

**The University of Arizona®**  
**Faculty Senate Executive Committee**  
**1216 E. Mabel St. (PO Box 210456)**  
**621.1342**  
**facultycenter@email.arizona.edu**  
**Minutes: March 21, 2022**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**VIA ZOOM**  
<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/9503583576>

Present: M Hingle (Chair), M Brewer, M Bolger, B Brummund, C Casey, J Curry, J Dudas, T Dysart, W Fink, P Gordon, L Folks, S Helm, M Hymel, K Kline, J Lawrence, W Neumann, D Ohala, S Sen, M Stegeman (Parliamentarian), and J Summers

Absent: R Hammer and R Tsosie

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Hingle moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded. Motion passed and the agenda was approved.

### **Approval of the Minutes of February 14, 2022, January 24, 2022 and November 15, 2022**

The minutes of February 14, 2022, January 24, 2022 and November 15, 2021 were approved.

### **UPDATES**

#### **President of the University – Jon Dudas**

Dudas reported that announcements have been sent out to campus advising that masking is no longer required in most places except for clinical settings and inside the CatTran shuttle. There were only three instances on campus last week where COVID was reported, and numbers continue to remain low. UArizona has a good package with the Legislature that has been agreed upon by all three in-state Universities and ABOR. There are a few Legislators who would like to give UArizona more money, particularly for its agricultural extension missions. UArizona worked with ABOR to support the entire package for all three Universities and will continue to advocate for same, but UArizona also doesn't want to turn down any monies for other packages, and the situation can be contentious with the other Universities. The two other Universities don't have the same programs or haven't been successful advancing their programs in the last couple of years. The Tuition Hearing is next week which will advance to the April ABOR meeting. Hingle asked about the timing of the decision for the funding package by the Legislature. Dudas responded that it would commence next fiscal year. Fink stated that masks no longer being required in the classroom is very disappointing to many faculty members and asked if there was any way to mitigate this decision. Dudas said the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is a place to go and they were going to work with faculty, staff, and students that have concerns and work toward appropriate accommodations. With UArizona being the last University to comply, there was a risk of having an Executive Order or new regulation being handed down by the Legislature. Folks added that the important thing to remember is that wearing a KN95 surgical mask confers actual benefit to the wearer as well as the people in close proximity. People who have concerns should reach out directly to the Provost to mitigate risk exposure strategies. Fink added that Europe is

currently experiencing unprecedented peaks while at the same time governments are opening up and dropping mask mandates while death rates are still consistently high. Ohala said that she is hearing from many concerned individuals and is worried because people are feeling that if they can't get control over the situation they will quit. Everyone entered into the semester with a general feeling of safety that is no longer in place. What is the timeline for figuring out strategies since the semester is almost over. Dudas said that concerned individuals should start the conversation with the DRC immediately, and solutions are based on an individual case basis, whether it's a concern for a family member or themselves. Gordon said that before the mask mandate began, faculty members in the College of Medicine found that wearing a mask acted as a role model for the students.

#### **Provost – Liesl Folks**

Folks reported that she is returning from a trip to Dubai to work with UArizona's alumni in the Gulf States and it was a stimulating and positive to hear how impactful their experiences at the University of Arizona were on their careers. Work continues to be able to grow the University's influx of international students, although there's optimism that the next few pandemic cycles will be less damaging. Summers ask Folks for a brief update on the Dean searches. Eller College is in its final stages to bring three candidates back to campus to meet more extensively with President Robbins. For the College of Education and Social and Behavioral Sciences, first-time candidates are being whittled down to bring the short list in for interviews. The target is to have the new hires in place by the end of the semester. Folks acknowledged and thanked search committee members who give up time to do the work defining who the University's future leaders will be.

#### **Chair of Faculty – Jessica Summers**

Summers will talk with Curry about an upcoming Gen Ed Refresh presentation to Faculty Senate.

#### **Vice Chair of the Faculty – Melanie Hingle**

Hingle discussed the negative reaction from Faculty Senators at the previous Faculty Senate meeting with regard to the revised Shared Governance Memorandum of Understanding documents. Hopefully Faculty Senators will have a chance to read them prior to the April 4, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting to ensure an informed discussion. The SGRC and other ad hoc committees have been working on the documents for three years, and in an effort to better inform Faculty Senators of the changes, the Faculty Officers and Helm will be having discussion time set aside on March 28, 2020 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. to answer questions and take comments. Committee members discussed extensively the processes for a name change for a school, and if it would need Faculty Senate approval.

