# FACULTY SENATE MEETING

**November 19, 2024**

**1008 Nursing**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Christy Adams, Stacy Alley, Sharla Biefeld, Sheila Black, Serena Blount, Rachel Cajigas, Ibrahim Cemen, Kim Colburn, Jenni Cox, Rona Donahoe, Ellary Draper, Gayle Faught, Renata Fuchs, Marysia Galbraith, John Giggie, Jessica Goethals, Xabier Granja, Carl Hancock, Matt LeFevor, Jeff Lozier, Aislinn O’Donohoe Riley, JoAnne Payne, Margaret Peacock, Laura Rubio, Soledad Sanchez Valdez, Harold Selesky, Edith Szanto, Theodore Tomeny, Matthew Valasik, Laura Erin Watley, Susan Williams, Tom Baker, Katie Grayson, Ruth Ann Hall, Matthew Hudnall, Jacob Humphries, Jennie Northam, Anneliese Bolland, Dimitrios Latsis, Bharat Mehra, Meenakshi Arora, Dale Dickinson, Mallory Scogin, R. Miller Wright, Nirmala Erevelles, Alison Hooper, James Hardin, Stacy Hughey Surman, Nicole Swoszowski, Thang Dao, Qiang Huang, Patrick Kung, Sree Patiballa, Shreyas Rao, Darren Surman, Kim Boyle, Barbara “Babs” Davis, Maria Hernandez-Reif, Jeri Zemke, Anil Mujumdar, Gary Sullivan, Lindsey Lowry, Kristi Acker, Shameka Cody, Kim Parker, Abby Horton, Connar Franklin, Brenda Smith, Carrie Turner, Johnny Foster, Laura Braddick

**Absent with an Alternate:** Natasha Dimova/Mojdeh Rasoulzadeh, Shanlin Pan/Kim Lackey, Karen Epermanis/Bennie Waller, Bryan Hockstein/Jim Karrh, Shane Stinson/Bennie Waller, Jihoon (Jay) Kim/George Daniels, Cynthia Peacock/Elliott Panek, Cailin Kerch/Kimberly Tomeny, John Petrovic/Colleen Geary, Brian Clark/Patricia Ratkovich, Sarah Robinson/Krista Fowler,

**Absent:** Paulo Araujo, Cassidy Matwiyoff, Diane Tober, Rebecca Totten, Xiaoyan Hong, Dawen Li, Weihua Su, Mark Weaver, Courtney McGahey, Benjamin McMichael, Robert Riter, Allyson Holliday

**Guests:** None

### Roll Call/Quorum Check – Quorum confirmed.

### Approval / Correction of the Minutes for October 15, 2024

Minutes from October 15, 2024, were reviewed and approved with one revision. Motion to approve: Approved unanimously.

### President’s Report (*Matthew Hudnall*)

* A statement addressing the recent texting incidents was drafted by the Opportunities, Intercultural Connections, and Success Committee and approved by the steering committee. There were 15 votes in favor, 3 against, and 1 abstention. The statement addresses the incidents and broader principles. The statement will be sent to the vice president for Student Life, the provost, and the president. Faculty Senate will work with the OICS committee to formulate a broader strategic statement.
* Board of Trustees Notes:
  + UA System is doing extremely well financially, with $6.8B in funds. UAS has asked the State for an 8% - 8.5% increase in State allocations.
  + New $13M ROTC Center will be built.

### VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – (*Serena Blount*)

* The restructuring of Arts & Sciences and the Dean’s actions were discussed, with plans for a letter expressing concerns. The Dean’s restructuring violated A&S bylaws by dissolving divisional Dean positions. A letter to the Dean expressing concerns was decided upon as the course of action; however, it was not decided who would write the letter or edit the letter. Dr. Blount will attend the November 20th FAC meeting to monitor developments.
* Renewable Contract Faculty Task Force met, and addressed issues related to the new research requirement and faculty sentiments through a survey, which gauged faculty sentiments on RCAP issues. A summary report was approved and will be delivered to OAA and the provosts office.
  + The Task Force also discussed the violation of handbook policies regarding promotions, specifically the misinterpretation of research requirements for renewable contract faculty. A resolution was drafted to address the handbook policy violation and ensure fair promotion processes. The resolution will be tweaked and sent out to the Faculty Senate for feedback. A new copy of the resolution will be sent to the Faculty Senate before Thanksgiving.
  + It was noted that a revision to the handbook is needed to make language explicit and eliminate ambiguity.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT** – (*Kim Parker*)

* No report

**Senate Committee Reports:**

**Community and Legislative Affairs** (*Katie Grayson & John Giggie)*

* Met with Chad Tindol who stated that the University’s approach to handling student protests was emphasizing safety and adherence to state laws. Protests must be registered, unless spontaneous, to ensure safety.

**Academic Affairs** – (*Rona Donahoe & Babs Davis*)

* The guidelines for student athlete absences will be revised to be more inclusive and less objectionable. Reduced make-up work period was changed from 30 days to 7 days.
* The survey for Plus/Minus grading for graduate courses showed a majority of support for plus/minus grading. Concerns about grade inflation and GPA impact were noted. The present recommendation for plus/minus grading will be voted on next month at the December 2024 Faculty Senate meeting.

**Student Life –** (*Carrie Turner & Dale Dickinson*)

* No report.

**Research and Service** (*Natasha Dimova & Shreyas Rao*)

* Met with Bryan Boudouris and discussed the following:
  + OSP functionality
  + Publication Open Access
  + The equipment acquisition amount was changed from $100K to $250K
  + Tuition waivers for graduate students

**Faculty Life** – (*Kim Colburn & Stacy Hughey Surman*)

* No report

**IT and Strategic Communications** – (*Patrick Kung and Connar Franklin*)

* Mike Shelton was named the new CIO.

**Financial Affairs** – (*Shane Stinson & Aislinn O’Donohoe Riley*)

* We have requested salary data.

**Faculty and Senate Governance – (***Jeri Zemke & Ruth Ann Hall*)

* No report

**Opportunities, Intercultural Connections, and Success** – (*Anil Mujumdar & Sheila Black*)

* Continuing to work on new mission statement for the committee.

**Reports from Other Committees:**

* **Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee** (*Rona Donahoe*)
  + Updates on health care costs and the decision not to change formulary were discussed at last meeting.
  + Decision not to change formulary due to negative impact. Reserve fund is dangerously low due to catastrophic claims. Rising health care costs and low reserve funds may lead to increased premiums next year.
* Compliance Committee (Babs Davis)
  + No report

**Old Business**

* **None**

**New Business**

* **None**

Meeting Adjourned