

University Faculty Senate Special Session Minutes

September 30, 2024, Online Zoom meeting

Please note that a complete audio recording of this senate meeting is available at [UNI Scholarworks](#). The time stamps noted throughout these minutes refer to that recording.

Meetings are open and any faculty member may attend.

If you wish to attend, email a member of Senate leadership for the Zoom link.

Senators in attendance:

Kenneth Elgersma (Chair), Alexa Clements (Vice-Chair), Melissa Dobosh (Faculty Chair, Past Senate Chair), Randall Harlow (Parliamentarian), Nick Bailey, Megan Balong, Erika Bass, Andy Berns, Cathi Bowler, Karen Breitbach, Rebecca Dickinson, Tim Dooley, Evette Edmister, Scott Giese, Melanie Hill, Rob Hitlan, Charles Holcombe, Syed Kirmani, Alexandra (Ana) Kogle, Reza Lahroodi, Matthew Makarios, Dayna Miller, Susan Moore, John Preston, Shelley Price-Williams, Ali Tabei

(Fifty percent quorum met, with 24/31 voting senators present; the Faculty Chair is non-voting, as provided in the Faculty Constitution, and the Senate Chair votes only in case of a tie.)

Call to Order at 4:00 PM [timestamp 0:00:00]

Call for Press Identification: *None present*

Introduction of Guests

Regular Guests: Mark Nook, José Herrera, Deirdre Heistad, Chris Martin

Other Guests: Amy Nielsen, David Grant (Languages and Literature), Tilahun Abebe, Sarah Diesburg and the CHAS Senate, Alison Beharka (CHAS Alternate), Tom Hall, Hilal Ergu, Kirk Manfredi, Randy Sharp, Lisa Reidl

Courtesy Announcements: None given

Consultations:

1613 [Consultation: Academic Positioning](#)

The purpose of this special session is to continue the discussion of Academic Positioning that was tabled during the September 23, 2024 meeting.

Motion to take Petition 1613 off the table. [timestamp 00:02:31]

MOTION : Holcombe/ Dobosh (17 yes/0 no/0 abstention) *motion passes*

Faculty Senate Chair Elgersma reported on a list of grievances that led to convening this special session of the Faculty Senate. Chair Elgersma highlighted the decision to move forward rapidly and a lack of faculty input throughout the process as major issues that have implications for shared governance. He reviewed the timeline starting when faculty leadership became aware of a possible splitting of the Applied Engineering & Technical Management (AETM) department at a

meeting on May 13, 2024. Chair Elgersma highlighted the importance of including key stakeholders in these decisions and commented on the lack of meaningful involvement of faculty, which has damaged faculty morale. He suggested that the meeting's discussion focus on moving Construction Management to the Wilson College of Business (WLSN).

Chair Elgersma opened the floor to senators [timestamp 00:14:20]

Chair Elgersma asked questions that he had received from faculty.

The Applied Engineering administrative position does not report to a dean. Are there other positions of this scope that directly report to the Provost instead of a dean?

Provost Herrera responded that the Chief Engineering Manager position is modeled on the process used for establishing Nursing. There is not a department of Applied Engineering, so the position cannot report through a department and dean.

Chair Elgersma followed up by asking how tenure for such a position would work.

Provost Herrera stated that there is no tenure associated with the position. It is a two-year advisory position that will allow for the development of a department.

Senator Giese [timestamp 00:19:20]:

Senator Giese asked for clarification on the justification of creating a new administrative position. He stated that Applied Engineering already exists and has a department head, but the new Construction Management department is not getting a new administrative position.

Provost Herrera responded that this administrator will help address enrollment issues in Applied Engineering.

Chair Elgersma followed up by asking why, if enrollment trends have been visible for several years, did the urgency only arise recently?

Provost Herrera responded that this issue has been of concern for several years. Initially the deans were asked to address this issue, but no action was taken. He provided some details on this timeline.

CHAS Senate President Diesburg, on behalf of the CHAS Senate [timestamp 00:23:33]:

CHAS Senate President Diesburg stated that she had received a list of the location of construction management programs at institutions of similar size to UNI. Of these institutions, only 2 of approximately 40 institutions have construction management in a business school or college.

Provost Herrera commented that some details are available on the Academic Positioning website. He acknowledged some issues with moving CM to WLSN, but also highlighted how this would help UNI's program stand out from construction engineering at Iowa State. He also commented that CHAS has 16 departments and WLSN has 6 and a move would allow Construction Management to receive more attention. Based on market share analysis, such a program could grow to 400 students.

Past Chair Dobosh [timestamp 00:29:25]:

Past Chair Dobosh commented that the 16 departments within CHAS provides a diverse set of opportunities. She continued that of the 87 credit hours required by the Construction Management degree, 39 appear to be construction management courses, 24 hours come from CHAS outside of construction management from a range of departments. If Construction

Management is moved to WLSN, an additional 15 credit hours would be from Applied Engineering. She stated that the argument that the business focus of Construction Management is not backed up by the current curriculum, as it currently has 9 credit hours from the WLSN, and only 3 hours are in management. She asked if this move to WLSN would result in a change in Construction Management's curriculum to be more focused on management. Provost Herrera responded that there are no plans to touch curriculum, as it is the purview of the faculty. He acknowledged that there is strength in having a larger college, but that having more departments does create challenges.

Senator Bailey [00:33:38]:

Senator Bailey commented from his perspective within the College of Business. He stated that the students in Construction Management would not be required to take the 9 core courses, but they would have access to the resources in WLSN. WLSN does not seem like a clear fit for the current program, and emphasized Faculty Chair Dobosh's point that the curriculum does not indicate a clear fit for Construction Management in WLSN.

Provost Herrera responded that there were some issues that would need to be worked through by the focused working group to determine the best course of action during this academic year.

Chair Elgersma followed up by stating that by making the decision first and leaving the issues to be resolved later forces a decision that may not be optimal.

Senator Giese [timestamp 00:38:07]

Senator Geise commented that AETM's programs are designed to build a range of competencies that allow students to understand the engineering side of a process, the equipment needs of a project, and build managerial skills. He also highlighted the importance of Technology Education and vocational programs in teaching high school students about the career pathways represented by the programs within AETM. High school students with this background may not look to a business school to pursue their passions. He concluded by stating that this concern has been overlooked.

Faculty Senate Vice Chair Clements [timestamp 00:43:03]

Vice Chair Clements asked for clarification regarding whether or not Construction Management would be required to pay the differential tuition if moved to WLSN.

Provost Herrera clarified that this decision had not yet been made. The Focused Working Group will have to provide recommendations.

United Faculty President Martin [timestamp 00:44:41]

UF President Martin stated his appreciation for the Focused Working Group. He expressed concern regarding using the same approach as Nursing for a program that already exists, and underscored previous discussion about questioning the fit of Construction Management in WLSN. He also raised concerns that UNI Policy 2.13, which calls for oversight and participation by colleges and faculty, was not followed for this process.

Provost Herrera responded that no money has been moved and that budgetary decisions have not happened yet. He emphasized the need to move quickly in order to address enrollment. He acknowledged that he may have moved too quickly on this process.

UF President Martin acknowledged the importance of addressing enrollment, but emphasized that Policy 2.13 needs to inform decisions, but the policy was not taken into consideration when important decisions were made.

Senator Kirmani [timestamp 00:49:47]

Senator Kirmani stated that there are too many unresolved issues and the decision was made too quickly. He asked if the decision could be postponed for at least one year in order to address the issues that have not been addressed. He also expressed that splitting the departments could harm Applied Engineering and it may not be viable as a stand alone department. He encouraged more thorough consideration of the implications of these changes during discussions to take place over the next year.

Faculty Chair Dobosh asked if moving Construction Management to WLSN could be delayed for one year. She acknowledged the importance of changing quickly, but did not see the urgency for moving Construction Management to WLSN.

Provost Herrera responded that he is open to having this discussion, although he does think that there are benefits to moving the program. He emphasized his concerns regarding growth in enrollment.

Senator Tabei [timestamp 00:56:14]

Senator Tabei commented that these decisions should be based on data. He acknowledged a need for a fast approach, but warned that the negative attitude amongst the faculty could lead to bad press that would negatively impact enrollment. Slowing down to get more faculty on board with a decision could prevent such an outcome.

Senator Harlow [timestamp 00:57:25]

Senator Harlow commented on the importance of involving expert colleagues in these discussions, and faculty should be involved from the start. A delay could allow the faculty working group to evaluate possible directions and lead to better outcomes.

New Business: None stated

Adjournment [timestamp 00:59:46]




MOTION: (Clements/ Berns)

Submitted by Alexa Clements, Vice Chair, University Faculty Senate

Zoom chat is appended:

00:17:13	Sarah Diesburg:	CHAS Senate - reporting in under name 'Sarah Diesburg'
00:17:24	Deirdre Heistad:	Deirdre Heistad
00:17:26	Hilal Ergul:	Hilal Ergul - CHAS senate
00:17:39	Alison Beharka:	Alison Beharka Chase senate alternate for Science Ed
00:17:44	David Grant:	Dr. David M. Grant, Professor of Tech Comm, Dept of Languages & Literatures
00:18:31	Christopher Martin:	No announcements from United Faculty.
00:18:32	Melissa Dobosh:	Reminder- Fall Faculty Meeting next Monday, October 7th

at 3:30 in the Lang Auditorium.

00:18:44	Christopher Martin:	Reacted to "Reminder- Fall Facul..." with 
00:18:56	Alexa Clements:	Reacted to "No announcements fro..." with 
00:19:01	Alexa Clements:	Reacted to "Reminder- Fall Facul..." with 
00:19:02	Hilal Ergul:	Reacted to "Reminder- Fall Facul..." with 