#### **Secretary of the Faculty – Michael Brewer**

Brewer thanked Faculty Center staff for getting the Runoff election populated with the Constitution and Bylaws revisions. The PDF documents were difficult to work with due to formatting issues.

#### **SPBAC – Barry Brummund and Sabrina Helm**

Helm reported that four weeks prior, the committee had a discussion on faculty retention and recruitment. Brummund and his colleagues reported several times on expenditures on campus, which were all good overviews of the cost structures throughout UArizona. Another ongoing topic is how shared governance can be more tightly integrated into the AIB transition process. A survey was developed for SPBAC members to weigh in and the committee had a discussion in early March 2022. Committee members expressed discontent with regard to the timeliness and kind of integration of shared governance institutions into the AIB transition process. The survey may uncover strengths and weaknesses in the process, and anticipate a template process for the

UAGC integration. The March 16, 2022 meeting was unsuccessful when UAGC President Paul Pastorek and his team were invited to present facts about UAGC as a financial entity. Brummund and Helm met with Pastorek and Interim CFO Kemp two weeks prior to the SPBAC meeting, sharing fourteen specific information items requested by SPBAC members and others for discussion. Pastorek's presentation was verbal without the aid of any accompanying documents or a PowerPoint presentation, making it impossible to retain any data for future discussion among committee members. Committee members voted to postpone the presentation until additional documents are received by UAGC and made available to the committee. Brummund said that it was a collective decision to not go forward with that meeting, because one of the goals has been to increase the level of baseline understanding of how UArizona works operationally, financially, and strategically and had put in a fair amount of time into prepping President Pastorek in advance by giving him a specific set of items to address. Many committee members expressed concern during the presentation that they weren't privy to any documentation to warrant a viable discussion. Basic factual information requested with regard to number of students, number of employees, personnel operating expenditures, and organization chart, etc., were disregarded. The committee voted to move the presentation forward to one of the four remaining committee meetings.

#### **University-Wide General Education Committee – Joan Curry**

Curry reported that UWGEC continues to approve course modifications and are now in the 194 range. A final step is approval by Curricular Affairs. Fifty-seven percent of proposals are scheduled to be finished by the end of the semester with approximately 170 to continue working through. The committee is meeting three weeks out of four, and a retreat is scheduled to address additional work to be completed. Ohala asked what happens after a course gets approved and how the course shows up in the catalog. Curry responded that a deal was worked out because not all 300 courses were going to be ready for the deadline for the catalog, and 200 of the courses in the pipeline have been moved forward for inclusion in the catalog and the remainder have provisional approval to be included. All are technically ready for the fall semester. Summers wanted to know if Miller-Cochran and Curry can come to Faculty Senate to update on the Gen Ed Refresh. Curry requested a clear set of questions in advance in order to be better prepared. Hingle suggested also posting a report to the Faculty Senate agenda.

#### **Undergraduate Council – Molly Bolger**

Bolger reported that the Council approved three new certificates and one minor and one more Minor in Sustainable Mineral Resources will be coming forth for Faculty Senate approval. Several policies have been worked on over the course of the semester and four are listed to move forward for approval.

#### **University Staff Council – Jennifer Lawrence**

Lawrence reported that the Council is finalizing a survey that will go out to all University and Classified staff to gather information about their workplace experience and preferred work modalities. The Council plans to gather information related to flexible work options, including core business hours, compressed work weeks, work from home, and hybrid work options. The survey will be sent out in conjunction with a survey from Human Resources to Supervisors. Lawrence met with Executive Director for Parking and Transportation, Jim Sayer, and Vice President, Facilities/Operations and Campus Planning, Ryan Goodell, to discuss issues surrounding parking that surfaced at a meeting, including a sliding scale based on income. Not all employees are required to pay for parking, only those who work on main campus. Outlying offices provide free parking for some employees. Results of the survey will be shared. Fink said that some designated parking areas used to be free after 5:00 p.m. but the time has changed to 9:00 p.m. Lawrence didn't know the reason for the change, but it is probably business-related.

### **Committee of Eleven – Wolfgang Fink**

Fink reported that the committee had a productive meeting with Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Andrea Romero, to discuss faculty performance reviews and UHAP Section Five for administrative five-year and annual reviews.

### **ASUA – Kyle Kline**

Kline reported that ASUA met with President Robbins and CFO Rulney about fossil fuel divestment. A commitment from the UArizona Foundation to have an off-cycle meeting to allow UArizona Divest to present a proposal for complete fossil fuel divestment by 2029 from Foundation assets. As a result of the pandemic, the ASUA Bylaws and Constitution have been largely inoperable and difficult for students to use and access. ASUA is working on Constitutional amendments and hopefully will have a special election later in the year. Spring Fling cancellation has had inaccurate press, and has fiscally operated on a grant from the University that operates essentially like a loan. A \$200,000 loan is given expressly for Spring Fling and is paid back, with any additional revenue going to club funding. Spring Fling was canceled again for this year after conversations with University administration questioned the viability of the loan for such a big event on campus at this time, and thought it would threaten the likelihood of future events.

### **RPC – Paul Gordon**

No report.

### **APPC – Tessa Dysart**

Dysart reported that the committee was supposed to meet this week to discuss the grievance policy and whether CAFT grievance hearings can be open. The language has caused confusion. The Office of General Counsel needs to be in attendance for informed discussion, and a meeting will be rescheduled for the near future to accommodate that office. The committee has also been meeting with Director and Officer of Responsible Outside Interests, Taren Langford, to discuss the Conflict of Interest Policy. Discussions in meetings have differed from how things are playing out, and is interested to see what Langford will be discussing at Faculty Senate's April meeting. Hingle said that Vice President for Operations, Sangita Pawar, reached out and wanted to clarify ambiguity with the policy. The agenda item may be taken off the Faculty Senate agenda pending Hingle's meeting with Pawar.

### **SAPC – Cheryl Casey and Diane Ohala**

Ohala reported that student representatives have not been showing up to meetings and asked for the Student Presidents' input. Kline said the biggest issue is the run-time for meetings, and it's difficult to attend with scheduled classes. A good way to follow up would be with the respective Executive leaders and advisors for ASUA and GPSC. Ohala said efforts have been made with no success. Sen will reach out to the assigned student on the committee to find out if there is a conflict. Elections will be coming up this semester, and will make sure commitments are made for committee service. Ohala said even partial attendance for the meeting duration would even be preferable than no attendance. A guest speaker from Student Success and Retention Innovation (SSRI) will be attending the last meeting of the semester. SSRI's work speaks to the kinds of issues the committee deals with. Ohala asked the Faculty Officers if a person from the SSRI office could be an *ex officio* member on the committee. Brewer said there is a proposed change in the Bylaws being voted on now that would allow chairs of committees to call upon administrators to sit on committees, as needed. Ohala talked about the Last Mile Grant, which are funds for students to help them finish up their degrees. An application process is required. The committee members had not heard of this grant and no website information currently exists. How do faculty and advisors know how to direct students to apply for the grant. Brummund said the outreach is

targeted to students who are fairly close to completing their degree and have an account balance. Gordon said last semester he had received a number of emails concerning the Trellis Reports encouraging colleges and departments to utilize them. Gordon has sent three Trellis Reports on the same student, and in the final one sent, wrote that he has not heard anything from the student or Dean of Students Office. Ohala said this issue was discussed in a committee meeting, but unfortunately, Associate Dean of Students, Sylvester Gaskin, was not in attendance at that meeting. Ohala will follow up after he responds to the committee's questions. Sen said that GPSC put in an application to the Student Services Fee Board for a new grant called a Completion Grant and an allocation of \$50,000 was received that would help both undergraduate and graduate students. Other Universities have this initiative and have received support from the state. Brummund said that Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Retention Innovation, Christine Salvesson, would be able to help Gordon with his questions, and would be able to follow up and provide assistance.

**IT Liaison – Jeremy Frumkin**

Frumkin was absent.

**Graduate Council – Ron Hammer**

Hammer was absent.

**GPSC – Shilpita Sen**

No report.

**Review agenda for the April 4, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting**

Hingle shared the proposed agenda with the committee. Based on committee discussion, some modifications and changes were made. Time allotments were set for each item.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by Jane Cherry