

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: November 18, 2024
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

Present: M Hymel (Chair), D Barefoot, S Cochran, W Fink, J Frumkin, A Grijalva, G Heileman, L Hudson, K Little, K Maggert, 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 and C Rankin

Guests: 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 October 21, 2024

The minutes of October 21, 2024 were approved.

Review agenda for the December 2, 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting

Committee members reviewed the draft Faculty Senate agenda for the upcoming meeting on December 2, 2024. Zeiders mentioned the recent Arizona Daily Star article concerning the \$1.6M increase in payroll expenditures for administrators, but a decrease in faculty payroll by \$4M and \$3M for staff. Marx explained that occasionally different data base sets are used, and information reported doesn't align. The increase in administrator costs are associated mainly with College of Health Sciences, specifically the movement of administrators out of the division of Health Sciences into the College of Health Sciences. Zeiders said that everyone is using the same data from UAir, but the number of active faculty varies from 4,000 reported by the Provost's Office to 3,300 (700 adjuncts) that Zeiders obtains with the same data set.. Marx asked how much substantive discussion and adjudication of agenda items should be allowed when the process only calls for setting the Faculty Senate agenda. Future items were noted for the January 2025 Faculty Senate meeting. Committee members discussed focused, direct communication to specific decision-making administrators for IT Centralization to get concerns acknowledged. Hudson feels the President is the entity to hear all inquiries/concerns with costs/benefits, and a forthcoming Resolution is in order.

Provost's Report – Ron Marx

Marx reported that the ABOR meeting will be held on UA campus this week. The ABOR Thursday evening reception will include two undergraduate students of excellence nominated from each college. Friday morning's Regents' breakfast will be a Research Center Director and a graduate student at each table with a Regent. The goal in both cases is show off quality of teaching and research endeavors at the UA. A delegation of Indian private Universities was held on Friday and Saturday of last week. Presentations were made on how we operate as an organization and the governance structures. Marx spoke about shared governance, the Faculty Senate, and SPBAC. A Tribal Education Summit was held at the Law School hosted by Tessa Dysart. Representatives from tribal authorities, tribal community colleges, and higher education institutions with about 100 people in attendance, which strengthened our ability to recruit high quality, Native American students to the University.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

Hudson stated that the Regents continue to avoid all contact with faculty governance when visiting the UA. The breakfast and reception structure were designed to highlight excellent parts of our community but failed to include any faculty governance. A Special Faculty Senate meeting has been scheduled for November 25, 2024 from 3-4:30 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting will be held in Executive Session with a focus on General Education and Executive Director of the Gen Ed Office, Susan Miller Cochran, ad hoc Gen Ed Committee Chair, Mark Stegeman, and UWGEC Chair, Jeremy Vetter will all present.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

No report.

Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders

Zeiders reported that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee met today. Several issues are prevalent with previous Secretaries' documentation of changes so things are very convoluted at present. Zeiders said she has spent more than thirty hours uncovering the history of what has transpired over the years with voting by the General Faculty and Faculty Senate. The committee will be meeting on December 16, 2024 to determine how to move forward. The committee has also discussed the definition of General Faculty, which is not in line with most of our peer institutions. The definition appears to be exclusionary as it specified that Career Track faculty must complete three out of four years of appointments, and the definition excludes several faculty who are actively teaching and a part of the University community. The committee will be addressing the definition this coming semester. The Committee on Faculty Membership has yet to meet. The two committees will work together to propose a more inclusive definition of General Faculty.

Information Technology – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin reported the RFP for a new High Performance Computing System was published last week. This is critical to the research mission of the university, and while we are about 2 years behind schedule on the HPC refresh, we are now moving forward again. Specific

thanks to Elliott Cheu and RII for championing this effort forward and for funding the new HPC system.

SPBAC – Greg Heileman and Cindy Rankin

No report.

