

University Faculty Senate Minutes
October 23, 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, Karen Breitbach, Michael Conrad, Tim Dooley, Evette Edmister, Scott Geise, Gretchen Gould, Mark Hecimovich, Melanie Hill, Rob Hitlan, Charles Holcombe, Wu-Ying Hsieh, Syed Kirmani, Karla Krueger, Shelley Price-Williams, Mohammed Rawwas, Alexa Sedlacek, Andrew Stollenwork, Matt Weedman, Tim Kidd (alternate for Ali Tabei), Carissa Froyum (alternate for Matt Makarios)

(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 3:31 PM [time stamp 00:00:05]

Call for Press Identification

Introduction of Guests

Regular Guests: Mark Nook, José Herrera, John Vallentine, Chris Martin, Fernando Calderon, Micaiah Krutsinger

Additional Guests:

Dave McClenahan (CHAS Senate chair), Lisa Jepsen, Bryce Kanago (College of Business and UCC), Chad Heinzl (filling in for Patrick Pease), Cara Burnidge, Kristin Moser, Fabio Fantana

Courtesy Announcements

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

Announced a \$25M gift and potential renaming of the College of Business, pending BOR approval. The BOR meeting in mid-November will also deliver the BOR's recommendations from the DEI study report. Last BOR meeting approved our appropriations requests.

Comments from Provost Herrera [time stamp 00:03:47]

Provost Herrera gave a brief update on the current admissions cycle applications.

Comments from Faculty Chair Degnin [time stamp 00:05:28]

Not present at the beginning of the meeting.

Comments from United Faculty President Martin [time stamp 00:05:37]

Over 300 responses to the survey on proposed new titles; responses were generally favorable with some concerns voiced by respondents as well.

Comments from NISG President Krutsinger [time stamp 00:07:18]

NISG met with BOR to request an additional \$1 million from the state, working with BOR to get that passed by the state legislature. The NISG Board of Directors mainly filled; only a few senate seats open.

Comments from Senate Chair Dobosh [time stamp 00:08:30]

Withholding comments due to full agenda.

Minutes for Approval:

Minutes from September 25, 2023 [time stamp 00:08:37]

MOTION: Burnight / Burns (19 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstention)

Curriculum Proposals:

1569 [College of Business and Interdisciplinary Curriculum Proposals](#) [time stamp 00:09:37]

MOTION: Burnight / Burns (23 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstention)

Chad Heinzel spoke briefly and noted this was a pretty straightforward package that moved through quite smoothly.

1574 [College of Education Curriculum Proposals](#) [time stamp 00:12:12]

MOTION: Balong / Gould (22 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention)

Chad Heinzel spoke briefly; noted this was also smooth; highlighted the Panther Pathway as a new pathbreaking proposal which passed after some discussion.

Consultations:

1570 [Consultation: Campus Climate Study](#) [time stamp 00:13:44]

Update by Cara Burnidge & Kristin Moser. Project began in Jan. 2022 and is in final stages. Full results are available online. Climate study team conducted Faculty Forums to hear feedback on the results and is reviewing findings from forums and drafting recommendations this semester for actions. Climate Study Work Group is waiting to hear what BOR guidance will be with respect to DEI, which may impact recommendations.

Items Requiring Senate Votes:

1571 [Policy 0.00 Policy](#) [time stamp 00:23:20]

MOTION: Balong / Holcombe (24 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstention)

Chair Dobosh noted this was a simple change to publicize policy changes via campus-wide email instead of the InsideUNI newsletter.

1573 [Revisit Docket #1519: New Process for Curriculum Proposal](#) [time stamp 00:25:00]

MOTION: Elgersma / Stollenwerk

Senator Stollenwerk presented a petition to include College Senates in the curriculum review process to ensure that curriculum receives thorough review from those most qualified to review and understand the content of each course. Senator Stollenwerk noted that curriculum is the Faculty's most important and primary responsibility and argued that we need to ensure we uphold that responsibility through thorough review, either by College Senates or by Faculty Senate itself.

Robust discussion ensued, with themes including the ability of College Senates to voluntarily add that layer of review themselves, the difficulty in doing so given the timeline and faculty workload, problems working with the LEEPFRG system, the high frequency of errors found by College Senates and the UCC, operation of the UCC as a faculty body with the administrative support of the Associate Provost, the need

to assess the operation of the new curriculum process before going back to the previous system, the advantages of a faster cycle in responding to a competitive and changing educational landscape, the weakness of relying on College Senates when conflicts might often arise from outside of the college, the advantage of having a university-wide summative spreadsheet of all curriculum changes published and possibility of having a “working version” of this earlier, and the need to balance a timely and thorough review process. Discussion converged on a need for Faculty Senate to establish an ad hoc committee to assess the efficacy of this first curriculum cycle under the new system and make recommendations on potential improvements. Senator Stollenwerk withdrew his petition in favor of creating such a committee.

Motion to extend meeting by 10 minutes: Burnight / Conrad [time stamp 01:28:09]

Motion was made to form ad hoc subcommittee to review all aspects of curriculum process, including all aspects of the operation of the UCC [time stamp 01:28:25].

Kirman / Burnight (22 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention)

Emeritus Requests:

1572 [Emeritus Request: Eric Lange](#) [time stamp 01:29:28]

MOTION: Burns / Burnight (23 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Chair Dobosh noted the beautiful letter of support with comments from multiple current faculty and staff. This letter says he was a driving force behind theater at UNI, a common theme was he is someone who didn't just manage but was a really great leader who was kind, effective, and dedicated to being better humans. Eric was involved with 150+ theater productions during his 29 years at UNI and leaves an indelible mark at UNI.

New Business

Adjournment at 5:04 PM

MOTION (Burnight / Burns)

Submitted by Kenneth Elgersma, Vice Chair, University Faculty Senate

Zoom chat is appended:

00:08:51 Fabio Fontana: Fabio Fontana

00:08:52 Kristin Moser: Kristin Moser

00:08:57 Cara Burnidge: Cara Burnidge

00:09:14 Bryce Kanago: Bryce Kanago College of Business and UCC

00:09:30 Lisa Jepsen: Lisa Jepsen

00:09:38 Theresa Westbrook: Theresa Westbrook

00:09:40 Chad Heinzl: Chad Heinzl here to help out Patrick

00:09:49 davidmcclenahan: David McClenahan, CHAS Senate chair

00:25:28 Cara Burnidge: All are welcome to reach out to me or other CSWG members given the time constraints of this meeting

00:25:30 Shelley Price-Williams: Are there any benchmarks

00:27:19 Shelley Price-Williams: Thank you

00:39:26 Timothy Dooley: So far I'm in complete agreement. I think if we want to streamline, I'd rather eliminate a layer further up the chain. College level senate is the best place to really sort our curriculum.

00:42:27 Chad Heinzl: From what I have witnessed in this year's UCC work they are doing a great job. They have been making sure departments have been consulted, prereqs and other issues are being checked/double checked

00:44:04 Gretchen Gould: I agree with Chad's comment

00:45:06 andrew: such checks are a bare minimum. The UCC is not suitable to determine if there is overlap between different departments.

00:46:06 davidmcclenahan: Is there a system to check that a proposal actually fits with a colleges' strategic plan? I would suspect that a university-wide group would not know what another colleges plan was

00:48:48 Chad Heinzl: leapfrog is problematic agreed

00:49:01 Timothy Dooley: Leapfrog is horrible. It should definitely be eliminated

00:54:44 Chad Heinzl: UCC - could elect their own chair, but since the Provosts office has the '30000' view point. Patrick has been volunteering to help run the meetings.

00:54:55 davidmcclenahan: Also, you might have consulted with the faculty senates before eliminating their oversight.

00:55:19 andrew: good point David

00:55:50 Bryce Kanago: The provost manages the meetings, but cannot vote.

00:55:58 Chad Heinzl: Reacted to "The provost manages ..." with 👍

00:56:30 Charles Holcombe: I know that My college senate was consulted

00:58:32 davidmcclenahan: I actually heard about the original vote through a member of the UCC not from the senate.

01:00:05 Megan Balong: I agree with John (and Bryce). I was always under the impression that UCC was thorough. I also agree that we should increase the level accountability within this body.

01:00:35 Mark Hecimovich: Thanks Bryce. Well said

01:06:38 Chad Heinzl: well said Bryce

01:10:04 Timothy Dooley: Perhaps college senates could meet to review and vet that summative document

01:10:16 Chad Heinzl: Reacted to "Perhaps college sena..." with 👍

01:10:20 Alexa Sedlacek: Reacted to "Perhaps college sena..." with 👍

01:10:33 Chad Heinzl: Good point Mark

01:11:22 Bryce Kanago: Good point Mark

01:12:30 davidmcclenahan: Do you truly feel that the UCC can handle the higher workload without the college senates help in sorting through the curriculums sooner?

01:13:13 Chad Heinzl: Don't consultations help address Andrew's Point?

01:14:10 Timothy Dooley: Replying to "Don't consultations ..."

So long as someone knowledgeable knows to ask for a consultation.

01:14:24 Alexa Sedlacek: Reacted to "So long as someone k..." with 👍

01:14:34 Megan Balong: Reacted to "So long as someone k..." with 👍

01:14:39 Chad Heinzl: Reacted to "So long as someone k..." with 👍

01:14:58 Megan Balong: Reacted to "Don't consultations ..." with 👍

01:16:05 Charles Holcombe: I was on the college senate in 2001 and we did the college senate curricular review then also

01:18:10 Timothy Dooley: CHAS is ready to disband because their primary function has been eliminated.

01:18:16 Chad Heinzl: Yes, a big questions would be how do we make consultations more effective

01:18:38 andrew: Reacted to "CHAS is ready to dis..." with 👍

01:19:17 Melissa Dobosh: CHAS Senate vote to not disband a meeting earlier this semester.

01:19:27 Alexa Sedlacek: Reacted to "CHAS Senate vote to ..." with 👍

01:19:43 Timothy Dooley: Department head may be the most overworked on our campus. To add looking at all curriculum changes would be too onerous.

01:19:58 Chad Heinzl: Reacted to "Department head may ..." with 👍

01:37:46 Timothy Dooley: Thank you all for the discussion

01:37:54 Alexa Sedlacek: Reacted to "Thank you all for th..." with 👍

01:38:18 Chad Heinzl: Reacted to "Thank you all for th..." with 👍