

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 16, 2024

Via Zoom

### ATTENDANCE:

Kristi Acker, Paulo Araujo, A.J. Bauer, Sheila Black, Serena Blount, Kimberly Boyle, Ibrahim Cemen, Brian Clark, Kim Colburn, Jenni Cox, Ian Crawford, Shubin Dai, Babs Davis, Dale Dickinson, Natasha Dimova, Rona Donahoe, Heather Elliott, Nirmala Erevelles, Gayle Faught, Connor Franklin, Marysia Galbraith, John Giggie, Carl Hancock, Courtney Helfrecht, Thomas Herwig, Xiaoyan Hong, Alison Hooper, Matthew Hudnall, Stacy Hughey Surman, Hasan Isomitdinov, Jihoon (Jay) Kim, Sushma Kotru, Sundar Krishnan, Leah LeFebvre, Di Luo, Courtney McGahey, Micah McKay, Kelly McPherson, Alessandra Montalbano, Anil Mujumdar, Jennie Northam, Aislinn O'Donohoe Riley, Rebecca Owings, Shanlin Pan, JoAnne Payne, John Petrovic, Shreyas Rao, Matt Reynolds, Bob Riter, Soledad Sanchez Valdez, Mallory Scogin, Harold Selesky, Stephanie Anne Shelton, Brenda Smith, Sara-Maria Sorentino, Greg Starr, Erin Stoneking, Weihua Su, Gary Sullivan, Nicole Swoszowski, Edith Szanto, Theodore Tomeny, Rebecca Totten, Carrie Turner, Matthew Valasik, Clay Voorhees, David Walker, Charlotte Wegrzynowski, Susan Welch, Susan Williams, Nelle Williams, Steven Yates, Jeri Zemke

**ABSENT:** Craig Armstrong, Tom Baker, Bruce Barrett, Caryl Cooper, Nathan Culmer, Thang Dao, Renata Fuchs, Ruth Ann Hall, Tonya Klein, Lyndell McDonald, Bharat Mehra, Kim Parker, Josie Schmitt, Michael Stewart, Shane Stinson, Sara Whitver

### ABSENT WITH ALTERNATE:

Patrick Kung/Keith Williams, Ruigang Wang/Mark Weaver, ???/Jim Karrh

**GUESTS:** Lesley Reid

**PRESS:** Laura Braddick (Strat. Comm.)

**GUEST SPEAKER:** (*Dr. Leslie Reid, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs*)

Dr. Lesley Reid, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, emphasized that the proposal discussed is not linked to compensation changes and that Academic Affairs is in the early stages of a compensation study for faculty. Faculty will have ample opportunities for input in this process.

- **Handbook Changes and Consultation Process**
  - Dr. Reid explained that any change involving a handbook change would require consultation and endorsement with the senate and the Council of Deans. The term "clinical" will not be restricted, and its usage will be determined by individual colleges. Deans' feedback has been integrated into the proposal.

- **Working Titles and Faculty Webpages**
  - Working titles for faculty will not be policed, but colleges need to use standard titles in hiring. Clear guidelines from upper administration are essential to avoid confusion, especially in cases where faculty webpages play a crucial role in conveying faculty roles and responsibilities.
- **Renewable Contract Faculty Concerns**
  - The proposal's impact on renewable contract faculty was discussed. The need for differentiation and flexibility at the department and college levels in presenting faculty on webpages was emphasized. Dr. Reid acknowledged concerns and recommended addressing faculty governance issues at the departmental level.
- **Timeline for Handbook Changes**
  - The next steps involve presenting the faculty handbook language for review at the February faculty senate meeting and voting in March. The proposal will then go through the Council of Deans. The process requires board approval, with potential implementation by the next academic year, impacting new or renewing faculty contracts.

**Roll Call and Quorum Check – (Rona Donahoe) –**

- **Minutes Approval** - The unapproved minutes for the December meeting were distributed on January 13th. Members were encouraged to review and send any corrections via email using track changes. A motion for approval was made with the acknowledgment that there might be later corrections. There were no objections or abstentions, and the minutes, with the caveat of potential errors, were approved.
- **Attendance Survey** - The link to the attendance survey was shared in the chat. Members were instructed to follow the link to confirm their attendance. No QR code was expected, and any technical issues were to be reported. A quorum was confirmed during the roll call and attendance check.

