliamentarian Stegeman were present.


Absent: Senators Addis, Behrangi, Dial, Duran, Gordon, Hammer, Haskins, Lamb, Nichols, Pace, Robles, Vedantam.

2. APPROVAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE AGENDA FOR APRIL 10, 2023 (00:01:02)

- Vice Chair Hymel stated she was previously under the understanding that time allotted for each agenda item, other than adjournment, were suggestions, now there is an aim to be stricter on allotted times. Vice Chair Hymel stated she still reserves the ability to add five minutes if there is ongoing discussion although, she can also end discussion if time is up, this can approve efficiency in the meeting. Vice Chair Hymel stated there was a change to the agenda where Item 5 was added to allow the President fifteen minutes to speak; another change includes Old Business Item 7C to allow Chair Hudson to present a DEI resolution.
  - Chair Hudson stated she will share a DEI resolution as a seconded resolution which comes from the standing committee on DEI, this was shared the previous night via email.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated another addition to the agenda is Old Business Item 7E where Parliamentarian Stegeman will share a Parliamentary Procedure Update. Vice Chair Hymel stated she removed the APPC Resolution from the Agenda, which was a misunderstanding, therefore it can be added back.
  - Chair Hudson stated APPC informed her that the resolution can be left off the agenda.
  - Vice Chair Hymel stated the APPC Resolution Agenda Item will be rolled over onto the next meeting’s agenda for Old Business.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated there was a motion on the floor for the iSchool Agenda Item and it will be rolled into the current meeting, this will include parliamentary procedure. Vice Chair Hymel stated she received a request to add an additional thirty minutes to the meeting with a hard stop at 5:30 PM, this is because many individuals who are invited to speak do not usually get the chance to.
- Senator Ziurys stated some individuals are unable to join the meeting.
  - Sabrina Smith from the Faculty Center stated the link was resent via email to the faculty senator listserv.
- Secretary Dysart moved [Motion 2022/23-90] to adopt the April 10, 2023 Agenda with the amendment to adjourn at 5:00 PM.
  - Secretary Dysart stated several individuals have reached out to her stating it is difficult to obtain childcare until 5:30 PM and the meeting was scheduled on short notice.
  - Vice Chair Hymel stated there are no items in the end of the meeting that will require a vote.
  - Secretary Dysart stated there was originally nothing to vote on in the March 27, 2023 meeting and
stated her motion is to adjourn at 5:00 PM.

- Motion was seconded.
- Senator R. Witte stated he does not want to have a rigid stop and would like to follow normal operating procedure at the end of the meeting where there is a motion to adjourn, a vote, then dismissal.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated the Senate can now take a vote on the amendment to adjourn at 5:00 PM instead of 5:30 PM.
  - Parliamentarian Stegeman stated there is a new agenda on the floor and a motion for a 5:00 PM adjournment.
  - Vice Chair Hymel stated the Senate is voting on adopting the agenda with a 5:00 PM hard stop.
- [Motion 2022/23-90] passed with twenty-six in favor, eight opposed, and two abstentions.
  - Parliamentarian Stegeman stated the vote was on the amendment and now there should be a vote to pass the agenda which can be passed by unanimous consent.
  - Vice Chair Hymel stated she believes she and Parliamentarian Stegeman are on two different pages as she believed there was a vote on the entire agenda amendment.
  - Parliamentarian Stegeman stated there was a replacement of the agenda with an amendment but there should not be a vote on the entire agenda.
- Vice Chair Hymel moved [Motion 2022/23-91] to adopt an updated agenda with the friendly amendment to adjourn at 5:00 PM. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 27, 2023 MINUTES** (00:15:01)

   Chair Hudson moved [Motion 2022/23-92] to approve the March 27, 2023 minutes. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by majority vote with thirty-nine in favor.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated there are changes that amendments need to be made to previously approved minutes of February 27, 2023, and March 13, 2023, these items will be voted on in the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- Secretary Dysart stated it is news to her that past minutes can be reconsidered, and it would be helpful if changes can be shared in advance of the next Senate meeting because minutes have already been approved.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated these items will be delayed until the next Faculty Senate meeting to ensure everyone can view needed amendments to the minutes and vote up or down.

4. **OPEN SESSION: STATEMENTS AT THE PODIUM ON ANY TOPIC, LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES – MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SPEAKERS IS FOUR, NO DISCUSSION IS PERMITTED, AND NO VOTES WILL BE TAKEN.** (00:33:14)

   **Open Session Statement: Senator M. Witte (00:18:42)**

   We are pleased to announce a new initiative to provide awards to undergraduates across all campus colleges for original, innovative student generated research projects. Based on discussions at the Faculty Senate several years ago, RII has granted our office $15,000 per year for the next 5 years for undergraduates to pursue their own research questions with faculty mentors of their choice. 10-15 awardees per year will be competitively selected by a cross-campus multidisciplinary committee to receive $1000-1500 each, which can be used for stipend, travel, supplies or equipment, and may be supplemented by additional funds if promising progress is made. An Annual Forum will be held to report progress, and awardees will be expected to join a larger Questioning Student community in a campuswide “Questionarium” setting.

   The first early bird application deadline is May 27th for Year 1 and in January of each subsequent year. Application forms with specific instructions will be available next week.

   **Open Session Statement: Senator R. Witte (00:21:01)**

   I think I am not the only one that believes that the proceedings here in the Faculty Senate are broken and need improvement. From the Parliamentarian procedures to Consent Agendas showing up that are possibly not consent, and more. I am interested in solving problems so I would like to introduce three ideas.

   The first thing is, I went to the website at ASU and Nau and started looking at their Bylaws and Constitution. The
first thing I noticed is, our website is third world. ASU defines Shared Governance from Administration to maintain a State-of-the-Art website, it is included in the bullets. I am going to call on all of us to redo the website. There are broken links, we can’t find things, there are old Bylaws and new Bylaws. Another recommendation includes travel to other Faculty Senates to see how things are done.

The second recommendation is based on ASU and NAU who both have Faculty Senate committees overseeing all curricular affairs and assessments. ASU has twenty elected senators, one from each unit which meets regularly to deal with all aspects of new academic units, etcetera. NAU has a learning council of four elected senators and is the conduit to their University committee which is also required to have Senator representation. We don’t have a Faculty Senate committee overseeing this.

The third recommendation refers to Senator Sleipn’s email from March 22, 2023 where he created a blueprint for evaluating programs. A few things on the list which should be looked at includes a pros and cons analysis cost benefit for any proposals, as quickly and early in process as possible. The list also includes inner connectivity, cross program enrichment, impact to University, community risk liability, and a data room where information can be shared. There is no way to upload documents, a folder has been requested to share information with other Senators. There is opportunity for response and redress once a vote is taken, this should be revisited.

Open Session Statement: Senator Schulz (00:23:41)

I am speaking on behalf of my role as the Dean’s Representative to Senate. On March 27, 2023, this body held a special meeting regarding the resignation of the General Faculty Committee on University Safety for All. After remarks by the committee co-chairs, the Senate Vice Chair welcomed comments from invited guests.

Dean of Science, Carmala Garzione shared thoughts that I wish to underscore on behalf of my fellow Deans. Dean Garzione thanked the Faculty Committee for its hard work and dedication. She noted that both the work of that committee and President Robbins’s decision to commission an investigation by the PAX group had the shared motivation of increasing safety and security. Dean Garzione concluded by stating “what I would really love to see is people working together to make this campus safer.” The University’s twenty academic Deans, who are charged with leading colleges on Main Campus as well as in Phoenix, Sierra Vista, and ORO Valley are steadfastly committed to the shared goal of working together and making the University safer. We are unwavering in our collective focus on this critical issue.

In addition to regular meetings with the Provost, the Deans meet independently once a month. Our Dean’s only meeting last Thursday was devoted to sharing perceptions within our diverse colleges, regarding safety and security. We then began to compile a list of measures we have taken unilaterally within our colleges, as we await implementation of the recommendations in the PAX report. We as leaders of the academic units that compromise the University, look forward to working together with the University leadership, the Faculty Senate, and all our campus partners, constituents, and stakeholders on any and all measures to make our campus safer in the broadest possible sense. Moreover, we acknowledge that success in doing so depends on a climate of mutual trust. We look forward to continuing to do all we can as Deans to foster and sustain such a climate. We encourage you to contact your Dean and college leadership for any thoughts, ideas, and or concerns you have as we move forward together.

Our thoughts continue to be with Dr. Meixner and his family, his colleagues, students, and all of those whose lives were touched and shaped by this remarkable human being.

Comment (00:26:14)

- Vice Chair Hymel stated one aspect of the March 27, 2023 minutes that were approved were that they would be disseminated to the leadership because during the meeting, there were various questions asked and ideas stated throughout the meeting. Vice Chair Hymel stated she would like to ensure President Robbins has a copy of the minutes as there was a lot of discussion. Vice Chair Hymel stated to Senator R. Witte’s comment about the website, there was work done to start improving the website.

5. **STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT ROBBINS** (00:27:46)

- President Robbins stated he would like to thank Chair Hudson to allow him to share several timely updates regarding Campus Safety Initiatives and the future engagement with everyone. He has had several meetings on a daily basis over the past couple of weeks, with members of the Faculty Senate, both on a one-on-one basis and in small groups. There have been over fifty conversations which have been centered on the recently released PAX report on Safety and Security and other topics of interest. He has listened intently, taking notes, learning a great deal, and he is inspired by the conversations. While individual priorities and concerns may vary, one thing is clear: faculty want to make the University better and are eager to roll up their sleeves to drive improvement together. He wants to thank everyone who has met with him including the Faculty Senate leadership who has paved the way for productive interactions in ongoing follow-ups.

- There were two items he asked about including what the analysis was of the Faculty Senate Safety for All Report and the PAX report. The second question was how he can, as the President of the University, rebuild the broken trust to bring everyone together and move forward as Dean Schulz discussed. He is committed to doing so and
based on discussion, it is a shared aspirational goal of moving forward together. There will be a lot of work to rebuild the broken trust. In addition to meeting with all Senators, it is his goal to meet with all elected or appointed Shared Governance representatives including all members of SPBAC and the Committee of Eleven and to follow his gut in decisions that affect the University. He has been too defocused from conversations on campus and there is nothing more important than the faculty as they are the reasons the students attend the University, the Staff assist with completing jobs better.

- President Robbins stated he is committed to going to every department within the University as he said six years ago, to participate in Faculty meetings to hear concerns, comments, and directions, but also to be involved in the happenings in the University. Although he has good sense, it is important to go to the fundamental academic units of the University to hear direction from the faculty and he looks forward to it. There will be many more opportunities for discussion which he looks forward to. There will be a lot of other measures taken outside of formal meetings.

- There is a lot to report and there will be more after the report in Faculty Senate. Following the receipt of the PAX report two weeks ago, there has been intent focus on the thirty-three recommendations including addressing any related actions that may be necessary to enhance safety and security for the University. As previously shared, an important first step in coordinating safety initiatives across the campus community was the creation of the position of Chief Safety Officer who reports directly to the President. President Robbins stated he is pleased that Steve Patterson who has twenty-five years of experience as an FBI veteran, has agreed to serve in the role in an interim capacity in advance of a national search and he has begun in his new role. There is an opportunity for faculty involvement in the new search and he looks forward to working with the Faculty Senate leadership as a search committee is formed.

- President Robbins stated he has made the decision to move the University of Arizona Police Department from its current reporting structure within Business Affairs, to the new Chief Safety Officer. The move is effective May 1, 2023. This best aligns with Safety and Security objectives and will enable specialized support for UAPD. He informed UAPD colleagues of his decision earlier in the day and is confident that this change will result in enhanced safety for the entire community, which is the primary goal. The new reporting structure will elevate safety operations and enable the University to better coordinate and streamline all communications and responses.

- Community safety extends well beyond campus units and organizational structures therefore there will be a new Safety Advisory Commission. The Commission will be comprised of community members and campus representatives including Faculty members who served on the General Faculty Committee on Safety for All. There are three individuals in that committee who he has sent out requests, asking them to serve on the new commission. The commission will directly advise Steve Patterson as he oversees implementation of the PAX report recommendations. As everyone understands, it will be important to hear from a variety of constituents and incorporate those voices into collaborative actions.

- President Robbins stated he would like to thank the members of the Campus Safety Advisory Commission who have agreed to offer their time, talent, and commitment to this important work. When he meets with the committee to apologize for his actions, he also heard from many people that they were very tired but would work together to assist with the Campus Safety Security plan and he is grateful.

- There is continued engagement with the PAX group as they have committed to assisting with the development of a campus-wide master facility plan. The continued access to the national experts is appreciated. Operating nimbly and efficiently within the University and across the campus landscape will be critical, especially in moments of urgency or emergency. There has been an establishment of a proven internal operating structure which can be relied on.

- The Incident Command System (ICS) structure provided its value and improved its worth through the pandemic as the University was able to navigate the difficulties and complexities by COVID-19. This is to ensure student learning is continuously enabled, faculty and staff work is accommodated, and the needs of the community are met. This includes through the establishment and operation of the campus vaccination pod on the UA Mall which delivered more than a quarter of a million shots to community members. The ICS framework involves representation, representatives from across the University who serve specific roles were pressure tested and refined through the pandemic. It passed unexpected tests with flying colors and remains in place to address emergent challenges and needs as necessary.

- In concert with Steve Patterson and senior leadership, the ICS Team will now be on point to address and track progress with implementing PAX reports, recommendations, and other safety related items deemed necessary. ICS has already been activated for this purpose, there have been established weekly meetings, and soon there will be regular, live streamed briefings which were popular and used during the pandemic to provide updates and answers to questions from across campus in media audiences. President Robbins stated he looks forward to participating in those briefings.

- ICS is currently developing timelines to address the PAX finding and the Faculty Senate’s Committee input regarding the following: physical and environmental changes, university crisis response, communication, other
The Threat Assessment Management Team was among the subjects addressed by the PAX Group report. It demands more focused attention and bolstering. The TAMT will have direct input into an ongoing connection with the Incident Command System via the Chief Safety Officer. In recent weeks, specific actions related to TAMT have been taken, the TAMT Charter has been established. Dr. Gene Deisinger, a renowned psychologist, behavioral threat assessment, and management expert has been retained as a consultant for all threat assessment matters. Multi-day threat assessment training for TAMT members has been conducted. In collaboration with Dr. Deisinger, the TAMT has established an assessment process to efficiently intake, review, and mitigate incoming threats. Weekly meetings are being held to ensure effective and continued TAMT communications. Work is underway to obtain a new case management system for TAMT to use to improve tracking and monitoring of referral to their committee. Efforts are underway to identify and hire a full-time TAMT Chair, and full-time Case Manager. These will be outside individuals with established records and expertise in threat, assessment, and management.

There are several physical enhancements that will be undertaken, along with new programming and information. Locks are being installed on all centrally and non-centrally scheduled classroom doors. There is a targeted completion August 13, 2023, before the start of the Fall semester. There will be classroom emergency posters that detail procedures on how to lock the doors and other emergency instructions will be posted in all classrooms. Exterior, keyless access will be funded and completed on twenty-eight remaining buildings, as soon as possible. This will allow the campus to be locked down from one central location, within one minute. Buttons are being installed in several high traffic areas within the colleges and student areas. Active shooter training has been made available via Edge Learning effective March 25, 2023. A campus-wide emergency training drill is being planned for Fall 2023. President Robbins stated within the six years he has been at the University of Arizona, he can only recall one training drill and it was at night, it could have been a more coordinated, and campus-wide drill. AEDs and “Stop the Bleed Kits” will be installed in all campus buildings. Emergency information will be added to all Fall class syllabi for student awareness. Emergency messaging board installation for additional classrooms is under discussion. Standardization of campus-wide camera ownership, maintenance, and access is being reviewed.

While making changes for the future, it is important to never forget those who were directly impacted by the October 5, 2022 tragedy and the loss of Dr. Tom Meixner. In that regard, there are a few updates. The College of Science and the College of Engineering are funding counseling services through CAPS, copays for Graduate and Undergraduate students in the Department of Hydrology of Atmospheric Sciences, and Engineering Departments, in the Harshbarger Building through December 2023. Students who received assistance for mental health needs not covered by CAPS can apply to the Student Emergency Fund administered by the Dean of Students who are aware of prioritizing these applications as grant exceptions; there is a $750 maximum payment if needed. Multiple case management services are being offered to impacted Hydrology Faculty, Staff, Students, and Engineering employees. While CAPS has provided case management services to students, it is expanding its services to their employees as well. Among the case management providers being offered, there is a Phoenix based firm that offers services to employees who have experiences trauma or crisis. Additionally, there has been a contract with a Victim’s Advocate to provide services to University employees. There is also a contract with an experienced Victim Services professional to provide training to Faculty supervisors, department heads, and senior leadership on how to support individuals who have experiences trauma and crisis.

Vice Chair Hymel stated she exercises her right to grant President Robbins an additional five minutes.

All matters are very important. Presidential Events is arranging for two near term forums/townhall meetings to discuss campus safety which he will be in attendance. One will be for staff in coordination with the University Staff Council, and one is for students in coordination with ASUA. All steps are only the beginning, and the work will continue.

President Robbins stated he knows he covered a lot of ground with the update and greatly appreciates the additional five minutes. A lot of the update is focused on physical issues, but one thing that was present in conversations with many individuals, is that the way to move forward and have a safer campus is if everyone commits to working together and communications. President Robbins stated in the case of Thomas Meixner’s killing, and all the reports and conversations he has had, communication was a huge problem that was failed upon. There are other things he looks forward to discussing regarding changes that will occur in the future.

- Senator Ziurys stated President Robbins addressed a lot of the safety issues but him to address the trust issues and fears of retaliation that have been occurring. (00:45:56)
- President Robbins stated in the past couple of months, and more refined in the last couple of weeks, there were not just safety issues but also safety issues. Topics should be discussed for each topic such as the furlough, UAGC, and many other things he has had many positive discussions about. Discussion can occur in formal meetings, committees, or other venues and he looks forward to sharing more in the coming weeks of changes, these are necessary to rebuild the trust on campus.
Senator Zeiders stated many of the President’s comments and ideas focus on more consulting from experts with police backgrounds and FBI backgrounds and asked what his plans are for involving individual faculty in these plans as this is a concern to many in the campus community.

President Robbins stated when looking at how the pandemic was addressed, there are portals of entry and ICS is only a structure to centralize all discussions taking place. When looking back at the pandemic, there was a large group of domain experts from Public Health, Joe Gerald and Kacey Ernst, who would meet regularly with him and ICS to discuss fast moving topics related to the pandemic. There were also a group of basic scientists, immunologists, virology, and experts who met regularly, oftentimes twice a week for an hour or more. All those items funneled into ICS and the same thing may happen here. ICS will not be doing all the work but will be collating and organizing the work to ensure it is all in one repository. There will be many opportunities for committees that the Chair can appoint, and all of those things can funnel in through ICS so there is coordination across campus, to implement the safety plan.

6. Statement from the Chair of the Faculty, Leila Hudson (00:49:29)

- President Robbins stated he is committed to ensuring that if there is any retaliation, which he hopes there is not, there will be swift action for response and accountability. President Robbins stated as discussed in the last Faculty Senate meeting, retaliation can have many forms and he is committed to working with everyone across the University to respond to and foster a fair and just culture that he hopes will allow for open communication so everyone can work together and rebuild trust. President Robbins stated when he was at Texas Medical Center, there was an institute established for the training and best practices as there was a focus on hospital and K-12 shooting environments. Since he left, the individuals who have carried on that work, contacted him to ask if there is any interest coming to work with the UA to ask the faculty to focus their expertise on threat management, the science, research, and actions of threat management. This is something he would like to take more time to discuss in the future. Threat assessment and management from protecting privacy and civil liberties, to action is one that is an area where there is a lot of opportunity for scholarship work while informing those of the plan going forward.

- Chair Hudson stated she would like to reclaim some of her time to share her prepared statement and stated threat assessment is very important Chair Hudson stated if changes are not forthcoming in policy and oversight in the academic domain, many are fearing the risk of soft and hard retaliation. Chair Hudson stated she would like to remind everyone of the needs of the Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences in terms of getting their space issues settled, things like this are part of the parcel of moving forward.

- Chair Hudson stated regarding the iSchool, appropriate risk management for big structural changes requires faculty governance review, and due diligence. Chair Hudson stated she wants UArizona to have the world’s best iSchool as soon as possible and the iSchool staff and faculty are the basis and foundation for that. If the responsibility as the Faculty Senate is shrunk, to ask questions and demand answers on difficult questions, no one else will ask them. There was no faculty consideration of the iSchool proposal before it came to the Senate. Outside of the iSchool faculty, an important group of senators are fine with that, but it cuts at the heart of a Shared Governance, faculty strong university. It eliminates a critical opportunity for review and improvement. Chair Hudson stated even after another week of asking questions with the Presidential attention attached, she still doesn’t know what the effect of the iSchool departure will mean for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS). Chair Hudson asked what happens when there is a fifteen-million-dollar pillar taken out of a struggling seventy-million-dollar structure and stated it does not help. It doesn’t help that no one will speak about this, more specifically the Dean of Finance of SBS, now promoted to the Vice President of Finance in March 2023 who refuses to answer questions. If the fundamental shift from SBS to a standalone iSchool bases its potential on unexamined, international partnerships, entities called “Kozybayev University, Great Learning, BYJU” and others who are unnamed. There needs to be written agreements of those agreements. Chair Hudson asked why the senior leadership spending is so much of its time, in this critical time, in Kazakhstan as it doesn’t help that those who promise radical transparency are not providing it. If the iSchool proposal were a dissertation or grant application, there would be a requirement to revise and resubmit the application to remedy any remaining confusion. In strong Shared Governance, the work and pressure that has been put in, is not the job of the Review Board and it is the Faculty Senate’s job to review, repute, approve, or deny.
Vice Chair Hymel stated Chair Hudson’s time is up and it is now time to move onto the next agenda item which is the iSchool.

7. Old Business

A. New Academic Unit – iSchool – iSchool Director, Catherine Brooks (00:57:34)

- Vice Chair Hymel stated as the discussion for the iSchool begins, there was a motion on the floor that was not voted on in the previous meeting and she would like to request Parliamentarian’s guidance for how to proceed.

- Parliamentarian Stegeman stated the item was still on the floor because there was an item in process at the time of adjournment, with no disposition, it should be picked up where left off.

- Chair Hudson moved [Motion 2022/23-93] to withdraw the previous motion by unanimous consent. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

- Chair Hudson asked to propose an alternative motion. Chair Hudson moved [Motion 2022/23-94] to decline to approve the iSchool proposal as submitted to the Faculty Senate to create a new standalone academic unit college, until such time, as the proposal is resubmitted with the substantive answers to the queries conveyed, most recently on April 9, 2023, to President Robbins, the motion should be voted on by secret ballot vote. Motion was seconded.

- President Robbins stated he did have his hand raised and he was going to make a comment.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated she will go back to recognizing Chair Hudson to explain her motion before she recognizes others.

