

**The University of Arizona®**  
**Faculty Senate Executive Committee**  
**1216 E. Mabel St. (PO Box 210456)**  
**621.1342**  
**facultycenter@email.arizona.edu**  
**Minutes: November 20, 2023**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**VIA ZOOM**

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

Absent: G Heileman, D Ohala, A Sanchez, C Simmons

Guests: M Madden, K Kelleher

**Call to Order**

Chair Hymel called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda**

The meeting agenda was approved.

**Approval of the Minutes of October 23, 2023**

The minutes of October 23, 2023 were approved as written.

**Review agenda for the December 4, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting**

- Dysart requested that Old Business items be removed and replaced with a grievance revision associated with the President's approval of the Bylaws.
- Dysart expressed concern that the Freedom Center did not get a full fifteen minutes to speak at the last Faculty Senate meeting. Time limits need to be enforced, equally, among presenters. The Chair statement on the Faculty Senate agenda has increased from five to ten minutes and feels it should be shortened back to five minutes. Hudson responded that time given for her item is dependent on issues being discussed and/or voted on.
- Marx responded to the HAS Resolution request for an external audit. The University employs such audits as a matter of law with the State Auditor General. The Resolution carries no merit because this request is already in effect. The HAS Resolution asks for more transparency and caution about the University's financial dealings. From that point of view, it merits discussion, but would be foolish to vote on a Resolution that has no merit to it. Hudson agreed. Marx said the financial report is available on the website. Hammer agreed and said the way the Resolution is phrased outlines what the department wants, but not phrased as a Resolution the Senate would pass. The Resolution does not belong in that section of the

agenda. Hudson agreed and said she wanted to mention it and frame the discussion as part of the public record but wasn't certain about endorsing or translating it into different language.

- Dysart asked for clarification on the Freedom of Speech item in the Chair's statement and depending on the subject, moving it to New Business. Hudson replied that the item is a notation to put some issues on the table for the subsequent Q & A with the President and Provost and did not want a new item placed under New Business.
- Hammer updated the committee on the last Graduate Council Meeting the previous Friday employing a new subcommittee, Professional Programs Review Committee, to review professional programs. The subcommittee is made up of representatives of the professional program colleges and are currently reviewing the Global MD proposal. The review should be complete by next week. Steve Goldschmid or Michael Dake can affirm there is an accreditation review by the Australian Medical Association, which is the same body that is accrediting the Global MD Campus on December 14th. There is some urgency for UArizona to approve the proposal by that time for it to gain the approval of the accrediting body, which only meets once per year. Graduate Council will vote on changing its meeting day/time to alleviate the extended wait time and agenda setting for proposals when there are questions from the committee. A time-sensitive month and a half now lapses if GC members question proposals. By moving the GC meetings, a week prior to SEC meetings, committee members can get their questions answered and an e-vote can take place. Proposals take faculty members six months to a year to develop and pushing them back at the end approval process isn't fair in the end.
- Hammer asked that the Proposal for Emancipatory Education Graduate Minor be added to the Consent agenda, which was deferred from the last meeting. Fink confirmed the addition later in the meeting.
- Committee members discussed having budget documentation provided with all new proposals that come before the Executive Committee and Faculty Senate. Hammer responded that every proposal contains a budget, and it is GCAAC's purview to make the call to the college administrators since it falls within that college's budget. In the case of the Global MD Program budget, it is estimated to bring in \$2.5M profit per year for UArizona.
- Su explained how the IT Centralization Project was progressing with the Physics Department in the College of Science. Frumkin responded that more preparation was needed to report out and perhaps the *ad hoc* IT committee could also weigh in at that time. Jones suggested collaborating with SPBAC for program budget allocations to have that committee help with reporting out to Faculty Senate.

Ziurys moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded. The agenda was approved as amended by unanimous consent.

## **UPDATES**

### **President's Report – Jon Dudas**

Dudas reported that ABOR has asked for a financial report to be submitted by December 15, 2023. Speculations and rumors have been raised with the Regents' level of concern. No substantive change is looming for what is planned with Athletics.

Hudson asked why President Robbins changed his decision on Athletics as reported in the Arizona Daily Star last Friday. Dudas said he wasn't aware of the article. Coaches' contracts are set and approved by ABOR, as well as multi-year administrative contracts. Hudson said that the time between now and December 15<sup>th</sup> is crucial for building and maintaining trust between administration and faculty and coming up with a coherent narrative about what the nature of our financial crisis is and how to remedy it. Dudas said that many things get misconstrued and misquoted in the media. A legitimate conversation about UAGC affecting days cash on hand (COH) is a financial concern, but not a loss of \$265M or even one dollar. Ziurys asked for clarification on UAGC's \$265M loss and if UAGC is making money or losing money. Dudas responded that UAGC came in with \$265M in expenses, \$45M cash, or roughly sixty-two days COH. The \$265M was not included in the days COH at \$265M in operating expenses, nor was it included in the days COH for 2023, but it has been included in the estimate for 2024. For 2024, the estimate is that UAGC will lose ~\$18M. Marx added that the UAGC revenue projections are \$6M ahead of what their budget projections were, so they're actually earning more money now than their budget called for in FY24. Losses are associated with being acquired by UArizona and are one-time expenses. UAGC's business model is different and expenses are more elastic with respect to revenues.

### **Provost – Ron Marx**

Marx reported that he is delving into Academic Freedom issues, the financial issues, and urges everyone not to react to specific comments. The financial issues are both short and long term. Short term is COH, but more critical is the annual over-spend. The latter is the institution spending more money than it earns. The over-spending is not the same with all units across campus, so a one-size-fits-all approach will not solve the problem. The process to tighten belts has started, and meticulousness will ensure a long-term path to recovery. Decisions that prudently made at one time for certain colleges may have not turned out to be the best decisions in the long term.

### **SAPC – Cheryl Casey and Diane Ohala**

Casey reported that the committee met with Campus Health. Parking and Transportation will be the guest at the next meeting. Hudson has asked the committee to look into policies pertaining to recording in courses and sharing of course materials. The succession plan for co-chairs is finalized and Hudson said Letters of Appointment will be distributed.

### **APPC – Keith Maggert**

Maggert reported that the committee met last month and are looking into the way grievances and academic freedom are handled. Information on past grievances for the last ten years was compiled and shared with the committee. Next week the committee will discuss UHAP 7.01 Code of Conduct and possible language improvement.

### **RPC – Lucy Ziurys**

Ziurys reported that today the committee met with Provost Marx and Interim Vice President Elliott Cheu. The committee recommended an increase from 2% to 5% on the grant overhead return to PI's. The chances of 5% this year will probably not pan out. Research security mandated by the Federal Government is concerning and the committee requested succinct instructions for compliance.

### **UArizona Staff Council – Jeffrey Jones**

Jones reported that the Executive Council wrote a letter to senior leadership on November 8, 2023. The Council is being proactively engaged in SPBAC and with Human Resources, meeting with the latter on a frequent basis to be more involved in decision-making moving forward. The next meeting is on November 28, 2023 and a Qualtrics survey will be sent out to ascertain top issues staff would like addressed. Currently, the top three are maintaining/increasing salaries, transparency, and morale.

### **Undergraduate Council – Holly Nelson**

Nelson pointed out the proposals/policies attached to the agenda.

### **IT Liason – Jeremy Frumkin**

The *ad hoc* IT committee is absent a chair, but it is undertaking information gathering regarding the assets effort. A report will be forthcoming.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.