

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: October 21, 2024
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

Present: M Hymel (Chair), D Barefoot, S Cochran, W Fink, J Frumkin, L Hudson, K Little, R Marx, T Ottusch, L Rezende, M Stegeman (Parliamentarian), S Su, J van Haren, J Vetter, P Waddell, S Willis, K Zeiders, and L Ziurys

Absent: J Bernick, A Grijalva, G Heileman, K Maggert, and C Rankin

Guests: M Madden, L Sandoval

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 September 23, 2024

The minutes of September 23, 2024 were approved with one correction.

Review agenda for the November 4, 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting

Zeiders explained the format for the upcoming Special Senate meeting scheduled on October 28, 2024. L Sandoval from Curricular Affairs apprised committee members that the proposals slated for the Consent Agenda are moving through committee approvals and will be ready for Faculty Senate approval in December 2024. Chair Hymel introduced J van Haren and L Rezende who are the new co-chairs for Undergraduate Council. Old Business topics centered around centralization. Frumkin reported that issues are being reported and reviving the *ad hoc* committee would be useful at this time to act as a conduit to address not only what is being reported but to also ensure that decisions, policies, and approaches with the centralization maintain a strong connection to the business goals of both the University as a whole, as well as the individual units within the University so they have a mechanism with decision-making and resourcing policy. Hudson would like clear issues identified before bringing the issue to Faculty Senate. Su reported that she hasn't heard anything from official channels and will address this issue at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Zeiders spoke to the agenda item concerning Multi-year appointments and requested connecting with Provost Marx prior to the meeting. Committee members discussed the General Education report agenda item and Chair Stegeman will share the information with the General Education Office. Items were added and deleted with time allotments given for each item.

Provost's Report – Ron Marx

Marx reported that the last candidate for SVP RII is scheduled for this week. A conversation series on freedom of speech and academic freedom that the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs is scheduled for October 21 and 28, 2024. The President has been meeting with direct reports and deans. Marx is meeting with Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Heileman and Senior Vice Provost Burd on short term programming to work with students who are within a semester or two of finishing their degrees to see if there's something we can do to help them through until the end. In particular, we are focusing on students who are 90% completed to degrees but who are not registered. Providing more support for student success and retention has been a major focus in the Provost's Office. Ziurys mentioned the lack of recognition at the SVP RII candidate interview with a question she asked at the beginning of the session. The academic freedom sessions will be recorded for later viewing.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

Hudson introduced P Waddell, the newly appointed Graduate Council Chair. A new policy/procedure is being rolled out called Graduate Faculty Extraordinary Review and Hudson would like both APPC and C11 to review its content. The Graduate College has designed a set of policies to hear grievances from graduate students against graduate faculty. The Faculty Senate has not seen or endorsed such a policy as it should, and there is sadly no avenue to redress student grievances against faculty. An ABOR Faculty Breakfast is still undecided for the November 2024 ABOR meeting.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

No report.

Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders

Zeiders reported that the Constitution and Bylaws has questions whether the correct version of the approved Bylaws are in effect and if they exist. The committee is also looking at UA's definition of General Faculty as compared to other universities. Apportionment is being looked at to address representation in each college for Faculty Senate. A revision of the bylaws related to the selection of CAFT nominees will be proposed (to Faculty Senate) to make the process more democratic. Cochran asked about ongoing workload and FTE and the need for Faculty Senate to weigh in on certain large-scale issues when those decisions concern entire programs. Marx stated that Faculty Senate should not review and approve particular workloads in colleges because the complexities are so great; decisions should be made by the faculty in each college.

Information Technology – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin reported that the Minecast issues have been reported and the team who supports Minecast cannot keep up with the number of issues being reported. In the past, governance bodies have been set up to assist with impactful services such as email, and it would be worth considering looking into conversations with leadership to reinstitute some of these successful and well-functioning governance bodies that engage key stakeholders to advise and vet policy. The rule sets that are applied are not transparent. No official venue exists to aggregate and track these kinds of issues. Frumkin feels it

would be helpful to improve service and balance security without disrupting business. Official communication was to follow an all hands meeting with UITS last week, but that communication was delayed due to new administration transition. A meeting with the deans was held last week and UITS staff were told deans were enthusiastically supportive of the next steps. Decisions surrounding reorganization will be communicated to affected staff the week of November 4, 2024. Frumkin suggests reaching out to your dean for further clarification. Many have reached out to Frumkin for clarification on the ambiguity and unknowns of how things are being decided. Hopefully formal communication will be forthcoming. Hymel asked if anyone was keeping tabs on cost savings as well as manpower savings by centralization. Frumkin responded no, nor is there a good measurement regarding the stress on IT staff with unreasonable workload assignments, which are proving to be unsustainable.

SPBAC – Greg Heileman and Cindy Rankin

Heileman and Rankin were absent.