UWGEC – Jeremy Vetter

Vetter reported that the committee continues to meet on its regular, bi-weekly schedule with subgroups meeting in between weeks. Course proposal reviews are proceeding. The backlog from summer is clearing and getting sorted through. Proposals may be delayed at the department or college level, or the cross listing earlier in the approval process. Civic Learning proposal review has slowed, in part to consider feedback from the advisory group that was continuing to solicit input from faculty and advisors across campus up to last Friday. UWGEC is anticipating a compilation of total input received from the Civic Learning Advisory Group. The Special Session of Faculty Senate will be helpful for more input. The Academic Advising Council offered valuable input, so the information gathering phase continues. Another intersection is changing ideas around the attributes which are the additional things attached to General Education courses above and beyond the category they are in. In fall 2026, students will have the option to take attribute models in Civic Learning outside of the expected configuration.

Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner

Waddell reported the Council put forth the three proposals on the Consent agenda. The Council discussed possibly pushing for GRA student health insurance and looking into how that will work.

Curricular Affairs – Greg Heileman

No report.

DEI – Spencer Willis

Willis reported the committee's next meeting will be Friday with full representation for the first time. Willis reached out to Jenna Hatcher to learn about the Campus Climate Survey and is waiting for her response. The committee discussed verbiage related to the political activity policy. Annette Maggio reached out to speak to the committee and a time will be set up in the near future.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch

Little reported that Steve Patterson attended the last meeting and answered numerous questions received from students and faculty. The committee will decide how they would like to disseminate the information at its meeting next month.

APPC – Keith Maggert

Maggert reported that the committee reviewed the political activity policy and determined that it was possibly in violation of state law and a violation of University policy. The interim policy has been active for four and half years, and interim policies are never to exceed one year in place. The recommendations from the committee's review were forwarded to

multiple entities and no response has been received. The committee is currently reviewing a graduate level policy whereby the Dean of the Graduate College, Kirsten Limesand, can remove graduate faculty status affecting work on graduate committees and work with graduate students impacting employment status. Both items will be placed on the January agenda for Faculty Senate discussion.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

Ziurys reported that RII requested they meet quarterly with the committee. They are awaiting a response from RII to set up a meeting. Concern over the removal of the 2% overhead return to PI's, the fixed price complete contract, and centralization on research remains prevalent. Committee member Hopkins is drafting language on behalf of the committee to bring to Faculty Senate and are considering taking to the President.

C11 – Wolfgang Fink

Fink reported that the committee has follow up meetings with Marx, Vice President Ramirez, and Vice President Rodriguez regarding UHAP 5.2. Once all parties approve the revision of the policy, it can be presented to President Garimella.

UArizona Staff Council – Danielle Barefoot

Barefoot reported that the Council held its retreat on Friday from 8:00 to 2:00 p.m. and it was very well attended with sixty participants in person and online. The Workplace Climate Survey that Staff Council sent out was discussed. There were 2,000 respondents or about a 20% response rate. The numbers need to be checked for accuracy. Barefoot hasn't looked at the draft report yet, but there is quantified evidence of anecdotal things related to general statements about morale, etc., which will be shared at the next UASC meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Copies will be distributed to Faculty Senate and University leadership. Barefoot will present to Faculty Senate at its January 2025 meeting. The Executive Committee was invited to meet with Garimella and Arnold, and also met separately with Marx. Garimella expressed an interest in meeting face to face with staff. Due to an outstanding \$50-60M deficit, various units have been told to prepare for 3-5% cuts meaning a future reduction in force. Any salary increase program for staff may not be equitable, and Barefoot expects more anxiety and tension in the coming months.

Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren and Lisa Rezende

Van Haren reported that the transfer credit policy has been placed on the Non-consent agenda. Changes to the policy surround a disparity that ABOR has allowed community colleges to teach upper division courses. Students coming from Arizona community colleges into the University are no longer limited to sixty-four units. Six transfer policies were combined into one workable policy including different accreditations. Still over 140 undergraduate policies remain on the books. The Council is working to reduce redundancy and streamline processes. The second language courses and foundations courses may need to be revised in the future. BA and BS have different requirements for a second language. Any changes will to undergraduate policy will need to be approved by Faculty Senate.

ASUA – Adriana Grijalva

Grijalva left early.

GPSC – Jeremy Bernick

Bernick was absent.

President's Report – TBA

No report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry