

# University Faculty Senate Minutes

March 23, 2026

Online Zoom meeting

Please note that a complete audio recording of this senate meeting is unavailable due to technical difficulties.

Faculty Senate 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:**

Timothy Dooley (Acting-Chair), Kenneth Elgersma (Faculty Chair, Past Senate Chair), Shelley Price-Williams (Parliamentarian), Nicholas Bailey, Erika Bass, Andrew Berns, Cathi Bowler, Karen Breitbach, Ronnie Chen, Barbara Cutter, Rebecca Dickinson, Evette Edmister, Scott Giese, Tom Hall, Randall Harlow, Mark Hecimovic, Deirdre Heistad, Melanie Hill, Wendy Hoffnagle, Syed Kirmani, Reza Lahroodi, Susan Moore, Jeff Morgan, Allison Pattee, John Preston

## **Call to Order at 3:32 PM**

### **Call for Press Identification**

None Present

## **Introduction of Guests**

**Regular Guests:** Chris Martin, Fernando Herrera Calderón

**Other Guests:** Amy Nielsen, Deirdre Heistad, Jimmy Reyes, Robert Earle, Jennifer McNabb, Mary Black

## **Comments from President Nook**

[timestamp 15:33-15:37]

- Legislative funnel complete; most higher-ed–impacting bills did not advance.
- Some bills may return in altered form; monitoring continues.
- House and Senate beginning budget bill work; Senate using governor’s recommendation as its starting point, which includes UNI’s requests plus roughly \$1.5M extra in general fund support.
- Budget details expected to develop over next two weeks.
- Bills regarding teaching restrictions still active and being watched.
- UNI Day at the Capitol scheduled for Wednesday; 150th anniversary recognized with proclamations.
- Engineering/construction students’ large birthday-cake display will be reconstructed in the Capitol rotunda.
- 15:37–15:40 – Q&A with President Nook
- Elgersma asks about administrative support related to recent ICE activity.
- Nook describes ongoing messaging work but no progress on what might be shared more

widely, individual support for students/faculty, and coordination with the International Students Office.

### **Comments from Provost Herrera**

- Provost Herrera absent.

### **Comments from Faculty Chair Elgersma**

[timestamp 15:41–15:42]

- No major comments; looking ahead to UNI Day at the Capitol.

### **Comments from United Faculty President Martin**

[timestamp 15:42-15:43]

- Updates on three bills still active in the Senate that significantly affect faculty:
  - Anti-DEI/CRT bill limiting classroom speech.
  - Mandated American government/history courses at Regents institutions (estimated cost: \$2.1M annually).
  - Changes to university president selection removing most faculty/community input.
- UF collaborating with other Iowa institutions through the Higher Ed Coalition; additional information posted at [ufaculty.uni.edu](http://ufaculty.uni.edu).
- Dooley thanks Martin for ongoing advocacy work.

### **Comments from NISG President Webster**

[timestamp 15:43-15:45]

- President Allie Webster absent due to work shift.
- Dooley reports Gabriel Salazar will be next NISG president and will attend April meeting.

### **Comments from Senate Chair Dooley**

[timestamp 15:45-15:54]

- Dooley cedes his time to Interim Associate Provost Deirdre “DeeDee” Heistad to discuss BOR Syllabus Posting Policy.
- Regents Policy requires, by Fall 2026, public posting of required undergraduate syllabus elements:
  - Course title/number
  - Description
  - General outline
  - Required textbooks/readings
  - General assessment description
- Some courses (internships, practica, independent studies, theses) are exempt.
- Senate was given a demo of the website, which has both public and CATID-protected portions. Public website will show course info and link to a posted PDF; faculty names not displayed publicly.
- Faculty side: upload portal (CATID-protected) allows PDF posting; optional template provided for required elements.

– Q&A on Syllabus Policy

[timestamp 15:54–16:03]

- Questions on handling long reading lists, frequent updates, 8-week courses, accidental deletions, departmental upload practices, and potential ramifications for non-compliance.
- Heistad notes:

- Required readings should be listed as normally provided to students.
- Updates mid-semester are discretionary unless a required element changes.
- First day of class, not semester start, is deadline.
- Departments may create their own upload workflow and may choose to have staff upload syllabi.
- Tracking system logs changes (for upload/removal history); mistakes will be corrected without punitive intent.
- Legal/disciplinary implications unclear; further clarification may come from University Counsel
  - Committee considering ways to reduce errors and improve security; soft rollout expected in April.
  - Support planned for fall workshop week.

### **Minutes for Approval:**

Motion to Approve Minutes from February 23, 2026 [timestamp 16:03-16:10]  
 Motion – Hall / Elgersma  
 20 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

### **Docketed items:**

Docketed items:

1685 Consultation: Sustainability certificate & minor [timestamp 16:10-16:12]  
 • Introduced by Jennifer McNabb  
 • History Department selected by advisory board (vote 7–1–1) to house Sustainability.  
 • Alignment with upcoming integration of History and Philosophy/World Religions into a larger department.  
 • Interest in developing an Environmental Humanities program.  
 • No questions from Senate.

1686 Emeritus request: James Hall (Motion: Bass / Elgersma) [timestamp 16:12-16:49]  
 • Contributions: 17 years of service, leadership in coaching minor, strong student support.  
 • Approved 20 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

1687 Emeritus request: Todd Evans (Motion: Berns / Bass)  
 • Known for mentoring new faculty, extensive service work, and expertise in brewing/hops cultivation.  
 • Approved 22 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

1688 Emeritus request: Mark Grey (Motion: Moore / Kogl)  
 • Recognized for wide-ranging research and service to immigrant communities.  
 • Approved 22 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

1689 Emeritus request: Alan Czarnetzki (Motion: Morgan / Moore)  
 • First meteorologist hired at UNI; major contributions to science education and public outreach (IPR weather).  
 • Approved 24 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

**Adjournment** by 4:23 PM

## Chat Transcript

2026-03-23 15:32:57 From Jennifer McNabb to Everyone:

Jen McNabb, Head of History

2026-03-23 15:33:05 From Mary Black to Everyone:

Mary Black, Dean of CHAS

2026-03-23 15:43:39 From Christopher Martin to Everyone:

faculty.uni.edu, for more on the 3 bills

2026-03-23 15:49:38 From Christopher Martin to Everyone:

Deedee are you able to share the screen? Or am I not looking in the right place?

2026-03-23 15:50:53 From Dawn Mollenkopf to Everyone:

Replying to "Deedee are you able to share the screen? Or am I n...":

It is showing on my screen.

2026-03-23 15:51:30 From Christopher Martin to Everyone:

Replying to "Deedee are you able to share the screen? Or am I n...":

OK...maybe my computer. Thanks.

2026-03-23 15:52:20 From Christopher Martin to Everyone:

Replying to "Deedee are you able to share the screen? Or am I n...":

Got it now.