

**MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

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1. CALL TO ORDER [00:00:18]

Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate, Mona Hymel, called the February 5, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting to order at 3:04 PM in Silver and Sage and via Zoom. Secretary Dysart was also present.

Present: Senators Braitberg, Braithwaite, Brochin, Cai, Casey, Cheu, Cochran, Coletta, Cooley, Cui, Dial, Domin, Downing, Dysart (Secretary), Eckert, Fellous, Fink, Gerald, Gordon, Gregory, Guzman, Harris, Heileman, Hudson (Chair), Hymel (Vice Chair), Jones, Knox, Leafgren, Little, Marx, Medevoi, Meyer, Nelson, Neumann, O' Leary, Ottusch, Pace, Pau, Rafelski, Rankin, Robbins (President), Rocha, Russell, Schulz, Schwartz, Senseney, Simmons, Slepian, M. Smith, J. Smith, Spece, Stegeman (Parliamentarian), Stephan, Stone, Su, Torres, Tropman, Waddell, Werchan, T. Williams, M. Witte, R. Witte, Wittman, Zeiders, Ziurys.

Absent: Senators Anderson (GPSC Rep), Barron (ASUA Rep), Bernick, Buxner, Grijalva (ASUA Rep), Kandel, Rodrigues, Rogers, Sanchez, M. Williams, Willis, Yoon (GPSC Rep).

2. ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE **AGENDA – VICE CHAIR OF THE FACULTY, MONA HYMEL [00:00:19]**

Vice Chair Hymel stated a Consent Agenda issue came up in the January 29, 2024 meeting and it will be handled by using the agenda as published and rules followed in the past. Vice Chair Hymel stated senators should raise amendments during the approval process of the agenda. Vice Chair Hymel stated that on a future agenda, there will be an item dedicated to discussion regarding the consent agenda process.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated she will stick close to time limits in the meeting therefore, speakers must first be recognized by her. She will attempt to not allow speakers to talk more than once allowing those who haven't, a chance to speak. There will be a three-minute warning and a one-minute warning which will indicate it is time to move to the next agenda item.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated if there is a resolution being discussed, senators can make a motion but they will stick to strict time limits.
- Chair Hudson [**Motion 2023/24-37**] to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded.
- Senator M. Witte stated to expedite the agenda, she indicated that she will be rejecting or disapproving consent agendas that do not come with a cover sheet in a timely fashion. Senator M. Witte stated there was an avalanche of comments and a vote to approve what she intended, as a personal matter of conscience. Senator M. Witte stated there were many emails that went back and forth, with another symbolic rubber stamp that she is unsatisfied with.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated the minutes January 29, 2024 minutes will be moved to the next meeting and that the President and Provost agreed to sacrifice their time due to the compact agenda.
- [**Motion 2023/24-37**] passed by with one objection.

3. OPEN SESSION [00:06:27]

Senator Russel Witte [00:06:59]

Technocracy was a progressive movement founded by Howard Scott at Columbia University in the 1920s. Technocrats believe that elite scientists and engineers, rather than politicians and businessmen, should run society by continuously tracking all resources, including people, through modern technology. They even proposed "energy certificates" to monetize each human life based on their energy consumption from cradle to grave. When the Nazis implemented

technocratic principles to divide and control society during WWII, technocracy lost favor across the world. Technocracy, however, was rebranded by David Rockefeller's Club of Rome in 1968 and reintroduced to the world by oil tycoon Maurice Strong at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 under the guise of "Saving the Planet" and the "Green Agenda," fomenting population and climate alarmism.

Today, led by the United Nations' Agenda 2021/2030, these same principles have permeated our local communities and schools, who routinely talk about controlling our carbon footprint, promoting SMART / 15 Min. Cities, social crediting, merging man with machine, and Big Data to track everything and everybody using 5G and 20 billion cameras already connected to the Global Internet.

So, when former CFO Rulney told ABOR last Nov 2 that the UofA for the last 5 years has not "focused on revenue generation" but rather our "wildly successful goals to get us to the 4th industrial revolution," my ears perked. While I whole-heartedly agree and appreciate Rulney's honesty, I do not believe our mission or core values should reflect the transhumanist agenda of Klaus Schwab's World Economic Forum, which routinely promotes stake holder capitalism and "you'll own nothing and be happy" philosophy.

If you are tired of reacting to "computer glitches" and ready to finally take action to restore core values to our public land-grant university that resonate with our local heritage and southwest culture, I invite you to contact me at rwitte@arizona.edu to start the conversation.

Senator Lucy Ziurys [00:09:27]

We are in a financial crisis. As John Arnold has told us, our CFO, we can't do everything at our University. We must somehow consolidate, but yet not change our core missions of research, prowess, being a land-grant University and a Hispanic and Native American serving institution.

In the spirit of consolidation, it might be very useful to look into the phasing out of UAGC. This would save us roughly \$90 million in cash reserves alone that could be invested elsewhere. Faculty, many faculty have already developed online courses in many unique fields. Why do we need the duplication? Bringing Ashford (UAGC) into the University, brought on the order of 3,000 employees. It's my understanding that about 2,400 were actually from Ashford, 600 came in from elsewhere. Ashford was always held up to the faculty as a money-making prospect, but it seems that many ways Ashford/Zovio made money in the past was unacceptable to practice we have at the University of Arizona. So I ask the question: Do we really need UAGC? I suggest the Senate push out a plan to look into phasing UAGC out. I believe there is a possibility of saving a lot of money, restoring our reputation, and helping those who have already been building their own online courses at the university.

Senator Samantha Harris [00:11:39]

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Samantha Harris, a Professor in the Department of Physiology. It rarely snows here in Tucson, so I was surprised on Sunday to read front page on the news, yet again, what may be the worst snow job in Tucson history. I am of course referring to the latest in a long tail of obedience by President Robbins, ABOR, and John Arnold regarding the financial crisis.

After months of violence, Robbins and Arnold have finally begun to speak. The problem is what they say demonstrates a degree of tone deafness and misdirection that leaves me and others with little or no confidence in the truthfulness of their words and worse yet, with the deep fear for the well-being what was only months ago, our vibrant UA.

In their latest press interview, Robbins and Arnold inexplicably pointed to yet another, new explanation for the crisis. This time, inflation. Never mind that we've already been told several different changing explanations and have witnessed pseudo-firings in hirings that tally in the millions of dollars. Snow.

One story that has not changed, however, is that Robbins and Arnold are in lock-step agreement about imposing devastating austerity measures on the faculty, staff, and students. Just one example that hit the national news and was highlighted in the chronicle of Inside Higher Education: a course that helps incoming students choose their major was canceled. The University and asked already overworked advisors to teach it without pay.

The irony of all this, of course, is on grotesque display with the self-congratulatory backslapping by ABOR and their continued full confidence in Robbins. Not surprising because ABOR itself approved and incentivized the fiscal overspending in the first place. More snow.

So, as a former Midwesterner, I know how to deal with snow: shovels, plows, independent audits, and outside analyses to clear away the piles of snow. And sunshine, transparency, accountability, and oversight for ABOR and our administrators. I propose the addition of at least three new elected faculty seats on ABOR from all three universities. In shorter terms, in mechanisms for accountability for all ABOR members. With this, we would begin to be able to part the clouds so that we can predict, manage, and avoid future snowstorms together. Thank you.

4. Action Item: Consent Agenda – [B.S. in Neuroscience](#) and [ABOR Summary, B.S. in Artificial Intelligence](#) and

[ABOR Summary, B.S. in Nursing – Collaborative Education](#) and [ABOR Summary, B.A. in Molecular and Cellular Biology](#) and [ABOR Summary, M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy](#) and [ABOR Summary, M.A. in Sport and Recreation Leadership](#) and [ABOR Summary - Chair of Undergraduate Council, Holly Nelson, and Co-chairs of Graduate Council, Hong Cui and Sanlyn Buxner \[00:13:58\]](#)

Vice Chair Hymel stated the consent agenda comes as seconded motions from the committees which is also included in the bylaws therefore no motion is needed.

- Chair Hudson seconded **[Motion 2023/24-31], [Motion 2023/24-32], [Motion 2023/24-33], [Motion 2023/24-34], and [Motion 2023/24-35]** to approve the Consent Agenda.
- Senator M. Witte stated she would like to point out a principle that she is concerned about. Senator M. Witte stated the solutions to the problem which arose centrally, are now being centralized.
- Senator M. Witte stated the consent agenda should be thought of as breaking up departments and programs, and balkanization. Senator M. Witte stated everyone must be careful because there is centralization on one end and balkanization on the other which is breaking up strong departments, and colleges who can speak as a voice and communication. Senator M. Witte stated she will continue to disapprove of the consent agenda.
- **[Motion 2023/24-31], [Motion 2023/24-32], [Motion 2023/24-33], [Motion 2023/24-34], and [Motion 2023/24-35]** were passed with fifty-two in favor, two opposed, and one abstention.

5. **Statement from Chair Hudson [00:17:00]**

Last week in my January statement you heard me offer a path forward for collaboration with President Robbins and ABOR Executive Director serving as interim CFO Arnold, even in light of Governor Hobbs' letter of concern. I ask that Governor Hobb's letter be entered into the minutes. I was hopeful this time last week about rebuilding trust and extending a little bit of runway to see if President Robbins' learning curve included scaling up his commitment and follow through on shared governance and if ABOR Executive Director and interim CFO Arnold's real life budget skills offered a new path forward. I told you that I would be working with them but also monitoring them to see if they are working in good faith. They have had a week to work since then, and I have been disappointed. Engaging with shared governance does not mean tone deaf mansplaining. The question of the March 4 deadline for information technology centralization is particularly appalling given the concerns raised last week by Senators Russell and Schwartz about the failures of our Chief Information Officer (Barry Brummond).

In her letter to ABOR, Governor Hobbs requested a number of measures to restore "accountability, transparency, and... leadership." The detailed plan she requested by February 9th has not engaged faculty leadership nor been shared.

The Governor requested an independent third-party consultant to be hired, writing "this entity will be responsible for providing a plan of proposed solutions for the crisis, conducting an external audit (- including a management audit of the internal controls of the University) and providing monthly reporting to the Governor's office and ABOR." What has since transpired is not that.

In their slides from last week Arnold and Robbins alluded to a company - the Huron Group - that is unacceptable as an independent third party. I've received a flood of communications from faculty alarmed by the reference to Huron on one of their slides. I ask that the AAUP and The *Nation* articles about this company, which sprang from the ashes of Arthur Anderson and Enron, and has partisan associations, and a history of contracts including at the New School and the University of Wisconsin that resulted in hundreds of layoffs. Another McKinsey contract- no matter what its size is - is not consistent with shared governance. Introduced as part of a project of Orwellian "rightsizing," the Huron contract, I understand, was not yet signed last week and must not be.