- Chair Hudson stated she would like to initiate debate on why the iSchool proposal should be approved when there are many outstanding questions.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated she will recognize President Robbins if he has a comment for debate.

- President Robbins stated he was going to respond to the end of Chair Hudson’s statement regarding the agreements which he knows have been requested, they are public documents, and he is unsure who is supposed to give them, but those documents can be provided.

- Chair Hudson stated her motion is based on the amount of discourse and confusion that has been circulating, her motion is that the iSchool append those agreements as well as all other answers in a single document that would be resubmitted to the Senate.

- Senator Casey stated she does not support the motion and it is Senate’s last meeting before ABOR visits the University of Arizona on April 19-21, 2023. More information about the iSchool can continue to be asked for, but the iSchool has put in a lot of effort to answer questions and follow the existing processes. The proposal is supported by the iSchool faculty and signed off by the Dean of SBS and other administrators. She look at the question document that was shared with President Robbins, there seems to be repetitive questions about the financial and budgetary implications of the iSchool for the College of SBS. If impacts to the remaining SBS departments and impacts to competing units are the basis for opposition to the proposal, it raises interesting questions about the Senate processes for considering proposals when computing interests are involved. Senator Casey stated she would hope to see the motion defeated and would like to see the iSchool approved without any delay.

- Senator Ziurys stated she has trouble supporting the iSchool proposal for what she believes is “simple common sense,” due to its financials which will require twenty new administrative positions of which seven may be completely new. The positions are high-level with large salaries attached. The University should set its financial house in order before it supports new costly initiative such as this one. Senator Ziurys stated this can be compared to building the fifty-second floor of a building when the foundation is rotting, and it is difficult to see that other colleges are being starved when more money needs to be put into the foundation. RPC requested a five percent return on overhead which was approved by the Senate but not by the Provost who stated she needed money for other strategic projects, which the iSchool may be a part of. It would be beneficial to receive the five percent before other initiatives are supported. Another financial issue is the furlough money; a few million per year would be beneficial to pay back the furloughs. There is also the question regarding collaboration with Kazakhstan who is heavily aligned with Russia and the University in question is in the pro-Russia part of the country. Senator Ziurys stated she understands UArizona is to receive money from them in exchange for educating their students and is worried where the money is coming from and what students will do with their education in the long-term. Assumptions beforehand have been naïve such as Ashford which was supposed to be a money-making activity and then became a link for people cheating students. Senator Ziurys stated she worries that this will be damaging to the University’s reputation in the long-term. There is concern about academic excellence, students who cannot handle courses in Computer Science go to the iSchool where they can pass them. Senator Ziurys asked if this is lowering academic standards. There is difficulty in supporting a proposal when individuals state there was hard work and due diligence done, therefore, there needs to be approval.
Senator Ziurys stated a proposal stands based on its own merit and it is presumptuous to think that because people do due diligence, it is a good proposal.

- Senator Spece asked if the Senate needs to approve the action of the iSchool. Senator Spece stated there are many laws that bear on the decision and there should be Senate approval to remain inline with the integrity of the Faculty Senate. Senator Spece stated he resents how the iSchool has come before the Senate and gone through a charade of asking for approval while Senators have read reams of documents.

- Senator Cui stated she is speaking on behalf of herself as a faculty member in the iSchool and is offended by the comment stating students who do not do well in the College of Science go to the iSchool because that is untrue. Senator Cui stated she feels strongly about the iSchool being independent based on her experience as the Chair of the Search Committee, there are two positions open in data science and there are one-hundred-forty-four applications. There are young students who have published in Nature and Science applying for the iSchool, but they cannot be accepted because there are not enough resources and not enough space. There are six-hundred applications for the Master of Science program who cannot be accepted because there are not enough faculty members to teach them. Faculty want Senators to approve the iSchool proposal and there have been documents submitted and questioned answered. Senator Cui stated she understands Senators want further details, but it is right for the iSchool Faculty to ask for an up or down vote.

- Senator M. Witte stated the argument opposing the motion is the “kick the can down the road” and she would propose another metaphor which is “pausing a potential runaway train, getting it back to the station, and in the right direction.” There have been several page-long emails requesting approval for the proposal although it shouldn’t be approved because there has been no precedent for an academic unit such as a department becoming a campus at the UArizona. The process started with the Faculty Senate and committees haven’t completed examination. Regarding the perils and promises such as AI publicly recognized, included finding references and articles, there is a great matter of great public concern and all individuals and experts on campus should be involved in creating such an iSchool.

- Senator Downing stated discussion shows the strength of Shared Governance where many at-large individuals are evaluating a proposal that may or not affect Senators. Senator Downing stated he supports the other recommendations which suggest the proposal is not ready and part of the responsibility falls back on the Deans who should’ve reviewed this more carefully and imagined potential questions. Senator Downing stated there is value in deliberation and in no way is disrespect being shown by denying the proposal and it is disingenuous to bring students into the matter. Senator Downing stated there is a question on if an individual has a degree from a college versus a department or school, what value does it have for students graduating when they start applying for jobs.

- Senator R. Witte stated regardless of the outcome, he will demand oversight, expanded conversation, educating people, and better integration with other units. He reached out to dozens of faculty, including senior and junior faculty in six different colleges, for those who he visited, he tried not to predispose information shared and others contacted him including individuals in the local community. There was a letter shared by Chair Hudson which was from a PhD graduate who works in virtual reality and learning in Tucson, the individual gave feedback to the iSchool group. There is a question of whether the iSchool should become a standalone college, most iSchools (about fifty-four) are not standalone colleges. An AI expert and faculty member at the University of Arizona addressed the matter with their personal judgement, “The benefits of this organizational change to the University are not clear to me. Many units are situated in colleges and engage in interdisciplinary study across colleges, specifically in the area of focused data science. There are many interconnections all over the University and as I understand it, this will increase administrative cost and not increase the number of faculty in the unit. Many iSchools are home to significant interdisciplinary work, and are situated in colleges, not free-standing colleges, such as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It does not seem to diminish their ability to engage in interdisciplinary work. Finally, alternatives for interdisciplinary in this area were considered and I couldn’t find anything, I mean, UC Berkeley, the division of computing science, and data science is almost universal, and integrated into the iSchools. It seems to be lacking here.” Senator R. Witte stated he believes in conjunction with the Faculty senate and the at-large constituents are represented, there can be dramatic improvements to the proposal to put it on a world stage much more quickly, and possibly get infusion ahead of time. People stated this should be a one-hundred-million-dollar proposal with commitments to create a college which is backwards, a delay is the right thing to do.

