

**University Faculty Senate Minutes
February 24, 2025 Online Zoom Meeting**

Please note that a complete audio recording of this senate meeting is available at [UNI Scholarworks](#). The timestamps noted throughout these minutes refer to that recording.

Meetings are open and any faculty member may attend. If you wish to attend, email a member of Senate leadership for the zoom link.

Senators in attendance:

Kenneth Elgersma (Chair), Alexa Clements (Vice-Chair), Melissa Dobosh (Faculty Chair, Past Senate Chair), Randall Harlow (Parliamentarian), Nick Bailey, Megan Balong, Erika Bass, Andy Berns, Cathi Bowler, Karen Breitbart, Ronnie Chen, Rebecca Dickinson, Tim Dooley, Evette Edmister, Scott Giese, Melanie Hill, Mark Hecimovich, Wu-Ying Hsieh, Charles Holcombe, Julie Kang, Alexandra (Ana) Kogl, Syed Kirmani, Matthew Makarios, Susan Moore, John Preston

(Fifty percent quorum met, with 23/31 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 [timestamp 0:00:00]

Call for Press Identification: *None present*

Introduction of Guests

Regular Guests: José Herrera, Chris Martin (UF President), Robert Earle (UF Vice President), Lizbeth Montalvo (NISG President)

Other Guests: Deedee Heistad, Interim Associate Provost

Courtesy Announcements:

Comments from Provost Herrera [timestamp 0:01:11]

Provost Herrera shared President Nook's regrets for not attending. President Nook was traveling to meet with members of the education subcommittee in Des Moines. Provost Herrera stated that on February 27 there will be a virtual Board of Regents meeting. There will be a new BOR committee, the Board of Regents Legislative Committee which will be chaired by Regent Hensley to oversee the over 300 bills that the BOR needs to assess and address. He reported that he and President Nook continue to meet with departments on campus, and these conversations will continue through the semester.

The Provost reported enrollment numbers for fall. He reported the application numbers as of last Friday, and estimated that enrollment will be 9,300-9,400 for next fall's census. He highlighted and thanked members from specific programs at the university.

Discussion:

Chair Elgersma asked about meetings with different departments. and the Provost stated that he and President Nook would be happy to meet with any department.

Comments from Faculty Chair Dobosh [timestamp 0:08:56]

Chair Dobosh brought issues of textbook and course material fulfillment to the attention of the senate. She reported that there have been issues with course materials, pricing discrepancies, and unfulfilled textbook scholarships that were part of Follett's contract, and that faculty and administrators were working to address these issues. She also stated that senators should be vigilant to make sure that their textbook information is correct and that we probably do not know the scope of these problems yet. She is able to be a point person for faculty questions and concerns regarding bookstore issues. She reminded senators that nominations for open faculty seats on committees and chair of the faculty should be sent to Senator Breitbach by Monday. She concluded by saying that she wanted to acknowledge that a year ago this body of faculty put together a statement on our commitment of support for all students at UNI, and that this serves as a reminder that we are part of a community of faculty who are committed to our students. She encouraged senators to extend that care to each other.

Comments from United Faculty President Martin [timestamp 0:13:30]

UF President Martin reported that UF sponsored two different listening sessions, one in person and one on Zoom. UF plans to have more listening sessions in the future through cooperation with the CETL. He stated that AAUP has put out information addressing concerns that people have regarding current events in higher education, and noted that there are some similarities with events during the 1950s and McCarthyism. He shared a link to the AAUP's article, "Anticipatory Obedience." He encouraged senators not to do things that they do not agree with unless the law changes.

Comments from NISG President Montalvo [timestamp 0:17:19]

NISG President Motalvo reported that students have asked about starting up the sustainability committee that was once advised by Eric O'Brien. She reported that the Green Fund might be involved in future sustainability work and that NISG will continue to work on how sustainability might be incorporated into student government initiatives.

Comments from Senate Chair Elgersma [timestamp 0:19:14]

Chair Elgersma commented that Black History Month has come and gone too quietly and too unnoticed. He stated that while it is important not to impede on other's First Amendment rights, it is also important to stand up for our own First Amendment rights and the principles of academic freedom that are grounded in those rights. Administration and university relations have sent reminders regarding what should not be said because of increased scrutiny. However, this has shifted our culture from one where we ask hard questions to one where there is a danger of self censorship. He reminded senators that the Bill of Rights and the Constitution are the highest law of the land, and encouraged shifting the conversation from what we cannot say to what we can say and do. He suggested that senators review the First Amendment Training on eLearning.

Minutes for Approval [timestamp 0:23:34]

Minutes from January 27, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes

MOTION: MOORE/ BASS (22 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain) *motion passes*

Items Requiring Senate Votes:

1635 [Revision to guidelines for Certificates](#) [timestamp 0:24:50]

Motion to approve these guidelines

MOTION: MAKARIOS/ BERNIS (23 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain) *motion passes*

Discussion:

Deedee Heistad provided background information about the definition of certificates. The UCC came to the senate last year to propose definitions for certificates. The definitions appeared in the 24-25 course catalogue. However, the final definitions had not been brought back to the senate for final approval.

1636 [Approval of 2025-2026 Senate Handbook](#) [timestamp 0:31:55]

Motion to approve the 2025-2026 Senate Handbook

MOTION: KOGL/ HOLCOMBE (22 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain) *motion passes*

Discussion:

Senator Makarios stated that the major changes were to the schedule of meeting dates for the senate and committee meeting dates for next year. Senate Chair Elgersma added that some links had also been added to the handbook.

Emeritus Requests:

1629 [Emeritus request: Mary McDade](#) [timestamp 0:34:14]

Motion to approve this emeritus request

MOTION: BASS/ MAKARIOS (22 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain) *motion passes*

Discussion:

Senate Chair Elgersma commented that Mary has been a pleasure to work and students have benefitted from her work. She has done extensive work on the human anatomy labs, and is known for writing "the book" on synthetic cadavers, or syndavers, labs.

New Business: none stated

Adjournment by 5:00 PM

MOTION Makarios/ Moore

Minutes prepared and submitted by Alexa Clements

Zoom Chat Appended:

00:15:06 Deirdre Heistad: Guest-Deedee Heistad, Interim Associate
Provost

00:27:46 Karen Breitbach: Thank you Melissa!

00:28:38 Melissa Dobosh: Replying to "Thank you Melissa!"

No problem! :)

00:31:58 Christopher Martin:

<https://www.aaup.org/report/against-anticipatory-obedience>

00:38:48 Karen Breitbach: So proud of Kenneth, Melissa and Christopher
- those are difficult comments to make, but so important!

00:39:00 Ana Kogl: Reacted to "So proud of Kenneth,..." with ❤️

00:39:00 Robert Earle: Reacted to "So proud of Kenneth,..." with 🙌

00:39:06 Melissa Dobosh: Reacted to "So proud of Kenneth,..." with ❤️

00:39:07 Andrew Berns: Reacted to "So proud of Kenneth,..." with 🙌

00:39:10 Susan Moore: Reacted to "So proud of Kenneth,..." with ❤️

00:39:25 lizabeth montalvo: Reacted to "So proud of Kenneth,..." with 🙌

00:40:26 John Preston: Reacted to "So proud of Kenneth,..." with 🙌

00:47:50 Christopher Martin: Reacted to "So proud of Kenneth,..."
with ❤️