

**Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
December 3, 2018**

Please email corrections to [Faculty.Senate@nau.edu](mailto:Faculty.Senate@nau.edu).

**I. Call to order/ Acceptance of Agenda:**

**Gioia Woods**

Faculty Senate President Gioia Woods called the meeting to order in the Aspen A-C rooms of duBois at 3:03pm.

FS President Gioia Woods presented the [agenda](#) for approval. **A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda. The motion passed.**

**Members Present:** Ira Allen, David Auty, Rodrigo Bastos de Toledo, Laura Blank (attended electronically), Laura Blocher, Laura Bounds (attended electronically), Michael Caulkins, Tim Clark for TS Amer, Jeannie Copley (attended electronically, Mandy Dang, Leilah Danielson for Alexandra Carpino, Dorothy Dunn, Kate Ellis, Bruce Fox, Amalia Garzon (attended electronically), Sibylle Gruber, Susan Harris, Tony Haskell for Brannon McCullough, Meredith Heller, Tom Hughes, Laura Karnitschinig (attended electronically), Ed Lee, Paul Lenze, Brian Levin-Stankevich, Emily Manone, Ronni Marks, Tammy Mielke (attended electronically), Mohamed Mohamed, Judith Montoya, Ishmael Munene, Therese Myers, Shirley Navarro, Marianne Nielsen, Wilbert Odem, Scot Raab, Tiffany Redies, Danielle Ross (attended electronically), Teki Sankey, Blase Anne Scott, Karen Sealander, Ed Smaglik, Michael Smith, George Speer, Roy St. Laurent, Rick Stamer (attended electronically), Claudia Sturgis, Marieke Taney, Lisa Tichavsky, David Vining, Nicole Walker, Joe Wegwert, Lori Wilson (attended electronically), Gerald Wood, Jessica Wood, and Gioia Woods.

**Those Absent:**

Arnie Adler, Rita Cheng, Samantha Clifford, Amanda Meeks, Sean Parson, and Buck Sanford.

**Also Present:**

Roger Bounds, Wendy Brunn, Steve Burrell, Laurie Dickson, Jerry Gile, John Masserini, Diane Stearns, and Melissa Welker.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

**Gioia Woods**

Gioia presented the minutes of the [November 5th meeting](#) for approval. **A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed.**

**III. Faculty Senate President's Report**

**Gioia Woods**

Gioia reported on the following:

- The Senate was notified on November 1<sup>st</sup> that its website had been migrated to the new format and gone live. The FS sub-committee of Sibylle Gruber, Susan Harris, and Marianne Nielsen have been tasked with working on the site fully functional by July.
- The FSEC at its November meeting created a subcommittee consisting of Joe Wegwert and Michael Caulkins to work with Pam to review and update the Senate's administrative assistant's position. They've been asked to complete this work by May.
- Beginning in March FS Vice President Joe Wegwert, will take over Gioia's duties as FS President until her return in June. Bruce Fox will step in as Chair of the AFC in her stead for the spring. She also noted that Senate spring elections for seats on the FS executive committee are not that far away and encouraged all to consider leadership roles in the coming year.

- ABOR met November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at U of A. Gioia, Joe Wegwert, and Bruce Fox were in attendance. She reported on the following:
  - The Regents approved the purchase of a parcel of land on Fourth Street just south of Butler.
  - The Regents discussed the issue of financial aid. They noted that NAU students are graduating with the least amount of debt among the three universities.
  - The Arizona Faculties Council (AFC) met during the meeting and presented [their report](#) to the board. The report discussed issues all three institutions are focused on including a decline student mental health, multi contracts vs one year contracts and the effect on student retention, and civil discourse on campus.
  - The Regents have requested the three universities provide information on all speakers and speaker's fees as the result of a request by a legislator. Christy Farley, NAU's VP for External Affairs& Partnerships, is handling the compilation of this information and will create NAU's report. A request was made by a senator that the Faculty Senate be given a copy of the report and findings.
- Questions and comments were raised by senators regarding student mental health issues they have observed:
  - Students are unable to get appointments with counselors in a timely manner;
  - Staffing of NAU's counseling services are understaffed;
  - Faculty would like a syllabus statement prepared to address resources for mental health;
  - Communicate better with faculty and students exactly what they can and can't do for the given circumstance; and
  - Have the FS involve itself in trying to help advocate for changes in this area.

Gioia will reach out to the Mental Health Task Force to address the Senate at its January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### IV. Provost's Report

**Interim Provost Brian Levin-Stankevich**

Interim Provost Brian Levin-Stankevich reported on the following:

- Brian has been working on centralizing the CIF (centralized institutional funding) monies and how they will be used. The university expects there will be a budget shortfall and are looking at all courses and how they will be staffed as well as where the funds will come from. He has met with all but two colleges to discuss their staffing priorities. He hopes to meet with the last two colleges and have a report to the President by January. He is also working with David Schulz regarding strategic hires many of which are funded by TRIF.
- This year's enrollment numbers are down by about 6% from last year at this time and the loss in numbers will affect the budget. Therefore he is focusing retention efforts on freshman as they register for spring. Transfer student enrollment is up considerably from last year and on line enrollment continues to struggle.
- There are many program reviews ongoing across campus which include Global Languages and Cultural Studies; the Liberal Studies Program; and the Nursing program's accreditation.
- Brian noted that he is aware of the mental health issues mentioned earlier and has been in conversation with VP Jane Kuhn on how to address some of those issues. It was also noted that ASU has instituted a significant increase in health fees. Also Vice Provost John Masserini sent out a [guide to mental health resources](#) for students.

- Brian recognized that there has been concern raised over the issue of the sabbatical process. He noted that he reviewed all sabbatical requests and made decisions that were not always in agreement with the deans' decisions. He noted that COFS has language regarding sabbaticals but the practices among the colleges do not always align with COFS. He stated that the language in COFS should have been used in appointment letters and that has fallen out of practice. He urged that this be clarified. Out of 52 requests 41 were approved. The breakdown in rankings went as follows 4 out of the 11 NTT sabbaticals applications were approved and 37 out of the 41 TT sabbaticals were approved. FS Rights and Responsibilities Council will work on this issue.

## V. Committee Council Reports

## Committee/Council Chairs

### **Treasurer's Report**

FS Treasurer Dot Dunn noted that Senate dues will be taken by payroll deduction in February for those that have filled out the appropriate form. It is not too late to sign up. Gioia will send the [dues request form](#) out again after today's meeting.

Dot distributed the revised [FS scholarship application](#) and processes document presented by Senator TS Amer. The document clears up the language and requirements. .

### **Rights and Responsibilities Council**

Anne Scott, Chair of the R&R, Council noted that the work on revisions to the Senate Constitution is just about wrapped up. She, Gioia, Brian and Roger Bounds will meet December 11<sup>th</sup> to finalize the constitutional changes.

She plans to convene the council to meet to discuss concerns raised today around COFS and sabbaticals.

### **Non-Tenure Track Council**

Michael Caulkins, Chair of the NTT Council, announced that the NTT Council will host a campus-wide talking session on NTT issues on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

They are still hoping to hear a response from the provosts office on the Senate resolution passed last year regarding NTT conversion Positions.

### **Advisory Committee on Best Practices in Online Education**

Laura Bounds is the FS representative on this committee and has been asked to lead this advisory committee.

## VI. ITS Update

**Steve Burrell**

Steve Burrell, NAU's Chief Information Officer spoke on NAU's strategic plan for ITS and distributed the [ITS annual report](#) and a second [handout](#) as a primer for faculty on ITS.

He outlined what he sees as two of NAU's weaknesses - support for classrooms and inconsistent communication. He noted that a great deal of progress has been made in updating classrooms and all classrooms state-wide should be updated by the end of this year. After that time, they will start addressing needs to refresh the cycle. Two positive areas are the lack of any security breaches since his arrival and a turn around on the budget for ITS which now has a surplus.

The university is in the process of upgrading Peoplesoft by October in order to meet the deadline needed for financial aid requirements.

## VII. DFW Update

**Laurie Dickson/John Masserini**

Vice Provosts Laurie Dickson and John Masserini along with Executive Director of Student Affairs Wendy Brunn, and Executive Director of First Year Experience Melissa Welker addressed how the

university is working to reduce DFW rates. Laurie spoke on the chart labeled as [Student Success Efforts](#). They are looking at how students can complete their courses successfully; noting trends where students aren't completing courses; and how to provide better support for students in these courses.

She noted that students report a disconnect between Gateway and College advising. Also students are ultimately in charge of their course selections and they don't always follow the advice of an advisor. They are looking at creating a team of people that can address first year advising issues in all modalities. There will be two different completion teams to help students. One team will address all students in a specific major. The issue of high turnover and low wages compared with our sister institutions are problems as well. These issues and others will be discussed moving forward. Laurie has been asked to continue this discussion at the January 28<sup>th</sup> FS meeting.

VIII. **Announcements/Old/New Business/Adjournment**

**Gioia Woods**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

APPROVED