- Chair Hudson stated she there is a suggestion to allow Director Catherine Brooks to speak if she wishes to.

- Senator M. Witte raised a point of order and moved [Motion 2022/23-95] to end discussion and begin voting on Chair Hudson’s motion, to remain within the timeframe. Motion was seconded.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated the motion on the iSchool is to be voted on by secret ballot.

- [Motion 2022/23-95] for cloture passed with thirty-seven in favor, eight opposed, and one abstention.

- Senator Fink raised a point of order and asked the Parliamentarian how a two-thirds vote is interpreted.

- Parliamentarian Stegeman the two-thirds vote is two-thirds of the Senators present, which is a present.
Discussion has ended and it is now time for a vote.

- Senator Downing raised a point of order and asked if there can be proceeding on the agenda while the votes for the secret ballot are being cast.
- Parliamentarian Stegeman stated the answer is yes, but it is ultimately up to the Vice Chair.
- **[Motion 2022/23-94]** to decline to approve the iSchool proposal as submitted to the Faculty Senate to create a new standalone academic unit college, until such time, as the proposal is resubmitted with the substantive answers to the queries conveyed, most recently on April 9, 2023, to President Robbins, the motion should be voted on by secret ballot vote. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by secret ballot vote with twenty-seven in favor, twenty-three opposed, and two abstentions.
  - Senator Cui stated she does not believe there is a clear definition for the “no vote” as there was discussion in the Zoom chat.
  - Parliamentarian Stegeman stated the “no vote” means the Senate is taking no action, and it is where it was when the meeting started.

B. DEI Resolution – Chair Hudson (01:24:03)

- “We, the elected members of the faculty senate at the University of Arizona, unequivocally oppose the State of Arizona’s proposed SB1694. By banning all the concepts listed in this bill, the legislators are attempting to legalize censorship. Simply put, this bill infringes on freedom of speech and our civil rights and liberties. We see the bill as unconstitutional because it violates The First Amendment right of academic freedom, free speech, and freedom of expression. Academic Freedom and Free Speech as enshrined in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights’s article 19 guarantees everyone the “Right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” This means embracing and not limiting or hindering the range of viewpoints, facts and knowledge heard. The bill not only impinges on our ability to investigate, invent, discover and to give account but also infringes our right to publish, teach, and research in and outside the classroom without interference or fear of reprisal. We therefore implore the senior leadership team to join us in defending our right to follow truth and explore the world of ideas unfettered by political, social, racial, and religious repression, censorship, or sanction without fear of punishment or retaliation. Censorship is the opposite of liberty, and this is precisely what this bill seeks to do. Therefore, we oppose it without qualification. It is an extremely dangerous precedent to set.”
- The Senate DEI committee asks for support in the following resolution and seconded motion **[Motion 2022/23-95]**:
  
  “We, the elected members of the faculty senate at the University of Arizona, support legislation that prevents discrimination toward individuals and groups based on group membership.

  However, we, the members of the faculty senate, do not support legislation that prohibits scholarship, instruction, and programs on the UArizona campus that seek to understand, promote and maintain our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

  Instead, we the faculty senate, support the following:

  1. Programs that help campus employees to understand DEI and how to promote and maintain it on campus
  2. The creation of positions and the hiring of individuals whose duties include coordinating, creating, developing, designing, implementing, organizing, planning or promoting diversity, equity and inclusion programs.
  3. The expenditure of public funds to support the above programs and individuals
  4. The academic freedom to pursue scholarship, research and teaching on the following:

  a) any theory of unconscious or implicit bias, cultural appropriation, allyship, transgenderism, microaggressions, microinvalidation, group marginalization, anti-racism, systemic oppression, ethnocentrism, structural racism or inequity, ableism, social justice, intersectionality, neopronouns, inclusive language, heteronormativity, disparate impact, gender identity or theory, racial or sexual privilege or or any concept substantially related to any of these theories.
C. Questions from Faculty Senators re UITS consolidation and cyber security – Chief Information Officer, Barry Brummund (01:34:00)

- Senator Ottusch asked a question on behalf of a constituent “Funding agencies (NIH, NSF, USDA) are increasingly pushing back against funding computer resources (e.g., personal devices, servers, storage) that have previously been included in research proposal budgets. They argue that Universities get indirect funds on top of the research costs which are expected to fund research infrastructure. How will RII and UITS address ongoing research and computing needs?”
  
  o CIO Barry Brummund stated the University is capped, the facilities and administrative (F&A) rate that the University of Arizona has is a two-part piece. There is a facilities piece and administrative piece. The information technology equipment and services to support research will largely fall into the administrative piece at which the University of Arizona is already at the cap. There can be facilities related opportunities to modify the F&A rate, but he is unsure if there are many opportunities to modify the A part of the rate. The ability to modify the F&A rate at the University as it related to Information Technology is suspected to be limited.

  o Senator Ottusch stated reading from the question, he imagines part of it is storage.

  o Senator Zeiders stated she doesn’t know that the question was answered but there are additional questions from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) constituents.

