

The University of Arizona®
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
1216 E. Mabel St. (PO Box 210456)
621.1342
facultycenter@email.arizona.edu
Minutes: March 24, 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, L Rezende, M Stegeman (Parliamentarian), S Su, J Vetter, P Waddell, S Willis, K Zeiders, and L Ziurys

Absent: A Grijalva, J Bernick, and J van Haren

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 February 17, 2025

The minutes of February 17, 2025 were approved.

Review agenda for the April 7, 2025 Faculty Senate Meeting

Committee members reviewed the draft agenda for the April 7, 2025 Faculty Senate meeting. Items were rolled over from the previous Faculty Senate meeting. New items were discussed, given order and time allotments. CFO John Arnold will have ample time on the agenda for presenting and answering questions. Committee members agreed to solicit questions from Senators prior to the meeting. Questions will be submitted to CFO Arnold in advance of the meeting. Committee members discussed differences in centralization pertaining to business structures/personnel within colleges versus budget centralization affecting the entire campus.

APPC – Keith Maggert

Maggert reported Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Romero requested the committee review UHAP 3.3.03 (Promotion Reviews of Career-Track Faculty). After speaking with the policy office about inconsistent interpretations of policies, inclusion of FAQ's used as procedures, he will attend a meeting with that office to discuss creating a unified policies and procedures manual. Maggert would like to see regular reporting to this group to include the GCC and CAFT committees for updates on grievances. The committee was working with Romero rewriting UHAP 7.01 to remove a politeness requirement that had been weaponized in a couple of cases against faculty and to create a separate policy that

outlines academic freedom. Romero canceled the collaboration telling Maggert it should wait until the arrival of the new Provost. The committee has a written document ready and rewriting the policy can wait for the new Provost or perhaps an alternate way would be preferable. APPC feels that since there is no legal or policy justification to forbid Faculty Senate from editing policies, just as every administrator is able to do, the question is proceeding without Romero. Discussions with C11 and Senate leadership will be forthcoming on this issue, but there isn't any reason to think that Faculty Senate cannot propose policy as is spelled out quite clearly in state law.

ASUA – Adriana Grijalva

Grijalva was absent.

Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson

Hudson reported that the President's Installation will be held tomorrow. Last week, Hudson declined to participate in the celebration since the President would not sign the MOU as is usual tradition, did not engage elected faculty representatives in the Provost search, and dismissed the invitation to work on a Memorandum of Understanding that elaborates how we would implement ARS 15-1601B together. The President gave verbal assurance that he does intend to collaborate with faculty leadership. Hudson will attend the ceremony. The President's outside consultant on budgetary matters, Richard Kate, has requested Hudson appoint faculty members to a budget model task force advisory group that he is implementing. Gary Rhoades, Shyam Sunder, and Leila Hudson will participate. A good plan for policy reform tweaks with the Gen Ed program will be introduced to Faculty Senate in a manner that will assure them being passed. Faculty Senators and UWGEC members agree that they will enhance student choice, academic freedom, and will not attract undue attention to unpopular requirements with the larger community.

C11 – Wolfgang Fink

Fink reported that Vice President for University Initiatives, Celina Ramirez submitted UHAP 5.2 revisions to Interim Provost Marx. After final review, revisions hopefully will be forwarded to President Garimella. After the President's ratification, the thirty-day campus review period will garner further feedback.

Curricular Affairs – Greg Heileman

No report.

GPSC – Jeremy Bernick

Bernick was absent.

Graduate Council – Philip Waddell and Sanlyn Buxner

Waddell reported the Council saw eight or nine disestablishments mostly from the School of Nursing for programs that were never used or ones deemed unnecessary.

Information Technology – Jeremy Frumkin

Frumkin was absent.

President's Report – TBA

No report.

Provost's Report – Ron Marx

No report.

RPC – Lucy Ziurys

Ziurys reported that amid IRB problems, Vice President for Operations, Sangita Judge met with Matthew Lapierre. No report has been received yet, but the process is being ironed out. The committee met with CFO Arnold to discuss the 2% overhead return. Arnold suggested talking with Richard Cate who will be onboarding as Special Advisor to the President. Arnold agreed that the 2% overhead needs to be returned and added that the forthcoming 2% raises have been allocated out of grant overhead. The committee is still attempting to meet with Díaz de la Rubia. Committee members discussed the upcoming raises and how they will be dispersed.

Secretary of the Faculty – Katie Zeiders

Zeiders reported that the RII Advisory Committee is meeting three times a week. RII staff is experiencing increased workload due to federal government regulations. An email was sent out from the RII for bridge funding. The first bridge funding was awarded last week, but there are challenges with communicating the bridge funding program due to impending budget cuts and the upcoming salary increase program. SVP Díaz de la Rubia is committed to meeting all needs. There has been conversation about some faculty members reaching out to legislators related to grant closures and the impact of federal level changes to one's own program(s). Although faculty can reach out to legislators on their own time and resources about whatever topic they choose, questions were asked regarding whether it was appropriate in relation to a specific grants awarded to the institution. A SEC member pointed out that the current political policy states that "Political Activity does not include application for or advocacy related to seeking a government sponsored grant or contracts". The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is seeking feedback from CAFT on proposed Bylaws changes. The Committee on Faculty Membership will be meeting later this month.

SPBAC – Greg Heileman and Cindy Rankin

Heileman reported that the new Vice President for Enrollment Management, Kristina Wong Davis, is now on board. Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Advising/Undergraduate Education, Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski, spoke about the graduation project, launched last year to find all students graduating within 25% of completion. A list of approximately 8,000 students who can potentially graduate this year has been sent out to all colleges.

SAPC – Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch

Little reported that the committee had two guest speakers from Campus Health to talk about the 2024 Health and Wellness Student Survey. The International Student Services

Office will be attending the next meeting to address under/graduate student concerns regarding DEI issues.

UA Staff Council – Danielle Barefoot

Barefoot shared the staff recommendations sent to the President in February concerning a percentage-based wage increase. A flat amount of \$1,250 was recommended for people making below the MIT living wage. There are ongoing discussions about professional development funds and Staff Council because there's an endowed staff fund available through the Foundation, but uncovering the historical account of the endowed funds has been difficult. The Crossroads Conference is scheduled for May 12, 2025 in person and May 20, 2025 online. Barefoot shared Fulbright information. Interim CIO Elliott Cheu will be the guest at our next meeting, and CFO Arnold will attend the following month.

Undergraduate Council – Joost van Haren and Lisa Rezende

Rezende said Vetter will report on policy.

University Committee on Community Relations – Spencer Willis

Willis reported that the committee will meet in April.

UWGEC – Jeremy Vetter

Vetter reported the committee met earlier in the month and discussed key pending issues related to General Education, namely attributes and changes to the foundations areas. The consensus is that it makes sense to move forward straight away on foundations and attributes because of urgent issues related to current policy in becoming graduation requirements in Fall 2026. The diversity/equity attribute must be renamed to avoid faculty being targeted by political concerns. A Task Force for second language has been meeting for much of the fall and part of the spring that has recommendations to be incorporated in the policy. Changes for math and minor changes for writing have been rolled into a single policy sponsored by Greg Heileman. The civic learning piece will be delayed but will be moving forward with deliberate speed next month. The Civic Knowledge Advisory Group met this morning and will meet again next month. The policy proposal is lengthy but will eliminate different sections of Gen Ed policies and consolidate into one simple policy.

Vice Chair of the Faculty – Mona Hymel

The SGRC is developing a grievance form to allow the University community to file a grievance that is under the purview of the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Transcribed by Jane Cherry