

University Faculty Senate Minutes
September 25, 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, Robert Dise (alternate), Tim Dooley, Evette Edmister, Scott Geise, Gretchen Gould, Randall Harlow, Mark Hecimovich, Melanie Hill, Wu-Ying Hsieh, Syed Kirmani, Alexandra (Ana) Kogle, Karla Krueger, Matthew Makarios, Shelley Price-Williams, Mohammed Rawwas, Alexa Sedlacek, Andrew Stollenwork, Ali Tabei

(Fifty percent quorum met, with 27/31 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: Jeremy Schraffenberger (UNIFI Curriculum Coordinator), Anne Marie Gruber (Liaison & Textbook Equity Librarian), Jason Smith (Regional Course Materials Manager, Follett), Brenda Bass, Nancy Kertz, Sarah Harms (Office of VP Finance & Operations), Theresa Westbrook, Susan Moore

Courtesy Announcements

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

Discussed the budget numbers requested in order to keep our tuition flat, support our teacher preparation program, UNI@Iowa Community Colleges, and finish the Applied Engineering building. Discussed upcoming Board of Regents DEI Study Committee meetings.

Comments from Provost Herrera [time stamp 00:06:24]

Provost Herrera thanked the university community for the work that's been done to produce enrollment growth to 9,021 students. Attention is turning already to the next enrollment cycle; number of applications is even higher this year but it is still very early in the enrollment cycle.

Comments from Faculty Chair Degnin [time stamp 00:09:19]

Fall Faculty Meeting is Monday 10/2 at 3:30. Faculty leadership is thinking forward to the meeting with the Board of Regents DEI Study Committee on Wednesday. Also working on compiling ideas about college senates' roles.

Comments from United Faculty President Martin [time stamp 00:11:16]

UF is paying attention to the newly proposed policy 2.14 (dormant accounts) and encourages leaving comments on the UNI Policies page; UF is also collecting feedback on the proposed new titles for term & renewable term faculty (e.g. assistant /associate / professor of practice). UF is also working to come up with new ideas and options for childcare at UNI (in addition to the CDC) by welcoming feedback and hosting discussions to tackle this challenge for faculty, students, & staff.

Comments from NISG President Krutsinger [time stamp 00:14:06]

Reports that the NISG Board of Directors is filling out and senators as well, and thanked university community for promoting this. NISG hosting debates with live broadcast for Cedar Falls & Waterloo municipal elections. Meeting with BOR later this week about mental health and increasing resources to that for students.

Comments from Senate Chair Dobosh [time stamp 00:15:53]

Chair Dobosh invites feedback that Senate leaders can bring to the DEI meeting with the BOR. Also invites feedback about the proposed new titles for term faculty; Faculty Handbook Committee may have a consult in future Senate meeting but invites feedback prior to that consult as well. Thursday there is a CETL panel on student accommodation letters & course accessibility. There is a registration form & link in the chat. Allyson Rafanello & Tiffany Dodd will also consult with Faculty Senate in November. Senators, please send Karen Breitbach the name of your alternate. If you want to serve on the UNIFI committee, please volunteer.

Minutes for Approval:

Minutes from August 28, 2023 [time stamp 00:19:40]

MOTION: Francis / Berns (24 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention)

Consultations:

1565 [Consultation: School of Health and Human Services](#) [time stamp 00:21:11]

Brenda Bass, Nancy Kertz

Reviewed the history and structure of the school. There are 4 departments which report to Brenda Bass (dean). UNI saw increases in health-related enrollments coinciding with the announcement of the reorganization. Listed current members of Dept. of Nursing & Public Health; currently searching for one additional term position (Clinical Assistant Professor). The new facilities in ITTC are being completed in 2 phases: Phase 1 will be ready for Fall 2024, phase II for Fall 2025. Right now researching tuition & fees, admissions practices, & administration in other institutions. Reviewed the status of the accreditation process. Reviewed plans for admissions cycles. Faculty Chair Degnin asked for details on remaining steps of the accreditation process and direct admissions.

1566 [Consultation: Book Ordering and Customer Service with Follett](#) [time stamp 00:37:42]

Jason Smith, Regional Course Materials Manager, Follett

Talked through the “Discover Adopt” textbook adoption tool and a high-level overview of the process of entering book and course material adoptions. Jason noted that if the bookstore is unable to source a book (e.g. if out of print) they would still allow faculty to list that book, but just would not provide the book. Will have more communication to faculty in future about how this is done. Tim Dooley asked a question about availability of art supplies; these as well as lab materials etc would still be available and can be requested.

1567 [Consultation: Textbook Equity at UNI](#) [time stamp 00:44:16]

Jeremy Schraffenberger, Anne Marie Gruber

Discussed ways UNI campus has made progress for textbook equity, included amount of money saved for students under these efforts. Discussed the student populations that benefit and shared survey data about students’ textbook purchasing / use at UNI. Reminded faculty who adopt textbooks to consider cost to students as well as usage rights; Open Educational Resources (OER) typically is both cheaper and more flexible in terms of usage rights and duration of usage rights. Discussed various forms of support (financial & intellectual) for faculty trying to transition to OER and options for doing so.

Randall Harlow asked what the University (e.g. provost’s office) could do to sustain this; the provost indicated their office is open to a proposal for how the university could support this. Alexa Sedlacek asked what support / challenges would there be for UNI faculty developing OER in collaboration with faculty outside UNI. Anne Marie noted that this is possible and just requires working out some details; also noted that faculty can use other options and avenues (e.g. PDA)

Ali Tabei asked about learning outcomes and about the other materials (ancillaries) that traditional publishers often provide for intro-level courses (e.g. problem sets, online supplemental materials). Anne Marie noted there is research showing improved learning outcomes; also noted that ancillaries are increasing in the OER world too, sometimes there are also extra (inexpensive) add-ons

Items Requiring Senate Votes:

1568 [Policy 4.21 Emeritus/a Status](#) [time stamp 01:15:48]

MOTION (Degnin / Elgersma) (25 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstention)

Adding a sentence to affirm the existing practice of requesting a letter of support from a department head for emeritus status.

New Business

Adjournment at 4:50 PM

MOTION (Kogl / Price-Williams)

Submitted by Kenneth Elgersma, Vice Chair, University Faculty Senate

Zoom chat is appended:

00:06:46 Jason Smith: Jason Smith - Follett Higher Ed

00:07:06 Sarah Harms: Sarah Harms - Office of VP Finance & Operations

00:07:08 Jeremy Schraffenberger: Jeremy Schraffenberger, UNIFI Curriculum Coordinator

00:07:26 Anne Marie Gruber: Anne Marie Gruber, Liaison & Textbook Equity Librarian
00:18:34 Melissa Dobosh: <https://policies.uni.edu/>
00:25:39 Christopher Martin: Section 2.4 on academic titles:
https://provost.uni.edu/sites/default/files/inline-uploads/faculty_handbook_-_july_1_2023_-_june_30_2024.pdf
01:16:20 Jeremy Schraffenberger: Lots of great resources here too: <https://guides.lib.uni.edu/oer>
01:22:07 Melissa Dobosh: CETL panel on student accommodation letters-
Form for submitting questions : <https://forms.gle/b9ft7fncS5gBrcHs7>
Registration: <https://forms.gle/b6oXdFKkbH77omzYA>