

**University Faculty Senate Minutes**  
February 26, 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.**

**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, 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, Carissa Froyum, Shelley Price-Williams, Mohammed Rawwas, Andrew Stollenwork, Ali Tabei, Matt Weedman (Fifty percent quorum met, with 31/31 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, Fernando Calderon, Micaiah Krutsinger

Additional Guests: Anne Marie Gruber, Theresa Westbrook, Pete Moris, Jillian Carlson, Johnnie Blunt

**Courtesy Announcements**

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 00:00:29]

*President Nook ceded his time to Jillian Carlson to review the proposed changes in the Higher Education Reform bill currently being considered by the state legislature.*

*After Ms. Carlson's summary, Faculty Chair Degnin [second: Senator Berns] motioned to enter executive session for questions and discussion [time stamp 11:42]. Motioned passed (25 in favor, 0 against, 0 absentions)*

*Faculty Chair Degnin [second: Senator Berns] motioned to rise from executive session. Motion passed (25 in favor, 0 against, 0 absentions) [time stamp 12:43]*

Comments from Provost Herrera [time stamp 00:13:57]

*Provost Herrera ceded his time.*

Comments from Faculty Chair Degnin [time stamp 00:14:10]

*Voiced the frustration on campus over the issue of the denials of early tenure.*

Comments from United Faculty President Martin [time stamp 00:15:11]

*Text in italics. Discussed Senate file 2374, now no longer under consideration, that could have decertified unions due to an employer's mistake. Martin also discussed the issue surrounding the denials of early tenure.*

Comments from NISG President Krutsinger [time stamp 00:17:19]

*Student elections will be tomorrow & Wednesday and Krutsinger encouraged faculty to encourage students to vote.*

Comments from Senate Chair Dobosh [time stamp 00:18:27]

*Faculty Senate leadership are following up on the ongoing policy proposals, denials of early tenure, DEI & legislation issues. Chair Dobosh acknowledged we are operating in a climate now that can fuel faculty burnout and encouraged us to support one another.*

### **Minutes for Approval:**

Minutes from January 22, 2024 [time stamp 00:20:07]

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

### **Items Requiring Senate Votes:**

1590 [Policy 3.01 Student Academic Ethics Policy](#) [time stamp 00:21:08]

MOTION: Elgersma / Bass (25 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions)

*Senator Harlow discussed the policy for academic ethics violations that are discovered or occur post-graduation. This policy revision grants the provost authority to deal with such violations. However, any policy that deals with degree conferral needs to be in consultation with all 3 Regents' institutions; this is not currently being pursued.*

*Motion to approve revisions to policy 3.01 passed.*

1591 [Revisions to the Senate Nominating Committee Charter](#) [time stamp 00:27:30]

MOTION: Bass / Gould (23 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

*Revisions would reduce the number of senators on the nominating committee. Senator Breitbach described that the work is not easily distributed in a larger committee and is done more efficiently with a smaller committee of 2-3 senators, freeing up some senators to be more effective in other service opportunities.*

*Motion to approve revisions to the Senate Nominating Committee charter passed unanimously.*

1592 [2024-2025 Faculty Senate Handbook](#) [time stamp 00:30:15]

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

*Senator Makarios noted that the Faculty Senate Handbook describes the roles and responsibilities of the Faculty Senate. The only changes made were to the UNIFI charter (changing membership from an appointed position to an elected position), and Senator Makarios added a friendly amendment to add the updated Senate Nominating Committee charter which was just approved.*

*Motion to approve the 2024/2025 Faculty Senate Handbook with the updated Senate Nominating Committee charter passed.*

**Emeritus Requests:**

1593 [Emeritus Request: Jeffrey Copeland](#) [time stamp 00:32:26]

MOTION: Bass / Makarios (26 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

*Elgersma noted what an impressive career Dr. Copeland has had; Dobosh reiterated the excitement of seeing such great work.*

*Motion to approve emeritus request passed unanimously.*

1594 [Emeritus Request: Lauren Nelson](#) [time stamp 00:34:37]

MOTION: Edmister / Elgersma (25 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

*Senator Edmister talked about Dr. Nelson's long career in supporting their department and in supporting students.*

*Motion to approve emeritus request passed unanimously.*

1595 [Emeritus Request: Michelle Swanson](#) [time stamp 00:36:31]

MOTION: Conrad / Bass (25 in favor, 0 opposed, x0 abstentions)

*Senator Conrad talked about her lifelong love and commitment to UNI and to music education. He noted that Dr. Swanson has many accomplishments at UNI and is known for student advising and follows up with students after graduation. Senator Clements spoke of her gratitude for the high quality of work with young children through the UNI Children's Choir.*

*Motion to approve emeritus request passed / failed.*

*President Nook commented that all three of these emeritus requests have had such a large impact off-campus as well, locally and nationally.*

**New Business****Adjournment at 4:30 PM**

Submitted by Kenneth Elgersma, Vice Chair, University Faculty Senate

**Zoom chat is appended:**

15:31:50 From Pete Moris : Hi - Pete Moris from University Relations here as a guest for Jillian's legislative update.

16:03:07 From Mark Hecimovich : Replying to "Can we suggest they ..."  
Thanks, Micaiah

16:03:47 From Alexa Clements : Reacted to "NISG is always willi..." with  


16:07:40 From Micaiah Krutsiger - NISG President : NISG Election  
Information: <https://niscg.uni.edu/niscg-election-information>

16:19:47 From Francis Degnin : In case anyone is wondering, I don't normally vote. I'm acting as an alternate today