And the only things that need to be "rightsized" are the administration and its salaries, the athletics department, and its salaries, UAGC, which added 3000 state employees who live outside the state, and the size of the incoming out of state merit aid grants. Please note that two other independent firms were said to be hired but not identified, nor hired by an independent outside consultant. I have asked multiple times to see the names, terms, contracts, and audit charges of all three consultant groups mentioned last Monday and that information has not been forthcoming. I told you last week that the financial information I asked for was beginning to trickle forth. Well upon further examination it wasn't the information I had asked for. This is not shared governance and not compliant with the Governor's request.

I assume the February 9th plan to be submitted to Governor Hobbs is a restatement of what we heard on Monday at the leadership event. That plan is not the right one. There is still time to fix it, but it is dwindling. For starters, it protects the parts of the problem that have cost tens and hundreds of millions while attacking the parts that produce the revenue. No target metrics for cuts to administrative positions and salaries. No plan for athletics other than to literally shrug off the 87M internal loan and return to business as usual. And the worst part of my week was finally getting access to the new leadership of UAGC. I discovered, to my alarm, that our hands are bound by unworkable constraints which have finally been unearthed and which will increase the already challenging workload for faculty and staff

immeasurably. Oh yes, and which have a new deadline and the sword of Damocles of the 72M claw back from the Dept of Ed. UAGC will require a lot more work.

The plan embarked upon is to fix what isn't broken.

The first sign was when the 81 budget units mentioned by Arnold were lumped together with no distinction as to which were the academic engines of the university, and which were not. No distinction between which were thriving, which were struggling, and which require receivership and a change of management. No acknowledgement that the deficits attributed to them were created by the truly horrific design and implementation of AIB in fy 2023. No acknowledgement that under that system AIB, only 42% of what our academic units produced from teaching and research were proportionally redistributed to the units that produced the revenue while a whopping 58% were redistributed in a mystifying series of perverse incentives to non-academic units (79%) or to other academic units (21%) disproportionately from main campus to the health sciences campus.

I begged them not to abuse the engines and they are abusing the engines with enthusiasm. The academic units should in no way be preparing plans for 5, 10 and 15 percent cuts. They should be planning - and I am not joking here - 5, 10 and 15% growth plans. Non-academic units should be planning for cuts, and in the trenchant words of our UCW campaign - they should "chop from the top." We've heard about an innovative and popular 325K program in the ISchool to be eliminated. Does anyone remember when we begged for the financial information on the iSchool last spring to no avail? We have dozens of vice presidents and vice provosts making that salary, who don't produce revenue.

We have plans to save 489K in the college of SBS by consolidating my academic home, the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies, one of the top three in the nation in terms of supporting Department of Education and Department of Defense program grants as we embark on a new series of Middle East wars. We have a number of former vice presidents who have resigned in disgrace making more than that who don't bring in that revenue.

The question of conflict of interest of John Arnold and of ABOR has been raised by the Governor. Arnold first reacted with indignation last week when asked about that in this space seeking cover behind the state constitution. He has not publicly addressed any COI that I know of. But the real conflict of interest is that he answers to ABOR, which signed off on, if not actively incentivized every one of the managerial fiascos that has brought us to our knees. Athletics, strategic planning, and especially UAGC. ABOR's role and deliberations remain shockingly obscure, since in every policy meeting, they spend as much time in executive session receiving legal advice as they do in the open meetings required by law.

In Governor Hobbs' words. The fox is still guarding the henhouse and has hired another fox (maybe three). I will be calling a special meeting later in February to discuss the faculty's path forward.

I would like to make sure you get the [Governor's letter](#) and the articles (please see attachments, page __) that I will provide about the Huron group included in the formal meeting minutes.

6. **Old Business [00:28:09]**

A. **RII Centers such as AstroBiology – Interim Senior Vice President of Research, Innovation, and Impact, Elliott Cheu [00:28:47]**

My name is Elliott Cheu, I'm a Faculty member and the Interim Senior Vice President (SVP) for Research. I've been here at the University for about twenty-eight years. The topic discussion as centers and institutes which are administered through RII but I just want to bring up one point [00:29:05] which has been a topic of conversation.

- Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated CIO, Barry Brummund and he have been working with Interim CFO, John Arnold to find funding for the High Performance Computing (HPC), there was an RFP that had been put out. Unfortunately, in the middle of that, financial challenges were hit, and the RFP was cancelled. Interim SVP of RII, Cheu stated he has been looking for funding and believes it has been found through pull backs and TRIF (Technology and Research Initiative Fund) but there will be a delayed process. For individuals who have grant funding for that endeavor, RII works with them at no cost for extensions or other items. The funds do not have to go away, they can be used but with a delay with the HPC.
- Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated regarding centers and institutes, there are approximately one-hundred centers scattered across the University. The vast majority of those are within Senate departments and colleges. There are seventeen university-wide centers and institute's which are meant to cross University boundaries and to support and incentivize transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research. Those centers and institutes range from ILGBT which is for LGBTQ+ students, BIO5, the Arizona Institute for Resilience, and a relatively new one which is the Arizona Space Institute.
- Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated the purpose of the centers is not only to incentive but to also develop new entities for the universities that would not sit within a single college. For instance, the Space Institute spans three or

more colleges and is even doing work in the space law. The purpose is also to provide a place where there can be meetings and collaboration between faculty members to come across disciplines and disseminate information.

- Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated the three main goals include research, collaboration, and outreach.
- Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated of those seventeen centers, there is a specific center that was recently approved by UA and undergoing the ABOR process. There is concern of how the centers are sustained and generally speaking, most of the centers and institutes are sustained through F&A, TRIF, or direct costs through the University. The approval process is meant to be fairly robust and include a lot of voices within the process.
- Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated key and exciting examples of the type of research that has been incentivized includes BIO5. It is a university-wide center that addresses biological and health-related activities. There are roughly 450 faculty members associated with BIO5, therefore it is a robust center that encapsulates the entire University. Cyverse which started as an I-plant has been housed within BIO5 and has received over \$100M in grant funding to support the activity. It is a large resource extremely well-funded by the institution and nationally by the NSF. At the time it was granted, it was the largest grant in the biological sciences by the NSF putting the UA on the map. Another example is OSIRIS-REx which there is a follow-on mission, "OSIRIS-APEX" mission which began through grant funding through the Arizona State funding and resulted in a \$200 million grant.
- Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu mentioned the Aspera mission, which was proposed by a post-doc at the UA. It is a \$20 million grant supported by the Space institute. It is the first mission run by a postdoc that NASA has supported in its history.
- Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated the approval process starts at the Faculty level where a faculty member starts a proposal and gets support from their Department Head and Dean. It then goes to RII where there is a process of reviewal process through an associate team for research. Comments are then addressed, and it is approved. Recently, ABOR has also been a part of the approval process.
- Principal Investigator (PI), Dante Lauretta stated he has been a faculty member starting as an Assistant Professor in 2001, for the past twelve years, he has been the Principal Investigator for the OSIRIS-REx which has brought in hundreds of millions of dollars which has been a real benefit to the University of Arizona regarding publicity, reputation, student attraction, and retention. A lot of students attend the institution because of the OSIRIS-REx program.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated that he and his team are in the endgame of the prime mission for OSIRIS-REx and there a couple years left for funding for sample analysis.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated he has begun to receive outside inquiries and asked his Department Head what he can contribute to at the University of Arizona. His Department Head stated there has been a groundswell of activity and interest in a Natural Biology Center and asked if he would be interested in forming a proposal for one. PI Dante Lauretta stated the proposal sounded interesting and he has been getting more excited about Astrobiology, especially the origin of life. He went to the Astrobiology Sciences Conference a couple of years ago for the first time in a while and the average age of researchers was about thirty, and there was a very diverse group of researchers. He went to his home society, the Meteorological Society, and the average age was about sixty which made him realize that young researchers were headed into Astrobiology.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated there was an Astrobiology Center that was on the list of RII centers with a webpage. PI Dante Lauretta stated he chased down the website to see who was running it and it was an administrator, there was no director, no budget, and no center so he took on the challenge. He knew he wanted to bring along his partner Corey Knox, College of Education who he has now been working alongside for six years on community engagement. They taught a class in education leadership where undergraduate students learned how to mentor kids in the Boys and Girls Clubs in Tucson, and there was a weekly science club run until COVID happened.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated he knew Astrobiology had to be focused on early career development drawing individuals in with diverse backgrounds into the sciences. Astrobiology is more than that and when the proposal came together, it started with Faculty currently listed on the webpage (about twenty individuals) and he asked who on campus should he engage with. He started work with seventeen departments and five colleges.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated a good amount of startup came from RII. There was a proposal process that was a grassroots effort, focusing on community engagement. It was conveyed that the process would include gathering signatures from all faculty, department heads, and deans during the final review.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated he wanted a physical facility and destination which a lot of centers do not have. He wanted there to be a place where individuals can learn about astrobiology. A space was secured in the Sonnet Space Sciences Building, a great real estate on the mall between Cherry and University.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated Astrobiology is very student-focused and there are over thirty-members in the Undergraduate Astrobiology Club with involvement from Graduate students. The club is participating in community outreach including activities with the Children's Museum, local high schools, and local community events. The outreach events are intended to catalyze interdisciplinary research.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated Astrobiology touches almost everything, and almost anything can be defined as the concept. Focus is on the space sciences and biological sciences, there's also further digging into medical sciences, education, outreach, and STEM workforce development. External stakeholders in the industry have stated they are looking for a diverse workforce in Aerospace, Biological Sciences, and many other disciplines.
- PI Dante Lauretta stated there has been collaboration with Fine Arts and there are interesting projects to celebrate what is done on campus, and to inspire the "aww" and wonder that Astrobiology is known for.
 - Senator Ziurys stated there was the Life and Planets Astrobiology Center (LAPLACE) which was a natural

