

**The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
1216 E. Mabel St. (PO Box 210456)
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Minutes: April 20, 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, T Ottusch, P Prelock, J van Haren, J Vetter, P Waddell, K Zeiders, and L Ziurys

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

Guests: J Bender, M Madden, and L Sandoval

Call to Order

Chair Hymel called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of January 12, 2026 and February 16, 2026

The minutes of January 12 and February 16, 2026 were approved.

Review agenda for the May 4, 2026 Faculty Senate Meeting

Committee members reviewed the draft agenda for the May 4, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting. Faculty Senate elections were explained in detail. Committee members discussed the Top Hat voting system and agreed to move forward with the platform. The Consent Agenda was discussed in detail and ultimately approved to move forward for approval at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. Under Old Business, Zeiders requested that Constitution and Bylaws updates be added to the agenda. CIO Cheu is asked to return to answer questions on the Email policy proposal and provide an update on IT. Under New Business, the Kyl Institute for National Security update from SVP for ORP Díaz de la Rubia, Career Track Faculty Needs Committee update, and the annual Athletics Report from FAR Ricardo Valerdi. Committee members voted to approve the agenda.

C11 – Ted Downing

A public forum is scheduled for May 2, 2026 and meetings have transitioned to an open format.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

Hudson thanked outgoing committee members van Haren, Zeiders, Vetter, Heileman, and Barefoot. Hudson discussed the Honorary Degrees chosen by the new committee now bypassing a Faculty Senate vetting process. Grievances are moving along but are also being filed at an alarming rate.

Curricular Affairs – Greg Heileman

No report.

Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner

Waddell reported that the Council looked at an accelerated Master's program policy proposal, a substantial change in Teaching and Learning MA, and substantial change to Physician's Assistant and to the TLS Ph.D. There were two other changes to the EDS in Language, Reading, and Culture and one to the Genetic Counseling MS.

SPBAC – Greg Heileman and Melanie Hingle

The Annual Report to Faculty Senate will be submitted this week.

IT Update – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin was absent.

Provost's Report – Patricia Prelock

No report.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch

Little reported that guests will be International Student Services and Christine Salverson.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

The Arizona Materials Lab issue is ongoing, and memos have been sent to the Provost and SVP for ORP. The committee is trying to reinstate getting the 2% overhead back, but the committee will have to meet with him to get anything formally set. A study on the reduction of funding for graduate assistantships and will have more information for Faculty Senate in the near future. Hudson said at the recent internal audit review board that an audit of post award financing at the department level is needed. An array of practices differ from department to department. Account management and finance at the department level is in need of protocols because abuse seems to exist between accounts with positive balances and those with negative balances.

Staff Council – Danielle Barefoot

Declaration of Candidacy for Staff Council Officers is open. Chair Madden will not run again. The Emily Krause Staff Professional Development award nominations will be closing on Thursday and award will be given out in the spring. The Crossroads Conference will be held Thursday, May 21, 2026 in the Student Union. Speakers are being asked to give talks at future meetings.

Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren

Other than the items on the upcoming agenda, a more detailed report will be submitted for the final Faculty Senate meeting. Discussions following the UNIV Advisory Group with Devon Thomas Jones, Kian Alavy and Greg Heileman, and one with Cheryl Schrader-Gerken and Cheryl Casey from the Library about course material deadlines, where materials are housed and accessed, and how the Library helps faculty with making sure their course materials are available to students and all functions remain active.

UWGEC – Jeremy Vetter

Main priorities relate to implementing the civic institutions curriculum and two new attributes, making seventeen civic institutions courses submitted for spring 2027. The understand and value difference attribute is being offered in a streamlined process for people who used to have the D and E attribute which was sunsetted. The UWGEC is working with the Office of General Education to devise a process by which the courses that lost their attribute can get another one back and understand and value difference is one of them. Civic exploration may be another.

Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders

Zeiders thanked everyone and said she would be moving on with the Provost Fellows work. Goals accomplished were increasing Career Track Faculty in shared governance and multi-year contracts were increased by 55%.

SGRC – Mona Hymel

No report.

President's Report – Rachel Reinhardt

No report.

APPC – Keith Maggert

No report.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

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 5:03 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry

