The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
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Minutes: August 24, 2026
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

Present: M Hymel (Chair), J Frumkin, L Hudson, K Kennedy, K Little, J Lee, K Maggert, S Miller-Cochran, B Neumann, T Ottusch, P Prelock, R Reinhardt, C Rocha, P Waddell, and L Ziurys

Absent: S Buxner, T Downing, M Hingle, A Roof

Guests: U Dooling, 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 March 23, 2026 and April 20 2026
The minutes of March 23 and April 20, 2026 were approved.

Review agenda for the August 31, 2026 Faculty Senate Meeting
Committee members reviewed the draft agenda for the August 31, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting.

- Hudson suggested eliminating the Top Hat voting system, citing that the platform was confusing. Kennedy agreed and added that it presented technical issues that were time consuming during the meeting. Top Hat is installed for instructional use, and to use it for Senate voting, a workaround is necessary and clunky. Another voting platform would be preferred, one that isn't associated with course instruction. Committee members agreed.
- Waddell asked to postpone the proposals for M.ED. in Data Literacy and MA in Arts Administration to the October Faculty Senate meeting. Graduate Council has yet to meet. Committee members agreed and the items were removed from the Consent agenda.
- A revised Email Policy has not been shared with campus. Maggert advised on a change in the policy approval process. Previously, a form had to be filled out requesting policies to become interim policies before they were approved. The

process seems to now only require approval from the President. APPC had reviewed the Email Policy last semester, and the committee had strong criticism and recommended it be withdrawn. The policy disappeared and no other version has come to the committee since that time. APPC would like to review the revised policy as a first order of business.

- Hudson said there are concerns over the Kyl Institute and its relationship to faculty research is. Centers and Institutes proliferate and migrate without oversight from the faculty. Ziurys said the RPC was supposed to review Centers and Institutes, but it never came to fruition. Prelock said she encouraged Dìaz de la Rubia to come to Faculty Senate, and that he has a committee reviewing the financial model of Centers and Institutes. Rocha said Centers and Institutes have financial oversight, they are funded and tracked by the UA, and most of them are managed by the ORP business center under Business Affairs. Prelock said there are Center and Institute Directors that have a responsibility for scientific oversight and monies will be withheld if they are not demonstrating they are making a difference. Maggert said in the past there was concern that movement of units were tagged for reorganization. If it truly is a reorganization, then the Senate has responsibility in that process. Could we ask Diaz de la Rubia to speak specifically about the overall process? Faculty Senate would like clarity on its involvement if these are reorganizations.
- Hudson said Lisa Kiser has brought up Mandatory Training for Interpersonal Violence training in Open Session.
- Frumkin said the Travel Policy item will need organizing due to the contentious nature of the topic. Hudson said that protocol for the Travel Policy differs among colleges. In some colleges, every faculty member who anticipates travel needs must obtain a travel card and undergo three hours of Edge training, whereas in other colleges, one travel card can be used for all faculty who travel. An overview of what is being applied currently is needed, with the expectation of an onslaught of questions and complaints. Rocha said that if a faculty member wants to pay for travel in advance with University funds, a travel card is needed. Otherwise, they can purchase travel independently and ask for reimbursement after they return from traveling. Frumkin said understanding the deltas from the old policy to the new policy would be beneficial. What are we looking to get out of this presentation? Hudson said asking for the top ten changes from the old policy to the new would be the primary goal. How and why was this new policy rolled out without any remote policy process that is given for academic policies. A policy of this magnitude should not be carried out without the same process. One of the most infuriating clauses is mandating that only one representative of the University can

attend a conference. Clearly this emanates from someone who doesn't know how a University works. Hudson said most of these policy changes occurred over the summer and how we do policy needs to go on the October Senate agenda. A larger conversation for standardizing and overseeing policy changes needs to happen.

- A subcommittee of C11 is looking into the Health Sciences restructuring.
- The reduced admissions and its related mid-semester/mid-year anticipated budget effects is another topic for discussion for October.
- The Surveillance Committee's report should be out mid-September. Ziurys said that students in Chemistry and Biochemistry informed her that cameras were installed in the building and the department head was unaware they had been installed. Hudson said that there is a patchwork of surveillance cameras, aside from high-interest contracts, that now channel into a central monitoring hub in the basement of the Administration tower, but we do not know how many different systems exist, or how interoperable they are, and it's also not clear under whose authority they operate. The authority should be on the dean. Preliminary investigations are revealing more questions than answers. Kennedy's concern is around transparency, notification, and data utilization and we have nothing. The issue is how the data are controlled and secured. What are the contractual agreements, who owns the data, what are the data restrictions, and how secure is the data storage. Secondly, most people on campus have no idea they're being surveilled. Hudson said there had been a major shift of procurement officers as the committee was undertaking this assignment, and Andrew Brennan may be the custodian of contractual information about data storage that the committee is eager to find. As explained to Chief Safety Officer, Steve Patterson, this topic is of high importance to everyone in the community to make sure we're doing it right and not violating people's privacy or civil liberties in the process. Prelock said making sure students are safe going in and out of their residential halls is one reason, and there is always an intentional purpose for safety reasons. Kennedy said students would appreciate hearing that the cameras were part of the safety network on campus. Camera presence is preventative and if it's publicly known that there's surveillance cameras we might have fewer problems. Hudson said the press is interested in digging into this issue. The committee's report will delve into how we balance public safety with privacy rights.

APPC – Keith Maggert

No report.

C11 – Ted Downing

Downing was absent.

IT Update – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin reported that there has been some work on the data centers on campus that deal with outages. There have been no reports of power loss during recent storms. With IT, it's what you don't see that has value. As far as the camera issue is concerned, the Library has had cameras for over twenty years. The issue isn't so much the technology, but having consistent policy regardless of vendors and ensuring that data governance and the policy around the privacy is consistent. Perhaps better alignment would be welcome.

President's Report – Rachel Reinhardt

No report.

Provost's Report – Patricia Prelock

Prelock reported that there will be three dean searches commencing in the fall for the Colleges of Nursing, Engineering, and Information Science. Clarissa Robles-Parra will be reaching out to Faculty Senate for department/college search committee recommendations. HR will be involved in the process instead of employing an outside search firm. This approach is more fiscally sound, as well as thoughtful. Prelock will discuss the health sciences transition, Provost's Office and ORP responsibilities, and will be meeting with all Health Sciences deans twice a semester to make sure needs are being met. We are also interspersing other college departments into the Health Sciences; CALES with Nutrition and Food Sciences, College of Science with Speech Pathology, Audiology, and Psychology. The Provost Fellows, have worked to create metrics for academic success goals and will be sharing this information at the Academic Leadership Forum. A Health Innovation Summit is being planned for the 1st or 2nd of December and Prelock would like the committee to participate. The Summit will showcase the UA as a leader with Banner in supporting health and well-being in our community in rural settings, as well as using AI technology in telemedicine. The event will be held in Phoenix. Prelock talked about the institution's strict rubric for student acceptance. This semester brings the largest resident group ever and 85% of students were accepted. Thoughtful criteria include making sure students can graduate while not eliminating the possibility of other student groups. Hard numbers will be available mid-September. Some dormitories were taken offline due to safety reasons. Deans were involved with tweaking the support for non-resident students by increasing merit to support their success. The Yuma branch medical campus is the first allopathic medical campus on a tribal nation.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

No report.

Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner

Graduate proposals are discussed above in the committee's general discussion.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

Ziurys reported that the committee hasn't met this semester. Carry over topics are the email policy and its impact on research and contract business with graduate students.

Secretary of the Faculty – Susan Miller-Cochran
No report.

SGRC – Mona Hymel
Hymel said College bylaws review will be looked at this semester.

SPBAC – Melanie Hingle and Jenny Lee
Lee introduced herself as the new Co-chair of SPBAC. Lee said going forward, emphasis will be on the advisory aspect of the committee and hopes to provide a healthy forum for healthy discussions for debate and change. Presenters will ask questions at the onset of each meeting so the group can offer its suggestions in meaningful ways. The first meeting will take place in September. Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon, had a call to action for all University Presidents and governing boards to come up with a statement of principles. Garimella is asking SPBAC to weigh in on shared principles in conjunction with academic success goals, as well as how these relate to research security and academic freedom. Instead of presetting topics in advance, the committee wants to see what hot topics may come forth from the federal government.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch
Little reported the committee will address housing and safety issues and connecting with students in the military. The committee will work closely with Vice President for Student Affairs, Amanda Kraus.

Staff Council – Christina Rocha
Rocha reported that a retreat is planned and the service awards will return this year.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel
No report.

Undergraduate Council – Allyson Roof
Roof was absent.

ASUA – Katie Kelleher
No report.

GPSC – Vanessa Macamo
No report.

University Committee on Community Relations – TBA
No report.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry