**University Faculty Senate Minutes**

April 22, 2024 Online Zoom meeting

**Please note that a complete audio recording of this senate meeting is available at** [**UNI Scholarworks**](https://scholarworks.uni.edu/facsenate_documents/1368/)**.  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, Erika Bass, Andy Berns, Karen Breitbach, Alexa Clements, Michael Conrad, Tim Dooley, Evette Edmister, Scott Giese, 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, Matt Weedman

(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, Deirdre Heistad, Chris Martin, Fernando Calderon, Lizbeth Montalvo

Additional Guests: Jeremy Schraffenberger, UNIFI Curriculum Coordinator; Don Gaff, UNIFI Assessment Coordinator; Robin Dada, Faculty Handbook Committee; Ronnie Chen, will join UNI senate in Fall 2024; Tiffany Dodd, Allyson Rafanello, Theresa Westbrock

**Courtesy Announcements**

Comments from President Nook [time stamp 00:00:37]

*President Nook gave updates on the fundraising campaign, on the final actions of the state legislature this year, and on UNI Works.*

Comments from Provost Herrera [time stamp 00:09:58]

*Welcomed the new NISG president Liz Montalvo, updates on the search for the CHAS dean, and updates on continuing difficulties with FAFSA but applications are still higher than last year.*

Comments from Faculty Chair Degnin [time stamp 00:13:25]

*Thanked the Senate for its work this semester and for Jim Mattingly and John Burnight’s past work laying the groundwork by improving structure of the Senate.*

Comments from United Faculty President Martin [time stamp 00:14:05]

*Reminded faculty about Sunday Funday at the WRC sponsored by UF.*

Comments from NISG President Montalvo [time stamp 00:15:01]

*Introduced herself and their platform (H E A R): Health, Experience, Accessibility, and Resources.*

Comments from Senate Chair Dobosh [time stamp 00:16:12]

*Updated the Senate on policies that have worked their way through (Curricular Issues and Faculty Constitution) or are working their way through (3.06 Student Academic Ethics, 10.08 intellectual Property Rights 13.13 Research Misconduct) to finalized policy. Provided an update on nominations; we are still finalizing our list of senators for next academic year. Chair Dobosh thanked Imam Alam, Andrew Stollenwerk, Gretchen Gould, Michael Conrad, John Burnight, and Francis Degnin for their service as they finish their terms.*

**Minutes for Approval:**

Minutes from March 25, 2024 [time stamp 00:19:11]

MOTION: Burnight / Burns (22 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention)

**Consultations:**

1577 [Consultation: Student Accessibility Services](https://senate.uni.edu/current-year/current-and-pending-business/consultation-student-accessibility-services) [time stamp 00:20:06]

*Tiffany Dodd introduced senate to the SAS office staff and provided some social and legal context and purpose for the mission and work of SAS. Tiffany described the 6 main steps of the accommodation process. Number of accommodations is increasing dramatically and SAS has made many changes in the past few years so some reasoning for major changes was described. Described ways for faculty to communicate with SAS and interact with or respond to accommodation letters. A question was raised why language stating that accommodations should not fundamentally alter the course was removed from the standard form letter; Tiffany will review and ensure that language is included.*

1605 [Consultation: UNIFI](https://senate.uni.edu/current-year/current-and-pending-business/consultation-unifi) [time stamp 00:40:05]

*Jeremy Schraffenburger and Don Gaff presented the end of year report for UNIFI. Noted that UNI received an award for its UNIFI program. Considering larger structural changes to further improve UNIFI. Conversations have already started but still in early stages; will bring proposal to Faculty Senate in the future. Don Gaff gave an assessment update; the assessment cycle is ahead of schedule and proceeding very well.*

1606 [Consultation: Faculty Handbook](https://senate.uni.edu/current-year/current-and-pending-business/consultation-faculty-handbook) [time stamp 00:45:20]

*Associate Provost John Vallentine went through proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook. Noted that we already have new titles / ranks as a change made earlier this year after consultation with Senate. Work is currently happening to make Chapter 8 (Leaves & Absences) work well with the new UNI Works system. Presented proposed changes dealing with:*

*-nonstandard teaching credits*

*-post-tenure comprehensive reviews and performance improvement plan timelines*

*-clarifying how “days” are defined*

*-improved language to clarify the time/ progress to be reviewed for third year review, promotion, or post-tenure review clarifying what the narrative should cover*

*-PACs or faculty members MAY have additional reviews done for promotion if recommended by PACs or faculty member*

*-removing “clinical faculty” from the language on a table because it is no longer needed*

*-years of credit towards tenure/promotion at hiring needs to be approved by both the dean and provost.*

*-creating a new process for when changes to department standards and criteria are made that would impact faculty evaluation. Faculty members impacted by that change can have an MOU created to determine how they will be evaluated.*

*These suggestions were unanimously approved by the Faculty Handbook Committee.*

**Emeritus Requests:**

1601 [Emeritus Request: Ira Simet](https://senate.uni.edu/current-year/current-and-pending-business/emeritus-request-ira-simet) [time stamp 00:56:52]

MOTION: Clements / Bass (21 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

*Chair Dobosh reiterated some highlights of the letter. Motion to approve the emeritus request passed.*

1602 [Emeritus Request: Diane Vallentine](https://senate.uni.edu/current-year/current-and-pending-business/emeritus-request-diane-vallentine) [time stamp 00:58:45]

MOTION: Burns / Clements (21 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

*Chair Dobosh read highlights of the letters of support. Motion to approve the emeritus request passed.*

1603 [Emeritus Request: Heidi Noonan-Day](https://senate.uni.edu/current-year/current-and-pending-business/emeritus-requst-heidi-noonan-day) [time stamp 01:00:25]

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

*Chair Dobosh read highlights of the letter and noted Heidi’s willingness to help students with legal matters. Motion to approve the emeritus request passed.*

1607 [Emeritus Request: Leigh Zeitz](https://senate.uni.edu/current-year/current-and-pending-business/emeritus-request-leigh-zeitz) [time stamp 01:02:05]

MOTION: Price-Williams / Clements (27 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

*Senator Price-Williams talked about Leigh’s energy in the work he does and the pleasure to work with someone who cares so much. Motion to approve the emeritus request passed / failed.*

**Scheduled for Executive Session: (Includes new business item)**

1604 [Regents Award Nominations](https://senate.uni.edu/current-year/current-and-pending-business/regents-award-nominations)

Nominations and Election of 2024-2025 University Senate Vice Chair

**Return from Executive Session [time stamp 01:06:36]**

Motioned to forward names to the Provost for the Regents’ Award.

Alexa Clements was elected to be Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate.

**Adjournment** by 5:00 PM

MOTION (Burnight / Gould)

Submitted by Kenneth Elgersma, Vice Chair, University Faculty Senate

**Zoom chat is appended:**

00:07:36 Jeremy Schraffenberger: Jeremy Schraffenberger, UNIFI Curriculum Coordinator

00:07:40 Robin Dada: Robin Dada - Faculty Handbook Committee

00:08:00 Ronnie Chen: Ronnie Chen, Finance Department, will join UNI senate in Fall 2024

00:08:00 Donald Gaff: Don Gaff, UNIFI Assessment Coordinator

00:26:11 Christopher Martin: Thank you for your service as UNI Faculty Senate president, Melissa.

00:46:49 John Vallentine: Thanks, Tiffany for updating our faculty. Here is the link for the senators: https://sas.uni.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-guide

00:53:29 Melissa Dobosh: Theresa Westbrock is also here! :)