- Astrobiology institute node. It brought in \$5-6 million jointly with the National Optical Astronomy Centre which brought in a few more million. There was a large thriving issue which lasted five years that was directed by Neville (Nick) Woolf. Senator Ziurys stated she is surprised this was not mentioned and this is where the Astrobiology minor rose. Faculty got self-organized and started a minor for both Undergraduate and Graduate Students.
- PI Dante Laurretta stated he agrees with Senator Ziurys and he was at the University when she and Neville (Nick) Woolf were astrobiologists, and he believed it to be a great thing when he came to the UA. PI Dante Laurretta stated he talked to Senator Ziurys a lot, and she had good input for the proposal which he appreciates. He thought she was very excited and gave a lot of good advice although, it was not an ABOR approved center. He spoke with Daniel Apai who was heavily involved in the center.
 - Senator Ziurys stated it wasn't an ABOR approved center because it had its own money therefore, it was a center which is semantics.
 - Senator Fink stated there are many questions, first, to give credit where credit is due to Michael J. Drake who won the mission for the University of Arizona.
 - Senator Fink stated the center is everything but inclusive, many people he has spoken to were not aware they were involved, and many people who should've been involved were never asked.
 - Senator Fink stated the leadership for such a center should be competed for and discussed. The center inception seems to be past 2021 and per Provost Marx, such centers should be vetted, and he has not seen this happening.
 - Senator Fink stated the center is supposedly funded with about \$3.75 million for five years of internal funds where some of the funds go to the summer salary of the director. The question is why this should be internally funded when NASA has now recognized Astrobiology as a mainstream field, and it is no longer exotic. Senator Fink stated even the CAN (Cooperative Agreement Notice) calls for the Astrobiology Institutes, and have gone away as a result. There are now federal grant mechanisms like MatSSE, PICASSO, and other NASA programs which can fund a center through federal funds rather than internal funds especially due to the financial crisis. Senator Fink stated he would like to hear comments regarding these questions.
 - PI Dante Laurretta stated Michael J. Drake was his mentor whom he worked beside for seven years to write three series of proposals to win the contract. PI Dante Laurretta stated it broke his heart when he passed away and his dying words to him were that it was his mission, and he was looking to him to carry it towards the future, therefore he will never forget his contributions to that.
 - PI Dante Laurretta stated the center is inclusive, all members on the University campus are welcome. Everyone whose name was on the proposal was in a series of emails as the draft was reiterated and revised. There were many comments and inquiry forms were sent out to people and filled out. There is documentation of all efforts.
 - PI Dante Laurretta stated his center is leveraging internal investment, the \$750,000 a year are a small fraction of the indirect costs the center is generating on the OSIRIS-REx program and the small cost of what has been brought into the University over the course of the entire mission.
 - PI Dante Laurretta stated it is the right time to make the investment, the process that was outlined is followed. There was an aim to be as inclusive as possible and open to anyone interested in joining.
 - Senator Fink raised a point of order and asked for an extension of the discussion by a few minutes.
 - Vice Chair Hymel stated she is willing to add two minutes to the discussion.
 - Senator Fink stated his question is directed to Dr. Cheu, some of the centers funded by RII, especially centers such as Space4, seemed to only preserve two faculty members overall. Senator Fink stated Space4 seems to have a funding trajectory of up to \$2.8 million dollars for the next three years. Senator Fink asked if after a series of \$800,000 per year, there are internal RII funding or federal funds for the centers.
 - Senator Fink stated since it was stressed that the center should benefit the overall campus, two people do not represent the entire campus. Senator Fink asked if PI Dante Laurretta can comment on the matter and stated he is speaking on behalf of the Research Policy Committee rather than as a Senator.
 - Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated all centers go through a rigorous vetting process where outcomes, how funds are invested, and what funds are available are looked at. Without regards to Space4, it was the first time in decades that the U.S. Military set up a brand-new force, the Space Force. The University of Arizona looked at this as a potential funding opportunity.
 - Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated Space4 is a new center and institute designed to take advantage of the new funding opportunity and he is unsure of the actual budgeting or how many people are involved but the center does not support only two people. There is a large fraction of researchers and mostly students.
 - Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated he will have to get back to the Senate with answers on how the money is being allocated but the group is already bringing large numbers of students to research forums, and research conferences. It would be mistaken to say there is a large sum of money being put into only two people.
 - Interim SVP of RII, Elliott Cheu stated the Space4 is occupying a significant fraction of the new GCR building therefore the activities are broader than suggested.
 - Chair Hudson stated given requests from Provost Marx, the new, future process includes the requirement for internal vetting for anything sent to ABOR. This process will go through the Research Policy Committee in the Senate. Chair Hudson stated she hopes to be a part of a new and exciting way to develop great

- interdisciplinary programs like the one described.
- Chair Hudson stated in the future RPC will be reviewing proposals along with the fifteen to seventeen forwarded to her by Pete Reiners. This process will continue to be used which calls for excellent opportunities and are not subject to any possible conflict of interest that might come with TRIF money, emanating from the State and controlled by ABOR. This will ensure the excellence described by everyone in the meeting.

B. Athletics update/[FAR Report](#) – Chair of the Faculty, Leila Hudson and Professor and Head, Department of Systems and Industrial Engineering, Faculty Athletics Representative, Ricardo Valerdi [00:48:26]

Chair Hudson [00:48:523]

I am no expert on Athletics, we had initially invited a former Athletic Director, Dave Heeke to speak to the Senate at a previous meeting, that is obviously not going to happen. Perhaps it could at some point in the future. I have also invited the CFO for the Athletics Department, Matthew Hayes and I did not receive an answer. It might just be a misunderstanding that Ricardo Valerdi is the FAR (Faculty Athletic Representative) and might not have been able to make it today. I'd hope to have an expert in athletics that we could ask some questions of. Since Ricardo was not able to make it, we can give back the time and postpone the discussion until a future day. I think the faculty all need an education in Athletics so that we can contribute it it's right sizing, to use that awful term.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated the FAR describes the rule on image and likeness so there may need to be another representative to speak about the item again in the future.
- Senator Ziurys stated senators have more questions regarding the centers and asked if the discussion can be continued.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated Ricardo Valerdi sent a message to her stating he would join the meeting at 4 PM therefore there can be five additional minutes added to the discussion on centers.
- Secretary Dysart stated if Ricardo Valerdi is joining soon, it is a ten-minute item, and there are fifteen minutes dedicated to a new business item and an old item business item, therefore, there will not be enough time to go into Executive Session on time.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated discussion can be continued in the future with a longer time allotment.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated the next item of business will be Senator Downing's motion and Executive Session will start promptly at 4:15 PM. To the extent that honorary degrees are finished prior to 5 PM, regular, unfinished Senate business may resume.

C. [Resolution on Shared Governance](#) – Senator Ted Downing [00:53:04]

Last week, there was a very short resolution distributed, which introduces a transparency and accountability mechanism for the Senate. In the short term, this institutionalizes Shared Governance rather than just naming committees. It gives a physical task to address at least a fraction of the trance of the budget problem that dealt with private deals being made off-budget, which were breaking the budget and causing difficulty.

