

University Faculty Senate Minutes
August 28, 2023 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.

These are open meetings to all faculty. If you wish to attend, email a member of senate leadership for a zoom link.

Senators in attendance: Melissa Dobosh (Chair), Kenneth Elgersma (Vice-Chair), Francis Degnin (Faculty Chair, Past Senate Chair), John Burnight (Parliamentarian), Imam Alam, Nick Bailey, Megan Balong, Erika Bass, Andy Berns, Cathi Bowler, Karen Breitbach, Michael Conrad, Tim Dooley, Evette Edmister, Scott Geise, Gretchen Gould, Randall Harlow, Mark Hecimovich, Melanie Hill, Rob Hitlan, Charles Holcombe, Wu-Ying Hsieh, Syed Kirmani, Alexandra (Ana) Kogle, Karla Krueger, Matthew Makarios, Shelley Price-Williams, Mohammed Rawwas, Andrew Stollenwork, Ali Tabei
(Fifty percent quorum met, with 29/31 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 3:30 PM [time stamp 00:00:00]

Call for Press Identification

Introduction of Guests

Regular Guests: ~~Mark Nook~~, José Herrera, John Vallentine, Patrick Pease, Chris Martin, Micaiah Krutsinger

Additional Guests:

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 00:01:40]

President Nook was not present.

Comments from Provost Herrera [time stamp 00:01:50]

Provost Herrera spoke briefly about the importance of our Mission and Vision, and more extensively about enrollment in the context of midwestern US population demographics and changing values in college education among 18-24 year-olds. These demographics mean we face a challenge in the next 10 years to maintain enrollment numbers, as well as a change in the expectations, values, and demographics of incoming students. The university will need strategic planning, connected to our core mission and vision, that operates on a relevant (shorter) time frame. Enrollment is currently higher for freshmen, new transfers, and graduate students, but Friday is census date so we are waiting till then for final numbers. We have “lost” many students through graduation so higher enrollments of incoming students are needed to maintain the student population size.

Provost Herrera answered questions about how faculty, adjuncts, staff, and administration

numbers have changed in response to enrollments, and also addressed questions about how competing neighboring states are responding to demographic shifts.

Comments from Faculty Chair Degnin [time stamp 00:36:02]

Chair Degnin acknowledged and thanked the administration for their work on enrollment and recruitment, including positive efforts on the new nursing program. Emphasized the need to keep departments viable, both through enrollment efforts but also by maintaining faculty lines. He also noted that DEI is an ongoing issue in the political landscape that we need to watch. He concluded by noting that the CHAS Senate is discussing dissolution.

Comments from United Faculty President Martin [time stamp 00:43:05]

UF President Martin introduced the new UF Executive Board. He highlighted their work with administration to resolve numerous cases last year with additional cases already this year, and thanked administration for their work together on resolving these matters.

Comments from NISG President Krutsinger [time stamp 00:45:00]

NISG President Krutsinger introduced himself and conveyed the enthusiasm of students to be back on campus. He placed goals for the NISU platform in the chat and noted some of these have already been accomplished this summer. Finally, he noted that NISG currently has 5 senators out of 18 seats and asks for faculty help recruiting students to roles in student government.

Comments from Senate Chair Dobosh [time stamp 00:47:48]

Chair Dobosh encouraged Senators to look at the Faculty Senate Constitution, Bylaws, and Handbook, especially since we have many new senators. She noted that thinking about the welfare of the university as a whole is a big responsibility and highlighted our charge to represent the university as a whole rather than our individual departments. She also encourages Senators to engage in conversation back to departments about Senate matters, to facilitate communication between faculty and administration. Finally, she noted that subcommittee meetings are the second Monday of each month and that subcommittee chairs will soon be contacting members.

Minutes for Approval:

Minutes from April 24, 2023 [time stamp 00:52:42]

MOTION: Burnight / Degnin (19 in favor, 0 against, 4 abstention)

Consultations:

1560 [Consultation: Update on Enrollment](#) [time stamp 00:54:56]

Provost Herrera provided this update during Courtesy Announcements; no further questions or comments were made.

1564 [Consultation: Update on Budget](#) [time stamp 00:55:35]

Michael Hager provided an overview of the budget with a focus on the General Education Fund, which comprises about half (\$167M) of the total budget. His presentation broke down expenses and revenues in various ways (e.g. by division, college). He noted that these numbers are public information and he is happy to answer further questions.

Senator Degnin asked for clarification on the ~2% of the GEF allocated to athletics. Michael

noted that board policy is that this amount is not to exceed 2.4%.

Items Requiring Senate Votes:

Items for Senate to Receive:

1561 [End of Year Report: Policy Committee](#) [time stamp 01:07:10]

Balong / Gould, 24 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstentions

1562 [End of Year Report: Governance Committee](#) [time stamp 01:08:48]

Berns / Holcombe, 24 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

1563 [End of Year Report: Nominating Committee](#) [time stamp 01:09:45]

Gould / Conrad, 26 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

Emeritus Requests:

1556 [Emeritus Request: James Mattingly](#) [time stamp 01:10:34]

MOTION: Elgersma / Burnight (27 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Senators Degnin, Burnight, and Dobosh spoke in favor of the emeritus request.

1557 [Emeritus Request: Jeffrey Funderburk](#) [time stamp 01:14:23]

MOTION: Degnin / Balong (24 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Senator Dobosh spoke in favor of the emeritus request.

1558 [Emeritus Request: Mark Bauman](#) [time stamp 01:16:30]

MOTION: Elgersma / Gould (24 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Senator Dobosh spoke in favor of the emeritus request.

1559 [Emeritus Request: Nageswara Posinasatti](#) [time stamp 01:18:12]

MOTION: Elgersma / Berns (26 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Senator Dobosh spoke in favor of the emeritus request.

New Business

Adjournment by 4:51 PM

MOTION (Burnight / Gould)

Submitted by Kenneth Elgersma, Vice Chair, University Faculty Senate

Zoom chat is appended:

00:51:49 andrew: What about the student/admin ration?

00:53:42 Patrick Pease: PVC data location

<https://continuous-improvement.uni.edu/program-vitality-metrics>

00:53:48 andrew: upper admin

01:08:09 Micaiah Krutsinger - NISG President:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/108YVAL2zeDtjswJkFStHwnoUiPWz91Ai/view?usp=sharing>