UWGEC – Jeremy Vetter

Vetter reported that the committee continues to meet on its regular, bi-weekly schedule with subgroups on intervening weeks. Most of the time is spent on course proposal reviews, but those with complicating issues involve extensive discussion. Members have made requests to allow more time to discuss policy issues. Civic Learning is extensive this semester, as well as work on foundations. Presentations were made on University courses 101 and 301 at the beginning of the year, so more time is being carved out for substantive policy discussions and program evaluation questions. An advisory group was convened by the Office of General Education earlier this month to get feedback on the civic learning models and ways for implementation, but many of the members had trouble with the meeting time. A wide extension window was granted for continued feedback on different models and ways of implementing them. The office created a document that will allow communication with Faculty Senate, UGC, UCAAC, UWGEC and the ad hoc General Education Committee, which Vetter will share. Early feedback from all constituencies will be the key for a clear trajectory back to UWGEC, the Councils, and finally Faculty Senate.

Curricular Affairs – Greg Heileman

Heileman was absent.

Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner

Waddell reported the Council has met twice and things are quiet now given the budget situation.

Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren and Lisa Rezende

Van Haren reported that he and Rezende will be sharing the Council chair responsibilities. Several programs in the last two meetings have been reviewed: A Minor in Insights and Healthy Aging and two modifications to Cyber Operations. On the policy side, van Haren is the Chair of the subcommittee and is working on six undergraduate transfer credit policies. The Council is working on incorporating an ABOR requirement to allow sixty-four

units from community colleges, and with Bachelor's Degree policy combining multiple majors and degrees policy, along with major declaration policy, to align for consistency.

UArizona Staff Council – Danielle Barefoot

Barefoot reported that the Council continues monthly meetings with Human Resources and has raised concerns with the centralization. HR has been a good partner with Staff Council, including the Vice President for Human Resources who now attends the monthly meetings. The Council feels concerns are being heard. A workplace climate survey was sent out with specific information concerning layoffs. Information shared earlier this fall by CFO/COO John Arnold didn't appear complete. A query was submitted to HR and UAIR but were told some of the information needs to remain confidential. Chief Data Officer Chadha will visit with the Council to answer questions. A UASC Professional Development Retreat is scheduled for November 15, 2024, and Barefoot encourages all Directors and Heads to support staff if they would like to attend. Strategic initiatives and planning for advocacy efforts will be main topics of discussion at the Retreat. The report on the survey will be distributed in the next month. UASC is working to make sure all staff that may not have representation are represented either by Faculty Senate or Staff Council.

C11 – Wolfgang Fink

Fink reported that the committee continues to meet every other week. The committee deliberated about the ongoing SVP RII search, then moved and approved a request for a comparative analysis of the four SVP RII candidates via Chair Hudson to committee Chair Abecassis, which he refused. Chief of Staff McDonald, in turn, communicated that potentially there may be a chance for providing Faculty Senate such a comparative analysis. The matter was deferred to Chair Hudson. The UHAP 5.2 revisions that were approved by Faculty Senate concerning annual reviews of administrators is in limbo in Provost Marx's office. The committee is hopeful that the upcoming meeting with Marx and Vice President for University Initiatives, Celina Ramirez, will dissolve those concerns. Hopefully, the Provost will forward the revisions to the President so that a thirty-day review can commence, and ratification can proceed. Barefoot commented that her constituency asked if comparative feedback on all candidates could be offered, and were told no. Barefoot will share the email she received with Fink.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

Ziurys reported that during the last meeting on Wednesday, certain members of the committee reported they were not receiving email messages on the committee listserv. Discussion concerned the 2% overhead return that has been rescinded. The overhead return is used to pay for undergraduate and graduate students, and both student representatives would like to take this back to their constituencies informing them that this decision directly impacts students and not primarily the faculty. The committee has a lengthy timeline of negotiations with the Provost and CFO Arnold quashed all efforts made by the committee without any consultation with the Provost. The controversy about fixed price contracts and IDC money is being given back to the PI's, but that appears to have been blocked. Ongoing challenges persist and the committee is trying to resolve these issues.

APPC – Keith Maggert

Maggert was absent.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch

Little reported the committee heard speakers from Basic Needs and hope they can present to Faculty Senate soon. Chief Patterson will be attending the next meeting to discuss safety issues on campus. A meeting with Policy Analyst, Annette Maggio will be coming to an upcoming meeting to discuss policy. Hymel requested that Little ask Patterson about injunctions against individuals and notifying surrounding buildings of that injunction. Little agreed.

DEI – Spencer Willis

Willis reported the committee discussed the Statement on Professional Conduct shared by APPC Chair Maggert. The committee has a new student representative and an upcoming presentation from University Initiatives and Policy's team at this week's meeting. The committee has plans to reconnect with Vice Provost and Chief Inclusion Officer, Jennifer Hatcher concerning the climate survey.

ASUA – Adriana Grijalva

Grijalva was absent.

GPSC – Jeremy Bernick

Bernick was absent.

President's Report – TBA

No report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry