

**The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
1216 E. Mabel St. (PO Box 210456)
621.1342
facultycenter@email.arizona.edu
Minutes: February 17, 2025
3:00-5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM**

Present: M Hymel (Chair), D Barefoot, S Cochran, W Fink, J Frumkin, G Heileman, L Hudson, K Little, K Maggert, R Marx, T Ottusch, C Rankin, M Stegeman (Parliamentarian), S Su, J van Haren, J Vetter, P Waddell, S Willis, K Zeiders, and L Ziurys

Absent: A Grijalva, J Bernick, and L Rezende

Guests: M Madden

Call to Order

Chair Hymel called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of January 13, 2025

The minutes of January 13, 2025 were approved.

Approval of the Faculty Senate/Senate Executive Committee 2025-2026 meeting schedules

The meeting schedules were approved.

Review agenda for the March 3, 2025 Faculty Senate Meeting

Committee members reviewed the draft agenda for the March 3, 2025 Faculty Senate meeting. Members discussed the motion made at the previous Faculty Senate meeting requesting an emergency meeting with the President. Chair Hymel informed the committee that the Faculty Officers will be meeting with the President at his request on Wednesday. A forthcoming update will be communicated. Marx reported that communications from administration have been prepared for distribution but currently on hold. Zeiders reported on public discussion points within the RII Campus Advisory Committee that meets daily for a half hour. There are eight to ten grants that are stopped, paused, or terminated at this time. Unless an order is given, PIs are to continue with their work. Faculty would greatly benefit from having clear communication at Faculty Senate. Perhaps an RII person explaining the rapidly changing landscape of research. Scholar safety is another important issue. Ziurys discussed Executive orders and disappointment in the Senior Vice President for RII with his avoidance of the Research Policy Committee. Marx discussed additional documents they received and the implications. Barefoot stated

that most of the staff are at will so the ramifications are broader than research ending. After lengthy discussion in Executive Session, time allotments were given for each item, and the committee approved the agenda.

Provost's Report – Ron Marx

No additional report.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

Hudson reported there's an article in Luminaria that the \$36.5M subsidy to UAthletics did not erase its debt. There was a demonstration at the Congressional offices at Pima and Swan by the community, showing widespread concern for what is happening in Washington. Hudson spoke about the last ABOR meeting and agreed to mention committee's concerns in her report to Faculty Senate.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

No report.

Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders

Zeiders reported that she is asking for additional support from the Provost's Office for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. A Senate session will be scheduled to discuss the proposed revisions so they can go to the General Faculty for a vote. Three areas the committee is looking at are the definition of General Faculty membership, how Nominating Committee selects CAFT nominees, and adding a Post Doc as a member of Faculty Senate. For Honorary Degrees, more detailed guidelines need to be conveyed to Deans. There are four Honorary Degrees for Faculty Senate approval at the March meeting. Faculty Senators will receive the candidate statements a week in advance of the meeting.

Information Technology – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin reported that Interim CIO Cheu has set up an Advisory Committee with Tyson Swetnam as the faculty representative. Frumkin is enthused with Cheu's approach. A recent discovery of controlled and regulated research, especially things that fall under control and classified information, that many cases of P and T and annual review processes cannot accommodate some needs of researchers and faculty because their work is not visible to these peer review groups, heads, and deans. A conversation with Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Romero will be set up to discuss this disadvantage to researchers who hold grants and funding in these areas. Organizational structures, components, and policies need to be put in place that enables these researchers to have their work accounted for.

SPBAC – Greg Heileman and Cindy Rankin

Heileman reported that President Garimella has started discussions around strategic imperatives in preparation for doing a strategic plan at some point. Garimella plans to speak with deans, as well as having John Pollard and Amanda Krause talk to the committee for feedback.

UWGEC – Jeremy Vetter

Vetter reported the committee has met a couple of times in the last month. The work has shifted due to in a major influx of course proposals. Many went through during the refresh and many afterward due to not accepting proposals at that time. Many efforts are going forward with streamlining and clarifying foundations areas of Gen Ed untouched in the original refresh in math, language, and writing. Changes with these will soon be moving through the shared governance process.

The Second Language Committee met last Friday and made progress toward reaching a consensus on the best path forward. Additionally, attributes within the curriculum are scheduled to become graduation requirements in Fall 2026. Based on recommendations from the Office of General Education, university administration, and campus advising, these attributes will remain part of courses but will not be required in a set pattern for students. Helpful data on this topic was provided in the November Faculty Senate report by the Office of General Education. The Civic Learning Advisory Group is set to convene next week, and faculty from across campus are invited to participate. Faculty members teaching courses with certain curricular attributes have engaged in discussions about potential changes, given that these courses extend beyond General Education. The current ABOR General Education policy requires universities to offer courses that incorporate topics such as ethics, civility, and diversity. The way these elements have been integrated into the curriculum has been under review, and faculty members are engaged in ongoing discussions about potential adjustments. As universities work to ensure alignment with evolving policies, discussions are also taking place regarding legislative considerations that may impact course offerings. Faculty are monitoring these developments to understand any potential implications for curriculum planning. Since these topics are tied to existing General Education requirements, further conversations will be necessary to determine the best path forward.

Curricular Affairs – Greg Heileman

Heileman reported that fewer proposals are moving through the system. The attributes themselves could be problematic because a student could satisfy all the degree requirements associated with a particular program and not be able to graduate due to one attribute and faculty were not satisfied with that scenario. A policy revision is in the works for the three foundation areas to make it simpler for students to figure out how to graduate. The goal would be to make changes to the catalog at one time, but the publication is so far in advance it may not make it for the fall of 2026, but possibly the year after.

Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner

Waddell reported the Council has also seen fewer proposals. A Minor in Sport and Recreation Leadership and a Request to Establish a New Academic Unit in Otolaryngology (ENT) have been forwarded to the Faculty Senate.

Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren and Lisa Rezende

Van Haren said the Council has forwarded a proposal for a Minor in Musical Theater for Faculty Senate approval.

UArizona Staff Council – Danielle Barefoot

Barefoot reported that the current environment presents significant challenges. There is a lack of formal direction on communication processes, and many employees are seeking clarity on best practices. The February meeting will feature Provost Marx and Chief Data Officer and UAIR Vice President Ravneet Chadha, who will provide insights on workforce data that was requested. In March, CFO John Arnold has been invited to discuss the budget process.

C11 – Wolfgang Fink

Fink reported that the committee has made progress with Vice President for University Initiatives, Celina Ramirez on UHAP 5.2 revisions. After final review they will be forwarded to Provost Marx. Conversations concerning administrator accountability have begun.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

Ziurys reported that the committee met last week with Vice President for Operations, Sangita Judge about IRB. RII will be meeting individually with PI's who are having difficulties. The meeting with Díaz de la Rubia to discuss centralization problems was canceled. The committee is requesting a meeting with CFO John Arnold about getting the 2% overhead return reimbursed.

APPC – Keith Maggert

No report.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch

Little reported that the committee had two guest speakers from the Library. At Wednesday's meeting, speakers will be coming to speak to housing for students. Please send student-related issues the committee's way.

University Committee on Community Relations – Spencer Willis

Willis reported that the committee met with Hatcher and her team on DEIA Executive Orders. The committee decided to postpone efforts related to campus climate and will look at the UASC survey to see if there are any action items to take on. It is prudent currently to better understand how recent developments impact our work and how to proceed without potentially violating Executive Orders. The committee changed its name to reflect more accurately its scope of work.

ASUA – Adriana Grijalva

No report.

GPSC – Jeremy Bernick

No report.

President's Report – TBA

No report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry