

**The University of Arizona®**  
**Faculty Senate Executive Committee**  
**1216 E. Mabel St. (PO Box 210456)**  
**621.1342**  
**facultycenter@email.arizona.edu**  
**Minutes: March 23, 2026**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**VIA ZOOM**

Present: M Hymel (Chair), D Barefoot, S Cochran, T Downing, J Frumkin, G Heileman, M Hingle, L Hudson, K Little, K Maggert, S Miller-Cochran (Parliamentarian), K Maggert, B Neumann, P Prelock, J van Haren, J Vetter, P Waddell, K Zeiders, and L Ziurys

Absent: M Abdennebi, S Buxner, A Grijalva, T Ottusch, R Reinhardt

Guests: J Bender, M Madden, and 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 January 12, 2026**

The minutes of January 12, 2026 were approved.

**Review agenda for the April 6, 2026 Faculty Senate Meeting**

Committee members reviewed the draft agenda for the April 6, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting. Prelock mentioned the upcoming Final Four dates conflicting with the April Faculty Senate meeting should our team advance. Downing read the hiring practices motion he plans to present in Faculty Senate. Hudson mentioned the MOU and revising it to replace outdated practices. Questions arose regarding the President's refusal to sign the MOU, and any adherence to the Shared Governance Law. Prelock said that shared governance is valued by the UA administration and she regularly communicates shared governance concerns to the Senior Leadership. Instead of a past MOU structure, a shared set of principles should be formulated moving forward. Administration values the opportunity to be part of the shared governance structure. Ziurys stated that although everything sounds fine, there is a feeling among Regents Professors that the President does not listen to his faculty, the papers report he is not interested in shared governance, and him showing that he listens to faculty hasn't happened. Hingle said that although the MOU is from 2022, the basic principles are a good starting point for a foundation to move forward. Downing said the implementation of shared governance was not borne out communication issues, but to help wrangle skyrocketing administrative costs. The law had full bipartisan support, as well as with the Republican Governor at the time. The Board of Regents as the regulatory authority delegated the institutions to detail the statute

accordingly, as UA did with its MOU. The UA mandated that elected faculty representatives be the responsible party. The mandate of the law is in the usage of the word “shall.” Hudson agreed with Hingle that the 2022 MOU is a good starting point moving forward with a subsequent MOU, outlining a set of principles around hiring and administrative review, and what we might expect from shared and faculty governance. Ziurys said that memorandums are a great thought but are a waste of time when they are ignored. Top Hat voting will be implemented during the meeting for voting. CIO Elliott Cheu will be invited back to answer questions, and Eric Kazmierczak and Jenny Lee are available for a law enforcement on campus tutorial. The Grievance Clearinghouse/CAFT Chair, Roberto Guzmán and Hudson will discuss the newly formed Grievance Reform Committee. Ziurys expressed dismay with the new structure the President imposed delegating the final decision ruling in grievances over to the Provost. This is a conflict of interest. Hudson agreed and said the process is discouraging to the faculty who volunteer their time to deliberate in the CAFT process. The President has removed himself dramatically from any judgment calls to protect himself and keep his hands clean of any unresolved issues flowing to the courts. Committee members approved the 2026-2027 Faculty Senate and Senate Executive Committee schedules. Committee members approved the April 6, 2026 agenda.

#### **Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson**

Hudson said that the high-level grievance discussions, a statement of principles and the fallout from the Honorary Degree policy will gain further discussions in Faculty Senate. Hudson has decided to object to the Honorary Degree debacle/censure by bypassing Commencement ceremonies this year and encourages other faculty to do so as well.

#### **C11 – Ted Downing**

No report. The committee is busy on several issues, convening public meetings and will host its first community forum.

#### **Curricular Affairs – Greg Heileman**

Heileman reported that the Disestablishments in SBS will be rolled into the Global Studies Program. Hudson asked for any updates on UAGC and its transformation of programs, degrees, or names. Heileman responded that Curricular Affairs isn't involved with UAGC and is not aware if the Dooley report has been completed. Prelock said more information will be disclosed next week. Ninety credit hour programs are being discussed, and other institutions are extremely concerned. Perhaps choosing a pilot program in a particular career area would be a way to see if it's feasible.

