

University Faculty Senate Minutes
November 27, 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), Nick Bailey, Megan Balong, Erika Bass, Andy Berns, Cathi Bowler, Karen Breitbach, Alexa Clements, 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, Ali Tabei, Matt Weedman

(Fifty percent quorum met, with 28/31 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, John Vallentine, Patrick Pease, Fernando Calderon, Micaiah Krutsinger

Additional Guests: Jennifer McNab (Department Chair, History)

Courtesy Announcements

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 00:00:30]

Changes to Policy 0.00 will be announced with the next InsideUNI newsletter but will also be announced via email. Addressed the recommendations from BOR on DEI. UNI will need to put together a response for the BOR to consider in April. Addressed how the 10 recommendations will be handled; some will be handled directly by the BOR while most will be addressed by the UNI campus community through a task force and select groups developing responses to each item. Emphasized that while the mechanisms may change, our commitment to meeting needs of every student on campus will not change. President Nook also highlighted that students demonstrated and responded admirably during the BOR meeting.

Comments from Provost Herrera [time stamp 00:15:20]

No comments; Provost Herrera was not present.

Comments from Faculty Chair Degnin [time stamp 00:15:30]

Thanked President Nook and others for efforts around DEI. Addressed the need to be aware of the budget and how UNI has fared relatively well in avoiding layoffs.

Comments from United Faculty President Martin [time stamp 00:18:50]

UF Vice President Fernando Calderon filled in for President Martin who was not present. VP Calderon made brief remarks about the importance of monitoring the budget situation, especially given the lack of spending on faculty salaries.

Comments from NISG President Krutsinger [time stamp 00:21:55]

Echoed President Nook's comments highlighting UNI students' demonstrations around DEI. NISG is continuing to work with BOR on increasing support for mental health. Requested that faculty be alert and mindful of students' mental health at this stressful time as the semester comes to a close.

Comments from Senate Chair Dobosh [time stamp 00:24:10]

Noted that Faculty Senate leadership is addressing budget & DEI issues and invited comments and concerns from faculty. Also highlighted and acknowledged all of the work faculty are putting into working with students. Explained that Policy 0.00 has two separate sets of edits that will be merged and submitted for review. Both sets of edits were voted on and approved, but at different times. Faculty Senate leadership is working on systemizing the procedures to be sure this doesn't happen again in the future and that internal procedures for policy edits are fail-safe. Provided an update on the status of the ad hoc committee to review curriculum procedures; the charge for this committee is being worked on now and then the committee will be populated with senators and additional faculty by spring semester.

Minutes for Approval:

Minutes from October 23, 2023 [time stamp 00:31:26]

MOTION: Berns / Burnight (21 in favor, 2 against, 2 abstention)

Consultations:

1577 [Consultation: Student Accessibility Services](#) [time stamp 00:32:18]

Due to a scheduling conflict, this consultation will be rescheduled for spring semester.

Items Requiring Senate Votes:

1575 [College of Social and Behavioral Science Curriculum Proposals](#) [time stamp 00:32:53]

MOTION: Burnight / Holcombe (23 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Patrick Pease spoke briefly about the use of common course numbers. Motion to approve curriculum proposals passed.

1576 [College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Proposals](#) [time stamp 00:35:55]

MOTION: Degnin / Clements (27 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions). *Motion to approve curriculum proposals passed.*

1580 [Additional Curriculum Proposals](#) [time stamp 00:37:16]

MOTION: Burnight / Burns (24 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions). *Motion to approve curriculum proposals passed.*

1581 [University Curriculum Committee End of Year Review](#) [time stamp 00:38:16]

MOTION: Burnight / Gould (25 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Patrick Pease clarified that one proposal in the minutes was to move the closing of Leepfrog to the third week of July. This is in order to keep both substantive & editorial deadlines aligned, and to create a bit more time for department heads to review the large number of last-minute leepfrog entries. He also responded to a question about the justification for moving editorial changes from dean approval onto a consent agenda: One reason is some editorial changes have impacts on substantive pathway changes, so it is helpful for UCC to review both. It also facilitates and affirms UCC's ability to review editorial pathway items as substantive pathway items.

Patrick also commented on the way that the UCC and UNIFI committees are working together to balance the benefits of double-counting classes for majors and for UNIFI against the drawbacks of unlimited double-counting, which could encourage longer majors and restrain students' choices in the UNIFI program. This is an ongoing conversation between these two committees. Faculty Chair Degrin noted that double-counting too many courses for majors could result in forcing students in a certain major to take certain UNIFI classes related to DEI. We need to be cautious about this because we cannot have mandatory DEI training President Nook's task force on the DEI report recommendations may want to consider this.

Motion to receive the UCC End of Year Report passed.

1582 [Faculty Senate Budget Committee](#) [time stamp 00:48:13]

MOTION: Burnight / Holcombe (24 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Faculty Chair Degrin described how Faculty Senate is charged in university policy with carrying out this function of providing input on the budget. This charge differs from a previous senate budget committee in that this charge explicitly calls for members with budget expertise, so that the committee can function more effectively. There was some discussion about how to ensure this committee is provided adequate information, because that was a problem with the past committee. President Nook asked how this committee would interact with President's Advisory Committee on budget. President created the President's advisory committee in part to view a larger piece of the budget (not just Academic Affairs) and because a previous Faculty Senate committee was not functioning effectively. The suggestion put forward was to include the faculty members that are on the President's Budget Advisory Committee as ex officio members of the Senate's proposed committee. Faculty Chair Degrin moved (seconded by Senator Kogl) to amend the charge such that faculty members on the President's Budget Advisory Committee would be ex officio members (without voting rights) of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee; accepted as a friendly amendment.

Motion passed to constitute the Faculty Senate Budget Committee using the draft charge, with a friendly amendment to include the faculty members on the President's Budget Advisory.

Emeritus Requests:

1578 [Emeritus Request: Sharon Mord](#) [time stamp 01:02:30]

MOTION: Burns / Balong (26 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Senator Balong spoke on a personal note that her child has had Dr. Mord as a professor and really enjoyed having her as a professor. Chair Dobosh noted additional highlights from the letter of support. Motion to approve the emeritus request passed.

1579 [Emeritus Request: Bettina Fabos](#) [time stamp 01:05:47]

MOTION: Clements / Balong (27 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Chair Dobosh has an office next door to Dr. Fabos and spoke of the joy of having Dr. Fabos as a colleague. She is a creative thinker, innovative, and great teacher with many accomplishments in teaching and research. Degrin noted her service to United Faculty. Motion to approve the emeritus request passed.

1583 [Emeritus Request: Lisa Jepsen](#) [time stamp 01:08:41]

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

Dobosh noted some highlights of the letter of support, including the generosity she showed to students with her time; recognized regionally and nationally with awards for her advising efforts. She was also a Fellow in CETL. Senator Price-Williams praised her warmth and support for new faculty (including herself) during COVID. Motion to approve the emeritus request passed.

New Business

Adjournment by 4:43 PM

MOTION (Burnight / Conrad)

Submitted by Kenneth Elgersma, Vice Chair, University Faculty Senate

Zoom chat is appended:

00:10:28 Jennifer McNabb: Jen McNabb (Head of History)

00:32:14 Timothy Dooley: I hope as we move through this that it is not Academics that will bear the brunt of any budget fallout that will come in the wake of DEI shifts, but every wing of the university as a whole will help shoulder the burden.

00:34:40 Francis Degrin: Just another reminder: The due date for Regent's award nominations is Dec 1st. This comes through the colleges.

01:18:04 Megan Balong: Agreed.