- Senator Downing stated in March 2023, Senators heard the Chief of Information officer stated the proposed changes were in response to the 2018 Auditor General’s Performance Audit, although a group of Senators looked at the public record and that is not what is shown. In 2018, a simulated security attack was made on UArizona, NAU, ASU, and the Board of Regents. Security controls slowed simulated attacks, and vulnerabilities to allow unauthorized access were found. The Auditor General made eighty-five institution-specific recommendations in 2018 and there was a follow up review in 2022. The Auditor reported that ABOR, NAU, and ASU were implementing sixty-two of the recommendations. The University of Arizona was asked to improve its IT Task Assessment and they were given twenty-three recommendations. Twelve were reported in progress, five have been implemented, and six were still not implemented. After four years and two more reviews, the Auditor General (AG) stated the University of Arizona refused to provide “an outline of plan or estimated timeframe for implementing those remaining six recommendations.” It was a refusal, an outline, and a timeline. The AG concluded that “we do not see any further benefit in continuing to follow up with the University of Arizona, therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this report concludes its follow up work with the University.” Essentially the University of Arizona passed the issue of non-compliance and failure to meet security requirements of the legislatures. Several individuals have reviewed the AG’s recommendations and find no reference at all to centralization, and moving to a predominant cloud base, there are concerns about savings. There is a remaining concern for system vulnerability. Senator Downing stated he and other individuals are disappointed that of the AG’s eighty-five recommendations to ASU, NAU, and UAArizona, UITS was the only campus to fail in the entire state, leaving room for risk. The regents must make resolving the unfinished homework, a priority for President Robbins, which he only gets about three to four a year. There has been exposure to potential discussion of the Board of Regents and Legislative scrutiny. The CIO tried to disguise underlying issues by distracting the entire campus into a discussion of proposed scheme when “he hadn’t finished first homework.”

- Senator Zeiders stated her acknowledgement for her CALS colleagues who worked very hard in advocating on UITS. As Senators know, there has been a switch to a new budget model, from RCM to AIB. With changes to
AIB, there has been a significant drain in college budgets. The funds are being taken from colleges and put into central administration with most of it going to the Provost Strategic Funding Initiative which includes money to non-income generating units such as RII and UITS. Senator Ziurys stated her question is simple and asked if RII and UITS will help meet the research computing costs and if there can be specifics regarding how the amount used will offset cost.

- CIO Brummund stated the funding model on how to implement the Information Security improvements has not been fully drafted because there are underlying requirements for managing equipment and patching servers which have not been fully identified. The first step in the three-year process is to inventory all existing equipment at the University of Arizona. There are more than 20,000 servers being run by campus IT units today. Each server requires regular patch management. UITS is in the middle of a follow-up process ranging from now until the end of April to work out plans with individual campus IT units for their implementation plans for patch management of all servers.

- Senator Russell stated she is a climate modeler; supercomputer is her primary tool and research computing is her life blood. She is deeply concerned that a cost benefit analysis on the website shows what is received and what it costs. Security is a tax on productivity, and it will cut into research productivity whether time is spent on computer engineering or being offered systems that are not adequate, appropriate, innovative or competitive to complete tasks. Senator Russell stated she does not know of any major research university that is proposing to tell their research scientists what they are able to propose to the National Science Foundation in terms of software or hardware. Senator Russell asked where she can find the cost benefit analysis, how much security is needed, is centralization required, and why this is the best solution. Normally when she thinks of compliance issues with audit results, she thinks of not being perfectly secure but being slightly more secure than competitors. She is not seeing any effort to mitigate the cost of research and the cost of innovation in the fastest growing area of research on campus. Senator Russell stated she would like to see the cost benefit analysis, and how the tax on innovation and tax on productivity will be handled because she will be the one paying for it.

- CIO Brummund stated there is a component that he and Senator Russell have had the opportunity to work on and appreciates their discussion last week. He had an opportunity to speak with twenty-two faculty members about the requirements from the State from 2018 and those conversations were helpful. CIO Brummund stated Senator Downing mentioned there was push back from the University of Arizona regarding the Auditor General response which is true. At the time, the University of Arizona was implementing a risk-based approach which includes applying the most risk mitigation, which is typically the highest cost set of approaches, which are judged to be the largest risks at the University. The concerns from the Auditor General’s response were because UITS was seeking to complete exactly what Senator Russell is calling for. There was no success in the counter negotiation, there was a requirement for there to be full implementation, not to take a risk-based, cost minimizing, and effort and research impact approach. This was not something the University of Arizona proposed to do voluntarily, it was something that the State requested via in 2018. When they returned, they audited campus units and IT, they did not accept the risk-based approach and asked for full implementation for the entirety of the University. CIO Brummund stated Senator Russell shared thoughts particularly regarding research on the past Friday which would be helpful to share with the Board and the State so that the University of Arizona may implement these ideas. The differential risk that has resulted from some activities is profoundly different, there is very little risk related to work which is already public, and there is a tremendous amount of risk related to work which is highly regulated. This was the fundamental premise of the response to the AG but was not accepted, with Senator Russell’s assistance, it may be possible to negotiate an alternative.

- Senator Russell stated she would be delighted because it wasn’t implemented similarly at ASU or NAU and would be thrilled to get through to Board of Regents and Legislatures from a research perspective as this will be costly in dollars, students, and innovation. Charging a costly tax on innovation, productivity, and even thrift creates a setback for becoming the new Silicon Valley in Southern Arizona. She is a big fan of UITS and how well HPC works and is willing to assist.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated the time on the item is expired and discussion will not continue, perhaps there can be discussion outside of the Faculty Senate meeting with regards to moving forward.

- Senator Ziurys raised a point of order and asked Vice Chair Hymel whether she is stating the item will not be placed on the agenda again.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated she believes it can be placed back on the agenda but CIO Brummund doesn’t want to be on the agenda forever and this may be something to think about moving forward.

- Senator Ziurys stated she believes this is an important issue which several individuals have pointed out, and it is puzzling that NAU and ASU were able to handle the issue in different matters, without centralization and a massive reorganization.

- Vice Chair Hymel moved [Motion 2022/23-96] to allow item 7B: Athletics Update – Faculty Athletics
Representative, Ricardo Valerdi to be the next agenda item. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

8. New Business
A. Athletics Update – Faculty Athletics Representative, Ricardo Valerdi
   • Faculty Athletics Representative, Ricardo Valerdi stated he would like to give a shout out to Bill Neumann, Roy Spece, Lehman Benson, George Gehrels, and Christine Salvesen who are faculty and administrators on the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee which is the Oversight Committee he is a part of.
   • The Student Athletes broke another record for the Overall GPA of the semester, which was a 3.3 GPA, the highest it has ever been. The football team reached the highest GPA for the Fall 2022 semester in their history. There is a positive trend in Student Athlete GPA.
   • Faculty Athletics Representative, Ricardo Valerdi stated he is a faculty member in the College of Engineering and spends about half of his time working with athletics in terms of academic eligibility, compliance, and collaboration. If there are any questions, he is happy to be the conduit.
   • A major highlight presented in the news was that the University of Arizona was up for review on NCAA violations which were completed through an Independent Accountability Review process. After about four years, the process is now complete. There were infractions and consequences given and the University is responding accordingly. In comparison to other Universities, infractions related to men's basketball and other topics were similar.
   • PAC-12 partners including USC and UCLA are leaving the conference and joining the Big Ten Conference. UArizona is in the final stages of the PAC-12 which is most likely going to become the PAC-10 soon, there is negotiation of a media contract which will determine if the conference stays with its current members or decides to expand and add new members to the conference.
   • A massive additional benefit includes an academic award of $5,980 given to eligible student athletes. This is a result of the Austin versus NCAA Supreme Court decision which gives student athletes the ability to receive such academic awards. The award is given on an annual basis and includes academic eligibility requirements.
   • There is a new sport which will begin in Fall 2023, this is the twenty-second sport on campus and is the Women's triathlon. There has been a head coach hired who is recruiting female student athletes to compete nationally. This sport is beneficial to the conference.
   • In terms of compliance, Faculty members should never be contacted by a Coach or Athletic Staff Member. The only exception is someone from compliance or C.A.T.S. Academics. Another exception would be a student visit which would limit conversations about academic offerings.
B. Sustainability and Climate Action Plan – Director, Office of Sustainability, Trevor Ledbetter, and co-Chair, Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, Sabrina Helm
   • The University of Arizona has launched its first ever Sustainability and Climate Action Plan process. There will be an event on April 11, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Health Sciences Innovation Building for those who are able to attend, would like to learn about the process, and see a timeline over the next six to eight months. The meeting will be live in-person and via Zoom and there will be a recording available after the event. More information can be found at the website: sustainability.arizona.edu/climate-action

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

• Vice Chair Hymel stated for those unable to present, those agenda items will roll over to the next meeting.

Tessa Dysart, Secretary of the Faculty Jasmin Espino, Recording Secretary

Motions of the April 10, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting
[Motion 2022/23-90] to adopt the April 10, 2023 Agenda with the amendment to adjourn at 5:00 PM. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with twenty-six in favor, eight opposed and two abstentions.
[Motion 2022/23-91] to adopt an updated agenda with the friendly amendment to adjourn at 5:00 PM. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
[Motion 2022/23-92] to approve the March 27, 2023 minutes. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by majority vote with thirty-nine in favor.
[Motion 2022/23-93] to withdraw a previous motion by unanimous consent. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
[Motion 2022/23-94] to decline to approve the iSchool proposal as submitted to the Faculty Senate to create a new standalone academic unit college, until such time, as the proposal is resubmitted with the substantive answers to the queries conveyed, most recently on April 9, 2023, to President Robbins, the motion should be voted on by secret ballot vote. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by secret ballot vote with twenty-seven in favor, twenty-three opposed, and two abstentions.

[Motion 2022/23-95] to end discussion and begin voting on Chair Hudson’s motion, to remain within the timeframe. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with thirty-seven in favor, eight opposed, and one abstention.

[Motion 2022/23-96] for Senate’s Support in the DEI Resolution. Motion passed by majority vote with forty in favor.

Text of Resolution:
“We, the elected members of the faculty senate at the University of Arizona, support legislation that prevents discrimination toward individuals and groups based on group membership.

However, we, the members of the faculty senate, do not support legislation that prohibits scholarship, instruction, and programs on the UArizona campus that seek to understand, promote and maintain our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

Instead, we the faculty senate, support the following:

1. Programs that help campus employees to understand DEI and how to promote and maintain it on campus
2. The creation of positions and the hiring of individuals whose duties include coordinating, creating, developing, designing, implementing, organizing, planning or promoting diversity, equity and inclusion programs.
3. The expenditure of public funds to support the above programs and individuals
4. The academic freedom to pursue scholarship, research and teaching on the following:

A) any theory of unconscious or implicit bias, cultural appropriation, allyship, transgenderism, microaggressions, microinvalidation, group marginalization, anti-racism, systemic oppression, ethnocentrism, structural racism or inequity, ableism, social justice, intersectionality, neopronouns, inclusive language, heteronormativity, disparate impact, gender identity or theory, racial or sexual privilege or any concept substantially related to any of these theories.
B) topics describing or exposing structures, systems, relations of power, privilege or subordination on the basis of race, sex, color, gender, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.
C) topics describing methods to identify, dismantle or oppose structures, systems, relations of power, privilege or subordination on the basis of race, sex, color, gender, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.
D) topics explaining differential treatment or benefit on the basis of sex, color, gender, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

[Motion 2022/23-93] to allow item 7B: Athletics Update – Faculty Athletics Representative, Ricardo Valerdi to be the next agenda item. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Attachments within the Minutes
1. Page 1, Item 2: Approval of the Faculty Senate Agenda for April 10, 2023
2. Page 1, Item 3: Approval of the Minutes of March 27, 2023