

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: August 28, 2023
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

Present: M Hymel (Chair), J Bernick, C Casey, J Dudas, T Dysart, W Fink, R Hammer (for H Cui), G Heileman, L Hudson, J Jones, K Maggert, R Marx, H Nelson, D Ohala, C Rankin, C Simmons, S Su, M Stegeman (Parliamentarian), and L Ziurys

Absent: A Sanchez, J Vetter

Guests: J Frumkin, M Madden, L Sandoval

Call to Order

Chair Hymel called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of April 17, 2023

The minutes of April 17, 2023 were approved with one correction to the SAPC report.

UPDATES

Review agenda for the September 11, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting

Items were added, moved, and time allotments were given for each item. Committee members agreed to add ten-minute oral reports by the President and Provost at the beginning of each Faculty Senate meeting.

SPBAC – Cindy Rankin and Greg Heileman

Rankin reported that Heileman will be joining her as Co-chair this year and the committee's first meeting was two weeks ago. Three issues carrying forward from last May are 1) Budget: AIB and revenue sources, 2) Compensation: recruitment and retention, and 3) Communication: transparency and trust. A subcommittee will be created to investigate number three.

President of the University – Jon Dudas

- Dudas reported that from a legislative perspective, funding for the year looks bleak for Arizona and higher education. More emphasis has been placed on K-12.
- UArizona requested \$63M to double the number of medical students at both medical schools in an effort to produce more doctors in Arizona.
- Capital improvement requests were \$50M for each of the three in-state Universities.
- Ongoing efforts continue with ABOR to define mission differentiation, how it works, and how it needs to be tailored to all three Universities.

Interim Provost – Ron Marx

- Marx attended the inaugural graduation of the Vet Med class. Of the 106 graduates, 85% were women.
- UAGC Integration – Although now part of UArizona, new language needs to be articulated to describe the relationship between the former entity merging with UArizona. Efforts have been focused more on the corporate integration rather than academic issues. Although Senior Vice Provost, Gail Burd, has been instrumental in leading the efforts with the UAGC acquisition, Greg Heileman will be taking over those duties.
- Assistant Vice Provost for Native American Initiatives, Karen Francis-Begay, has left the University and Marx will mount a search to replace her. Dysart requests that Marx meet with the Native American faculty on campus who have a great interest in Francis-Begay's replacement.
- Hudson asked for clarification on the formation of a new undergraduate college. Marx replied that he learned about the initiative in late July soon after assuming his role as Interim Provost. Undergraduate Council and Dean's Council have had initial conversations, but a proposal has not been generated. Heileman added that undecided students currently do not have representation in student governance. The same situation exists with faculty who are teaching in the General Education program. They are temporarily housed in the Honors College and do not have a permanent academic home. Discussions are preliminary.

SAPC – Cheryl Casey and Diane Ohala

- Casey reported that the BookStores rolled out its Pay-One-Price course material program this semester for all main campus undergraduates. Considering there were some glitches with late and missing textbook adoptions, the opt-out rate is much lower than expected at 2.7%. An increase is expected by the September 3, 2023, opt-out deadline. The entire process in general would be more beneficial if all units employed textbook coordinators. A follow up with the Provost is planned to discuss this option.
- Ohala said that with the Mandatory Meal Plan presentation at the September 11, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting, the campus will be better informed and the committee will monitor the new requirement and keep the campus community updated with its progression.
- SAPC needs a Faculty Senator appointed, as well as the student representatives.
- The committee will investigate insurance plans for Post Docs and graduate students.

APPC – Keith Maggert

- Maggert reported that over the last year, the committee analyzed and provided comments on nine policies that either needed refreshing or were newly implemented.
- Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Andrea Romero, requested APPC investigate the Faculty Handbook that used to be provided to Faculty Senators.
- Hudson charged APPC to study and make recommendations about UAGC and ABOR exempting the entity from Chapters Two and Six from the ABOR Policy Manual. Two sets of rules exist for UArizona and UAGC regarding rules, obligations, and expectations. Dysart said that UArizona doesn't have jurisdiction over UAGC since they are a separately accredited institution with its own faculty governance body.
- Marx responded that UAGC has its own IPEDS and OPE ID numbers. UAGC does not have a Provost and would prefer to use another title along the lines of Chief Academic Officer for that appointment but isn't certain if that title can be used.
- Hudson said that ABOR abdicating rules and regulations for the new entity is part of pattern she has observed over the last year. The accreditor is not interested in holding ABOR to high standards. The Notice of Concern for WSCUC disappeared on July 2, 2023.

UArizona is underwriting a formerly predatory institution. The acquisition was constructed by lawyers as opposed to any faculty process.

- Jones said that UArizona Staff Council wants to include UAGC staff in its membership, but differentiating who is UAGC staff has been impossible. All University employees should be represented in some form of shared governance.
- Dudas clarified that UArizona is not underwriting UAGC, but instead owns UAGC. The snapshot of what integration looks like is still not clear. WSCUC removed their Letter of Concern because they no longer have concerns. All the regulatory bodies are very involved in guiding us to full integration.
- Hudson would like APPC to suggest guidelines for UAGC since it appears they are not operating by our same rules and regulations.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

- Ziurys reported that the committee met for the first time earlier in the day. Two preceding issues will continue to be pursued. The committee suggested that a 5% overhead return on grants be implemented, but the former Provost agreed to only 2%. Discussion about where the 2% comes from needs to be clarified. The second is Conflict of Interest with regard to grants and the over burdensome amount of paperwork associated with this process. RII can possibly help streamline this process.
- Reports from various colleges about PI's on grants being taken off the grant or other people being substituted for the PI. Department Heads and Deans appear to be able to manipulate grants as they please. It's happened in the College of Medicine and there seems to be no policy governing these types of situations. The committee would like to formulate a policy to discuss with Faculty Senate.

Committee of Eleven – Wolfgang Fink

Fink reported that the committee will be meeting for the first time at the end of the week. The ratification of UHAP 5.2 is planned for the committee's upcoming agenda.

GPSC – Jeremy Bernick

- Bernick reported that students would like to have more inclusion with the decision-making processes on campus. Student fees for graduate students are burdensome and debilitating for those students who may not have worked over the summer. Between books, parking permits, and other expenses, the \$700 every semester in student fees is taking a financial toll on graduate students.
- Students would like more inclusion on search committees.
- There is a disparaging power dynamic between faculty and students. No grievance process exists for graduate students. If a situation arises where a faculty member is abusive to a student in any way, graduate students are told to talk to their supervisor. Many times, the supervisor is the abusing party. The graduate student body has passed a unanimous resolution for a committee of other graduate students and two members of the Faculty Senate to review anonymous complaints of abuse. GPSC is working with OGC to be mindful of compliance issues and hope to have an established policy in place. Abuse is a national issue, and we are one of many institutions putting safeguards in place for students.
- Healthcare for graduate students is another issue of concern for GPSC.
- Hammer offered Graduate Council's support for dealing with abusive faculty or mentors and hopes Bernick will attend the next meeting.

IT Liaison – Jeremy Frumkin

- No major IT issues were reported at the start of the semester.
- Frumkin offered Ziurys a delegated time to discuss the research/IT aspect of cyber infrastructure so needs can be better addressed.
- Su said that the Departments of Physics and Hydrology in the College of Science are targeted as guinea pigs for the Centralization Project. Su asked for more information. Frumkin suggested she speak with her Associate Dean of Research since he is dealing with him and the director of the college's IT department. Funding for the centralization effort was nowhere near the requested amount. An overhaul of what was originally envisioned took place to scale the project into budget. Business model changes are likely to be forthcoming.
- Fink reiterated that the Faculty Senate voted to halt any further progression on the centralization project. Hudson agreed and is confident that the new *ad hoc* IT Committee she is putting in place will make sound recommendations with regard this effort.

UArizona Staff Council – Jeffrey Jones

- Jones reported that Chief Safety Office, Steve Patterson, will be speaking at the next meeting. The Council is looking into tracking continuing education within Human Resources to formulate an award system for the department that has the most employees utilizing continuing education courses.
- UASC President Melanie Madden added that a staff newsletter has been implemented and the representation is growing and getting stronger daily.

Undergraduate Council – Holly Nelson

Nelson reported that the Council's first meeting was last week, but no business was conducted. An ASUA representative is needed on the Council.

Graduate Council – Ron Hammer

Hammer reported that the Council will start meeting in September.

Secretary of the Faculty – Tessa Dysart

Dysart reported on the memorandum from President Robbins regarding the Constitution and Bylaws changes now pending for the last year. Semantics are perhaps an issue with what is considered "housekeeping changes." Removing voting rights in Faculty Senate for *ex officio* members was not approved. A section in the grievance section that was not revised in this round of changes was noted as conflicting with Arizona State Law. The Constitution and Bylaws committee will look at the grievance process. President Robbins will approach the other three Universities to explore a change to the state accounting manual that would allow PIs to use grant funds for additional dependent care expenses.

Chair of Faculty – Leila Hudson

After a difficult year, Hudson expects smoother sailing this year. Progress was made in reasserting shared governance as of the guard rails in the fragile ecosystem. UArizona now has more faculty members in leadership positions; Provost Marx, Elliott Cheu, Jenny Lee, Francisco Moreno, and Jennifer Hatcher. Faculty, staff, and students want representation on search committees, request internal candidates be considered and want faculty experience in those who supervise faculty. Critical voices are engaging in shared governance, not just those of us who are most trustful of the administration. New initiatives are underway with both staff council and student organizations. New *ad hoc* committees are being employed and the Budget Recalibration committee will work in tandem with SPBAC and has full Presidential financial support. Much of

this year will be spent looking at the budget. SPBAC reported an alarming statistic that because of the AIB budget policy, last year ended with reducing the number of adjuncts to approximately 500. The effect of AIB over the summer months when we weren't paying attention was to double (increase by 100%) the number of adjuncts up to a thousand. The budget system isn't working for our values, and it needs to be fixed. Efforts are being made to retool it, along with the IT recalibration project, grievances, diversity, and equal access. We may not have the resources but have an obligation to the institution to provide oversight, nonetheless. We have a new relationship of confidence and communication with the President and excited about Interim Provost Marx coming on board in his role. We will work to improve our grievance processes and internal justice within the institution so there are less critical situations in which people can be abused in different ways. Hudson anticipates smoother sailing in Faculty Senate with more time devoted to reviewing and approving the business of the University rather than putting out fires and airing grievances. Focus will be placed on unpacking and analyzing our budget system and undoing the artificial austerity that is seriously impairing our core missions. Good working relations are in order with the sister Universities, as well as the Chair of the Faculty Senate at UAGC. She is assured that we are not interested in a two-tiered or elitist attitude toward their faculty, students, and staff. The most pressing issue is the anniversary of the death of Dr. Meixner and his family is still waiting for settlement from the state. Hudson is proposing an interdisciplinary Meixner fellowship across disciplines for people working on climate change and hydrology.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

No report

ASUA – Alyssa Sanchez

Sanchez was absent.

University-Wide General Education Committee – Jeremy Vetter

Vetter was absent.

Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – TBA

Old business

There was no old business.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.