**President's Report – (Matthew Hudnall) –**

- **Leadership Changes** – Recent UA leadership changes were noted, including: the new Vice President for Research, Dr. Brian Boudouris, formerly from Purdue. Dr. Allen Parrish's role in central administration and research is yet to be determined. Additionally, the unexpected resignation of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for UA was noted, with Cheryl Mowdy appointed as interim CFO.
- **Central Administration Initiatives** - Ongoing initiatives in central administration include developments in cybersecurity, the establishment of a new high-performance computing facility, and progress in economic development. The potential for engagement in multiple categories related to these initiatives was highlighted.

- **Faculty Senate Office Relocation** - The Faculty Senate offices, originally in East Annex, have moved within the same building. The importance was expressed of maintaining a central and accessible location for the Faculty Senate offices, considering faculty accessibility over relocating to a newer area on campus.

**Vice Present's Report** – (*Steven Yates*) – No report

**Secretary's Report** – (*Rona Donahoe*) –

- The faculty senate headcount has been somewhat delayed. We were unable to locate files for last year's headcount.

### **Senate Committee Reports**

- **Community & Legislative Affairs** – (*Serena Blount & John Giggie*) –
  - **Community & Legislative Affairs Report** - The Community & Legislative Affairs committee, represented by Serena Blount and John Giggie, discussed their meeting with Charlie Taylor, who was unable to attend. They highlighted concerns about potential state legislature bills impacting state archives and local libraries. The bills are expected to address issues related to public knowledge, library operations, and concerns about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and queer history. Multiple versions of a DEI bill are in progress, with expectations that it may not be as restrictive as those in Texas and Florida. Despite concerns, there is an anticipation that faculty may not need to change course titles, and no provisions on termination are expected.
  - **Concerns and Faculty Expertise** - Expressing concern about potential impacts on the university and broader society, committee members questioned whether faculty would have the opportunity to use their expertise to influence the language within proposed bills. The importance of faculty input on issues related to governance and university policies was emphasized.
  - **Engagement Opportunities** - It was noted that there may be opportunities for experts in different fields to meet with individual legislators and convey appropriate and professional language for university-related matters. Recognizing the significance of these issues to university governance, the committee emphasized the importance of faculty involvement in discussions and potential language shaping.
- **Academic Affairs** – (*Rona Donahoe & Babs Davis*) –
  - **Faculty Salary Study** - A meeting was held with Lesley Reid in late December to address the issue of a faculty salary study. While the study is in its preliminary stages, no specific details were provided. The Academic

Affairs committee emphasized the importance of keeping the senate informed of any progress on this critical subject.

- **Special Senate Meeting - GenEd Reform** - A special Senate meeting is scheduled for January 25th at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Chapman Greer and Erik Peterson will provide updates on the status of General Education (GenEd) reform and answer questions from Senators. The meeting details, including the Zoom link, will be shared.
- **Core Curriculum Oversight Committee (CCOC) Meeting** - A recent meeting involved co-chairs of the CCOC, the Undergraduate Council, Associate Provosts for General Education, and the Director of Pathways, Margaret Peacock. The CCOC proposed a six-member steering committee, including co-chairs of the Academic Affairs committee of the Faculty Senate, to conduct a core curriculum review every five years. Original guidance documents were uncovered, and proposed CCOC Revised Guidelines were reviewed by the steering committee and the Council of Deans.
- **Deans' Meeting and Core Curriculum Revision** - On January 25th, a meeting with the deans is scheduled to discuss the core curriculum revision process. While some deans express opposition due to potential harm to their colleges, most are supportive of general education reform. The goal is to continue moving forward with core curriculum revisions to enhance student flexibility and course selection options.
- **Student Life – (Carrie Turner & Dale Dickinson) –**
  - **Resolution for donating unused meal swipes** - The Student Life Committee discussed a resolution concerning the donation of unused meal swipes. As of now, any unused meal swipes are reset at the end of each semester. Dr. Bell has expressed support for the resolution. The Committee engaged in a discussion on the best way to implement the resolution, including amending the language to encourage visual reminders for donations beyond just during meal plan registration.
  - **Advertisement and Communication Strategy** - The Committee deliberated on the optimal location to display available unused meal swipes and considered amending the resolution to ensure that individuals interested in donating are visually reminded throughout the semester, not just during meal plan registration. The discussion also touched on how to effectively communicate this information and suggested including details in syllabi as a recommendation.
  - **Resolution Vote and Amendment** - The Resolution, including the noted amendment, was put up for a vote. The Resolution passed unanimously, indicating support for the initiative to allow students and parents to donate unused meal swipes for the benefit of student care and well-being.

- **Research & Service** – (*Shanlin Pan & Clay Voorhees*) –
  - **Recommendations regarding UA internal grant support**
    - **Meeting with Dr. Allen Parrish** - The Committee met with Dr. Allen Parrish in December to discuss various matters, including the understaffed cyber department and an update on the new Director for the Office of Research Compliance. The announcement for the new director's position is forthcoming. Additionally, a search will be conducted for a replacement for Colin Rich, the Executive Director for the Export Control Director for Research Technology. The search for the Director of Contract and Grants position encountered challenges, and an outside search consultant may be engaged.
    - **Advance Spending Policy Discussion** - The Committee addressed concerns about the advance spending policy or pre-award spending policy. Faculty raised issues regarding when accounts are credited and who covers the loss of funding, given the absence of a bridge funding program at UA. Feedback from faculty is sought on these matters. Discussions are ongoing regarding potential new funding mechanisms, particularly in relation to the existing \$6,000 small grant program. Updates on this front will be provided as discussion continues.
  
- **Faculty Life**- (*Kim Colburn & Heather Elliot*) – No report
  
- **IT & Strategic Communications** – (*Patric Kung & Xiaoyan Hong*) – No report
  
- **Financial Affairs** – (*Tom Baker & Shane Stinson*) – No report
  
- **Faculty & Senate Governance** – (*Jeri Zemke & Ruth Ann Hall*) –
  - **Name Change Proposal - Mediation Committee** - The Faculty & Senate Governance committee presented a proposal for a name change of the Mediation Committee in the Faculty Senate Bylaws. The proposal, initiated in December, aimed to align the committee's name in the Bylaws with the name used in the revised Faculty Handbook. A Senate vote was sought to officially change the name in the Bylaws to the Grievance and Mediation Committee. The Mediation Committee itself requested the change as they felt it better represented their role in mediating, accepting, and reviewing grievances.
  - **Resolution Vote** - No opposition or abstentions were recorded during the vote on the resolution to change the committee's name. The resolution to update the Faculty Senate Bylaws, reflecting the new name Grievance and Mediation Committee, was passed.
  - **Call for Nominations** - The committee reminded attendees that the call for nominations for the senate is ongoing, and they plan to redistribute the nomination form to facilitate the nomination process.

- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – (Thoms Herwig & Sheila Black) –**
  - **Freedom of Name Choice in Electronic Communication** - The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee addressed the issue of freedom of choice regarding the use of names in different levels of electronic communication. A preliminary solution was presented, and further research is needed for its completion.
  - **Commemoration of African American Minors** - The committee recommended a formal way to honor and commemorate African American minors who lost their lives on the university's territory. The proposal includes considering historical documentation at the Bryce Museum and possibly a memorial in the Market in Place.
  - **DEI Summit on Disability Among Faculty** - The committee announced a DEI summit focusing on disability among faculty, scheduled for March 1, 2024. The summit aims to address issues related to architectural accessibility, access to buildings, and the situation of hearing-impaired faculty.
  - **DEI Breakfast** - A DEI breakfast is planned for April 19, 2024, providing another opportunity for engagement and discussion on diversity, equity, and inclusion matters.
  - **DEI Renaming Evaluation** - There is no progress or updates reported on the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion renaming initiative at the campus level. The evaluation is currently on pause.

### **Reports from Other Committees**

**Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee** - There was no report provided for the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee.

**Compliance Committee** - The Compliance Committee's meeting was canceled and has been rescheduled for February. No specific details were provided in this report.

**UA Safety and Security Committee** - The UA Safety and Security Committee, represented by Jenny Northam, discussed the traffic situation on the one-way street between Gordon Palmer and the HVAC building, as well as the presence of e-bikes and scooters on sidewalks. The focus is on ensuring the safety of foot traffic. Additionally, concerns were raised about students ignoring traffic signals, presenting a serious safety and security issue. It was suggested that the UAPD should address this issue. Updates on these matters are anticipated in the next report.

### **Old Business –**

The next faculty senate meeting will be February 20, 2024.

### **New Business**

Reminders

The next faculty senate meeting will be March 19, 2024 – Venue: 1008 Nursing

Adjourn