The idea is to shed transparency on senators not being involved in the actual budgeting process of their colleges, but those and colleges would be reporting to the rest of the Senate and to the community when there is an off-budget action. It could be necessary and before the Senate which would affect the budget tragedy of the commons, where there is more spending than what is had. It shows an active demonstration to the world that the Senate can manage these issues. I ask to pass a resolution and have it go to a discussion directly with President Robbins, John Arnold, and other involved to work out and flush out the details. It does include other professional compensation to the Senate, and release time for the activities they take.

- Vice Chair Hymel asked if there was a motion made.
- Senator Downing moved [**Motion 2023/24-38**] to pass his Resolution on Shared Governance. Motion was seconded.
- Senator Ziurys stated in response to Senator Downing's proposal, there are interesting aspects and it would be good if, for example, the College of Science senators have been talking with the College of Science Deans to understand the budget. Having formal oversight would help everyone with staying on course, not overspending, and having more transparency in the budget than what has happened previously. Senator Ziurys stated she supports Senator Downing's resolution and believes it to be a good idea. Ow that
- Senator M. Witte stated she supports this resolution as a long-range, preventative approach for future budgets now that there are budget models published the prior weekend, thanks to Senator Casey and the librarians. There is now a document available but not in a searchable Excel format, and there is no budget posted for FY24. This is needed as a baseline so that Senators and Faculty-at-large can go into the document at any time. Individuals being able to look at these documents is a step in the right direction.
- Senator M. Witte stated she has been attempting to get these documents reposted for the past few years, and she has made resolutions which have never led to return of having a budget book in the Faculty Center which included every employee and every fund number that the employee is paid by. Senator M. Witte stated this is not necessarily accurate, but it does show the highest paid state employees and administrative bloat which come from state funds, not going into the academic enterprise.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated the time is about to expire, and there is limited time to vote on the motion.
- Secretary Dysart moved [**Motion 2023/24-39**] for cloture and requested to vote on [**Motion 2023/24-39**] by secret

ballot. Motion was seconded.

- Vice Chair Hymel stated if there is an agreement to vote to stop debate, there will be a vote on the proposal.
- **[Motion 2023/24-39]** passed by two-thirds majority vote.
- Secretary Dysart called for a secret ballot vote on [Motion 2023/24-38].
- Vice Chair Hymel stated there is a secret ballot being sent to Senators via email from OpaVote.
- Senator M. Witte asked if a paper ballot is allowed.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated it is allowed.
- **[Motion 2023/24-38]** passed with thirty in favor, nineteen opposed, and four abstentions.

RESUMED: Athletics update/FAR Report – Chair of the Faculty, Leila Hudson and Professor and Head, Department of Systems and Industrial Engineering, Faculty Athletics Representative, Ricardo Valerdi [00:48:26]

Ricardo Valerdi, Faculty Athletics Representative [01:01:26]

The FAR Report included in the agenda has information about support in the age of name, image, and likeness. Essentially, the College Athletics Industry has changed because of student athletes being able to get paid now directly. There are a lot of efforts to support this change in terms of collectives run by alumni and boosters, but also efforts to help with navigating education for student athletes attending the institution.

FAR Valerdi stated he spoke to Ted Downing the previous week regarding athletics and his role therefore, he would like to refresh the Senate with this information. His job entails three main points:

1. To monitor and support student athlete academics. Every semester, all five-hundred student athletes must be made academically eligible.
 - a. This includes ensuring they are enrolled full-time, making adequate progress towards their degree, and they have a minimum GPA.
 - b. He checks with the Registrar's Office to ensure athletes who are not academically eligible are not playing. This also ensures students have resources such as tutoring, academic advice, and support in the C.A.T.S. Academics Building located South of the McKale Arena.
2. Institutional Control ensures compliance and monitoring regarding coaches, boosters, and student athletes. President Robbins signs an attestation form stating he will ensure the Athletics department is following NCAA, Pac-12, and Big 12 rules that apply.
 - a. This does not mean that rules cannot be broken, the question is how to address these situations and ensure there are processes and ways to rectify these situations if they happen.
3. Student Athlete Health & Wellness ensures all mental health support, and medical support is tracked for student athletes.

FAR Valerdi stated he represents the UA's interests at conference meetings for the Pac-12, soon to be Big 12, and the NCAA. His role does not entail personnel or the budget which senators may be interested in. He, Bill Neumann, Lehman Benson, and George Gehrels are involved in the Oversight Committee which serves as advisory to the President. An annual report is received on finances, fundraising, facilities, and medical support. FAR Valerdi stated Chair Hudson most likely remembers that the Senate appoints Faculty to the intercollegiate Athletics Committee meaning there is direct representation from the committee.

FAR Valerdi stated in terms of the moving target of athletics, there are multiple court cases including House v. NCAA, and Johnson v. NCAA that may affect whether student athletes are considered employees or not. There is a lot of new legislation discussed last month at the NCAA convention that increases the costs for an Athletics department.

- An example of this is someone in the membership of the NCAA proposed legislation affecting hundreds of schools around the country, that campuses, specifically the Athletics departments should be responsible for monitoring all NIL deals that student athletes sign.
- This can be difficult especially when an NIL deal is between a student athlete and a third party not associated with the University.
- FAR Valerdi stated he, the Athletics department, and the Compliance Director were against this and used their vote as an institution to deny it. This still passed as the membership thought it was a good thing to do.
- FAR Valerdi stated he thought this was a terrible, administrative nightmare because the burden of not monitoring an NIL deal falls on the University, and not on the individual student athlete.
- It is not possible to control what all five hundred students are doing, and they can only be advised of right from wrong.

FAR Valerdi stated regarding travel costs, travelling to Big 12 campuses is further and there will need to be time-zone considerations. Examples of this include flying into Pittsburgh to get to Morgantown, West Virginia which is trickier. There are a lot of changes happening in the next six to twelve months that will impact the Athletics department.

- FAR Valerdi stated as a Faculty member he is a resource and can assist with questions regarding compliance, and supporting student athletes in classes. An example of a question that he can answer would be asking whether or not one should give a student an exam while they're on the road.
- Senator Gordon stated he applauds the work that FAR Valerdi is doing in support of his student athletes. Senator Gordon stated that in the classes he teaches, he regularly receives updates that he must provide the Athletics department with updates to how student athletes are doing. Similarly, he receives these requests from sororities and fraternities, but he does not get any of these from the rest of his students. Senator Gordon stated these other

students do not have quite as good academic advising in general as athletes do, and asked if something can be done about this.

- FAR Valerdi stated this is a great point and he would like to thank Senator Gordon and everyone who completes the mid-semester forms because they are early warning indicators in case a student is not doing well. In terms of academic advising to student athletes, there are better services provided because there is a lot demanded from them during the season. This is part of the agreement made with them when they are recruited to the UA. If student athletes obtain scholarships, they receive additional academic support because of the extra hours they are required to put in as a student athlete.
- Senator Gordon stated he believes student athletes receive this type of advising because of the money, and the rest of the academic advisors across campus don't have the same ratios as the Athletics department. Senator Gordon stated in his program, the ratio is four-hundred students to one advisor and he believes the ratios in the Athletics department are much better.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated speakers need to be recognized by the Chair and there cannot be back-and-forth discussion.
- Senator Rafelski asked if there can be actual numbers provided including how many students are recruited, how many faculty work for the department, and the academic size of sports.
- FAR Valerdi stated there are five-hundred student athletes across twenty-two sports and not every student has a full scholarship. Some students are on partial scholarships because there are equivalency and head-count sports. Some students do not have a scholarship, and they are called "walk-ons." Tuition is not being waived for all five hundred students, only about half of them with the rest paying tuition.
- FAR Valerdi stated he is the only Faculty Athletics Representative but there is an Intercollegiate Athletics Committee of which half is made up of faculty, and there are academic advisors who focus exclusively on student athletes. He is employed by the College of Engineering, and he is neutral as a no conflict individual who looks at the grades.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated she will allow FAR Valerdi to answer a couple of questions before going into Executive Session.
- Senator Zeiders asked in terms of transparency, given the current budget and management crisis the UA is in, if FAR Valerdi receives a stipend for his work and if he is paid in that role as a faculty advisor, and if so, how much.
- FAR Valerdi stated his stipend is \$15,000 and does receive some academic buyout.
- Senator Ziurys asked if the institution needs all twenty-two sports given the financial crisis. Senator Ziurys stated an example is considering whether a beach volleyball team is needed in Arizona.
- FAR Valerdi stated that is a philosophical question, Title IX is factor which requires that there is an equal number of scholarships given to both women and men. This does not mean there are the same number of sports, for example, football carries eighty-five scholarships which means there must be another eighty-five scholarships given to woman balanced in other sports. An example of this is women's soccer but there is no men's soccer.
- FAR Valerdi stated he is not there to discuss the budget, but an interesting factoid is there are a lot of cross-subsidies when the numbers are looked at. Athletics pays for parking, public safety, facilities, an administrative fee, etc. The University gives tuition waivers for scholarship athletes. It is an interesting accounting exercise and there are not dollars being exchanged constantly but there are a lot of payments that both sides of Main Campus and Athletics are completing to run the operation.
- FAR Valerdi stated if there are follow up questions, he is happy to answer them via email.
- Vice Chair Hymel stated at this point, the regular agenda will be paused, and the meeting will move into Executive Session, if it finishes early, the Senate can proceed with the regular agenda.
- Secretary Dysart moved **[Motion 2023/24-40]** to move into Executive Session. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
- Secretary Dysart stated senators and deans or dean's representatives can stay at the meeting and they will be promoted to panelist, but all other zoom attendees need to exit the meeting.

7. New Business – Update on the General Faculty Education Committee – Chair of the General Education Committee, Mark Stegeman [01:17:03]

The committee had eleven members in the past year and this year, fourteen members with over the span of eleven colleges with a couple of vacancies. The committee's charge is to improve collaboration on General Education where there have been difficulties in shared governance in terms of inclusion. A faculty survey was just completed in collaboration with the Office of General Education and with the Chair of UGEC.

- Chair Stegeman stated he is optimistic that collaboration can work on this topic. He has asked to meet jointly with UGEC and the committee has given him authorization to invite all members of UGEC to their meeting on February 23, 2024.
- Chair Stegeman stated a big step forward for collaboration is at the Office of General Education has scheduled two forums for this month on Civics Education which was the subject of the committee's survey. General Education is not always easy but there is no reason it can't be a successful example of Shared Governance. There will be a written report distributed within the next week.
- Chair Stegeman stated regarding the committee is not only charged with general education but also about civics.

The committee's survey gathered 489 responses, which is a good turnout for a survey on a subject that many don't teach about.

- Chair Stegeman stated the biggest takeaways include the fact that individuals do not feel informed about the ABOR's requirement to put civics into Gen Ed.
 - 60% of the respondents stated they had never heard of the mandate, and 84% said they hadn't heard of it or knew very little about it.
 - While looking at the population outside of SBS, the percentage increased to 88%.
 - The survey results illustrate the communication issue that the committee hopes to contribute to solving.
 - A lot of people are interested in potentially teaching this program and are teaching relevant content. There were five professors who seemed to be teaching in everything ABOR requests, but there were many people only teaching or interested in teaching parts of the Civics Curriculum.
 - There is some angst about teaching civics including some concern about ABOR's motivations or the impact of the policy which is another reason there should be inclusion and collaboration.
 - Chair Stegeman stated he was pleased to say he wanted to initiate the survey to bring more faculty into the discussion and is pleased that there have been 489 participants involved.
- Chair Stegeman stated regarding the state of Civic's Education, it is a challenging topic, and the institution has not made it very far in terms of settling on a curriculum. The institution is a couple of years behind institutions such as NAU who were the first to make changes. No courses or structure for such curriculum has been approved.
- Chair Stegeman stated this matter should be started but not rushed. Difficulties include the complexion of integrating a Civics program into the existing Gen Ed program, where the refresh will be hard. The Civics program is not very far along, therefore, a lot of work will need to be done.
- Chair Stegeman stated there is some level of discomfort which can be overcome, and it may extend to the external community. There was certainly discomfort at NAU but they were the most active of the three universities in pushing this program forward. They initially got into external trouble where they had to revise their program.
- Chair Stegeman stated the UA should avoid any obstacles like NAU's by having inclusive discussions engaging people in the University community concerned about ABOR's mandate. There should be engagement in a bipartisan way with individuals outside of the University involved. This will ensure that best efforts are made to preempt and not generate resistance, and to generate support.
- Chair Stegeman stated he is optimistic that although this is a challenging topic, efforts can be made in a way that most of the University and external communities can get behind. There are more details in the report that will be shared later in the week.
- Chair Stegeman stated he looks forward to collaborating with the Gen Ed office and the University General Education committee which he has been on for over thirteen years.
- Chair Stegeman stated there are five Senators involved in the Committee who are present in the senate meeting including Anna O'Leary, Roy Spece, Mae Smith, and Joellen Russel. The discussion involves everyone, especially the Senate as it plays an important role in shared governance.
- Guest Susan Miller Cochran stated her thanks to Chair Stegeman for the work he has been doing with the committee and to the faculty members involved. Guest Susan Miller Cochran stated having this type of inclusive approach to discussing Civic learning is the most challenging part of General Education for many reasons. One of the reasons is that it is new and given the current political climate, it's challenging to do it well. Guest Susan Miller Cochran stated she is appreciative that those involved have been willing to participate in the conversation.

New Business Item B: Senator Rafelski [01:27:18]

Senator Rafelski stated this item has been discussed with the Chair of the Faculty and the Chair of the Committee of Eleven. Senator Rafelski stated he would like to ask for acclamation and moved **[Motion 2023/24-41]** to approve the following resolution:

The Senate is grateful for the Governor's engagement with administrative and financial challenges facing the University. We support the Governor's letter and hope that she remains engaged for the benefit of the University, its students, and the state.

- Motion was seconded. Motion passed with forty in favor, five opposed, and two abstentions.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Tessa Dysart, Secretary of the Faculty

Jasmin Espino, Recording Secretary

Motions of September 26, 2023 Faculty Senate Meeting

[Motion 2023/24-37] to approve the agenda as amended. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with one objection.

[Motion 2023/24-32] to approve seconded motion from Undergraduate Council, B.S. in Artificial Intelligence. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with fifty-two in favor, two opposed, and one abstention.

[Motion 2023/24-33] to approve seconded motion from Undergraduate Council, B.A. in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with fifty-two in favor, two opposed, and one abstention.

[Motion 2023/24-34] to approve seconded motion from Graduate Council, M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with fifty-two in favor, two opposed, and one abstention.

[Motion 2023/24-35] to approve seconded motion from Graduate Council, M.A. in Sport and Recreation Leadership. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with fifty-two in favor, two opposed, and one abstention.

[Motion 2023/24-38] to pass the Resolution on Shared Governance. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with thirty in favor, nineteen opposed, and four abstentions.

Text of the resolution: The Senate endorses creation of a *transparency and accountability mechanism* whereby elected faculty College Senators openly report proposed off-budget expenditures that may impact the rest of the university. At-large Senators will deal with all non-college units, including Centers and Institutes. All participating elected Senators will receive Other Professional Compensation (OPC) or release time for this work.

[Motion 2023/24-39] for cloture. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by a two-thirds majority vote.

[Motion 2023/24-40] to move into Executive Session. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

[Motion 2023/24-41] to approve a resolution in support of the Governor's letter. Motion was seconded. Motion passed with forty in favor, five opposed, and two abstentions.

Text of the resolution: The Senate is grateful for the Governor's engagement with administrative and financial challenges facing the University. We support the Governor's letter and hope that she remains engaged for the benefit of the University, its students, and the state.

Attachments Within the Minutes

1. Page 1, Item 2: Action Item Approval of the [Agenda](#)
2. Page 4, Item 5: Statement from the Chair – [Governor Hobbs Letter 1/25/24, Huron Article I, & Huron Article II](#)
3. Page 4, Old Business Item 6B: Athletics Update/[FAR](#) Report – Chair of the Faculty, Leila Hudson and Professor and Head, Department of Systems and Industrial Engineering, Faculty Athletics Representative, Ricardo Valerdi
4. Page 7, Old Business Item 6C: [Resolution on Shared Governance](#) – Senator Ted Downing

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