#### **SPBAC – Greg Heileman and Melanie Hingle**

The final meeting of the year will be held this Wednesday. Prelock has been using the group to vet Yuma strategy and academic success goals. Provost Fellows are helping to support the leads for the academic success goals. Special Advisor, Richard Cate, is reviewing the budget model and SPBAC provided him its input. Hudson asked to make room on the agenda for the all funds processes and cuts to the colleges. Prelock said that the deans and finance people are coming prepared. Barefoot said she had heard 4% cuts and asked if departments were prepared for any more than that. Prelock responded that

they are seeing what 2% and 3% look like both on the administrative and academic sides. Downing asked how cuts will compromise students' ability to graduate on time. Metrics are pulled for all colleges, enrollment, net tuition, revenue, how many faculty/staff, and increases and decreases are explained and what the reduction looks like.

### **Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner**

Waddell reported that the Council met and reviewed admission numbers. Admissions have increased and recruitment looks good.

### **Information Technology – Jeremy Frumkin**

Frumkin reported that UA is contracted for the new HPC cluster, a critical piece of research infrastructure for faculty. Senior administration, as well as the research computing governance committee, were extremely supportive. Coordination between Arnold, de la Rubia, Cheu, and Cate's combined efforts unlocked \$1.5M in research grant funds to buy into and leverage the system from external funding. The RFP process took over three years, one of the longest in history. This endeavor supports the strategic imperatives of the University in terms of research and AI components for research and instruction. Ziurys expressed her concern for the push to integrate AI into everything. Students are given problem sets and they run off to a computer to get the answer instead of learning how to think independently. Frumkin said that Chief AI and Data Science Officer, David Ebert, is cognizant of these facts and the core and critical aspects of strategy and approach is to make this responsible and ethical AI. Students are going to use AI, it's up to us to teach them how to use it responsibly. Heileman responded that there are syllabus guidelines provided by the AI working group for different scenarios. Students should be notified if AI is not allowed to be used in the course. AI is part of the future and proper training to use it is mandatory. Downing said he grades his students on the quality of their questions, not their answers. Frumkin added that it's a quickly emerging technology, especially around pedagogy. There will be more than one clear way to properly, ethically, and responsibly merge pedagogy and learning in different domains with AI.

### **Provost's Report – Patricia Prelock**

Prelock reported that the search for the new Dean of the College of Law is coming to fruition next week. Candidates for the Pharmacy Dean search will be arriving next week. Candidates for the CALES Dean search will be arriving the following week. Five Year Reviews for senior leaders are in process with Romero, Heileman, Packard, Kannan, and Poloni-Staudinger. Prelock asked all deans to tell her how they review chairs and associate/assistant deans to get ideas with what works, doesn't work, and how improvements can be made and how to implement a structure of uniformity. Three-year reviews are newly implemented and conducted by the immediate supervisor. Ziurys asked how the review committees are formed. Prelock said the formal process is outlined in UHAP and ABOR. Faculty Senators are recommended by Hudson.

### **Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders**

The new Honorary Degree Committee appointed by the President has met and reviewed three candidates. The colleges submitted nominees with supporting materials. The

committee reviewed and submitted its recommendations to the President. Constitutions changes are being voted on by the General Faculty. A single state audit is responsible for holding up eighty-eight grants from NIH with the College of Engineering. Each faculty who is impacted has been contacted about this issue. Hopefully, it will be resolved by March 30, 2026. Forty-five continuing and twenty new grants are affected. Some are applying for bridge funding during the interim period. The grant landscape is quite bleak with NIH and NSF awarding 25% less grants. UITS has assured that support around research will not be centralized and units will remain staffed. As a Research Fellow, Zeiders has been meeting with Barefoot and both have meeting with researchers, faculty and staff. A report to SPBAC will be forthcoming.

**RPC – Lucy Ziurys**

No report.

**Staff Council – Danielle Barefoot**

No report.

**SGRC – Mona Hymel**

No report.

**Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren**

No report.

**President’s Report – Rachel Reinhardt**

No report.

**APPC – Keith Maggert**

No report.

**SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch**

No report.

**Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel**

No report.

**UWGEC – Jeremy Vetter**

No report.

**ASUA – Adriana Grijalva**

No report.

**GPSC – Mourad Abdennebi**

No report.

**University Committee on Community Relations – TBA**

No report.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry