

**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes**

December 4, 2017

Please email corrections to Faculty.Senate@nau.edu.

I. Call to order/ Acceptance of Agenda:

Gioia Woods

Faculty Senate President Gioia Woods called the meeting to order at 3:02 in the Kaibab Room of the University Union.

FS President Gioia Woods presented today's [agenda](#) for approval with the addition of one item added after item 11 to discuss tuition waivers. **A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda as amended. The motion passed.**

Members Present: Arnie Adler (attended electronically), Shadow Armfield, Patricia Murphey for Rodrigo Bastos de Toledo, Laura Blank (appeared electronically), Laura Blocher, Priscilla Sanderson for Laura Bounds, Alexandra Carpino, David Godley (appeared electronically) for Samantha Clifford, Jeannie Copley, Bill Culbertson, Nora Dunbar, Dorothy Dunn, Dan Eadens, Luis Fernandez, Amalia Garzon (appeared electronically), Sibylle Gruber, Susan Harris, Meredith Heller, Lenka Hospodka for TS Amer, Tom Hughes, Dan Kain, Laura Karnitschinig (appeared electronically), Emily Manone, Brannon McCullough, Amanda Meeks, Phil Mlsna, Mohamed Mohamed, Larry Mohrweis, Judith Montoya, Ishmael Munene, Therese Myers, Shirley Navarro (appeared electronically), Marianne Nielsen, Wilbert Odem, Sean Parson, Jim Reed, Danielle Ross (appeared electronically), Buck Sanford, Teki Sankey, Chris Griffin for Roy St. Laurent, Blase Scarnati, Anne Scott, Karen Sealander, Brendan Russo for Ed Smaglik, Lisa Tichavsky, Benning Tieke, David Vining, Nicole Walker, Lori Wilson (appeared electronically), and Gioia Woods.

Those Absent:

David Auty, Kate Ellis, Thomas Finger, Bruce Fox, Susan Lauer, Rich McNeill, Tammy Mielke, George Speer, and Claudia Sturgis.

Also Present:

Ivy Banks, Don Carter, Laurie Dickson, Pam Foti, Jerry Gile, Maxim Mascolo, and Lynda Ransdell.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Gioia Woods

Gioia presented the [minutes of the November 6th](#) FS meeting for approval. **A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed.**

III. Faculty Senate President's Report

Gioia Woods

Gioia reported on the following:

- Teaching Day will take place January 11th. [Poster enclosed](#). The keynote speaker will be Dr. James M. Lang, Director of the D'Amour Center for Teaching Excellence.
- The Arizona Faculties Council met during the ABOR meeting November 17th and 18th. They presented a [report](#) which included the following items:
 - Encouraged Regents to give each university the latitude to set their own preferred level of multi-year contracts.
 - AFC agreed that the ability to see things from multiple perspectives to engage in civic discourse are very important and that these competencies are already embedded in our general education (liberal studies) programs
 - Faculty at all three universities are concerned about recently announced rollbacks on campus sexual assault procedures signaled by Education Secretary DeVos.

- Faculty would like to see ABOR policy with respect to Academic Freedom (ABOR Policy 6-202) expanded/rewritten to more closely reflect existing our internal university understandings of Academic Freedom.
- There is a concern that a significant number of students suffer from food insecurity at least once a week. Gioia will work with leadership from ASNAU to address this concern at NAU and will form a taskforce to work on this.
- Lastly AFC expressed their gratitude to Regent Myers for his service to students and the university as he rotates off the board. He will be sorely missed.
- The Senate continues to work on the issues of:
 - Multi-term enrollment and centralized scheduling. FS requests representation in these initiatives.
 - Concerns raised over budget cuts to E-Learning and want to know why the cuts were made and how they will affect E-Learning operations which affects all of us.
- The HLC report is not yet finalized.
- The NAU strategic plan review is taking place today and tomorrow. She hopes faculty will attend the review sessions.
- President Cheng will offer her last Healthy Walk of 2017.
- Commencement ceremonies will take place on December 15th at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

IV. President's Report

President Cheng

President Cheng reported on the following:

- ABOR met in November and the discussions centered around quality initiatives. Specifically answering the questions of what does it mean to be a quality institution; how can we assure the public that we are providing a quality education; and how do we measure quality.
- ABOR also looked at various tuition options taking into consideration studies regarding costs, review of assignments, access, and affordability. The lawsuit filed by the AZ Legislature against ABOR involves one aspect as to the question of who is responsible for defining what is meant by “as low as possible” which will impact any decisions on tuition in the coming budget.
- The President shared a list of her most recent activities:
 - Meeting with donors and partners of NAU in Tucson
 - The Launching of a new Tuba City Alumni Chapter and attending the NAU women’s basketball game in Tuba City.
 - Attending the Golden Axe Recognition Awards Ceremony
 - Sonoran Arizona Economic Conference
 - Attended the installation ceremony of U of A’s new president
 - Attending FMC’s Turquoise Ball
 - Visited with the Universidad Tecnológico de Hermosillo in the capital city of the Mexican state of Sonora to make formal our partnership with them.
- The Student Regent Search is nearly complete. Soon the final names will be submitted to the Governor’s office for his selection.
- Update of Administrative Searches:
 - The search for a new Director of Human Resources is underway to replace Diane Verkest who retires this month.
 - The search for a Dean for Online Education is also underway.

- Jerome Sours has signed a contract for next year so there will not be a search for a new football coach. There will be a search for a new VP for Intercollegiate Athletics.

V. **Provost's Report**

Provost Kain

Provost Kain reported on the following:

- Dan noted that he was impressed by the number of faculty mentioned as “educator of influence” at the Golden Axe awards.
- This week the university is celebrating long term years of service to the institution with years of service ranging from 15 to 45 years of service.
- We had three program requests that went before ABOR and were approved They are:
 - A PhD of Interdisciplinary Health
 - A Masters in Educational Foundations
 - A BS in Early Childhood Development
- The Search for the Dean of the Honors College is launching soon.
- The exemplary performer task force has produced guidelines which have been distributed.
- Theresa Farnum, an outside consultant mainly for all things related to retention, is currently doing a deep dive around advising practices. Dan reiterated that faculty play an enormous role in retention and appreciate everything they do.

He then entertained questions.

VI. **Introduction of the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services**

Lynda Ransdell

Gioia introduced Dean Lynda Ransdell. Dean Ransdell provided her background and then presented the enclosed [PowerPoint](#).

She then entertained questions.

VII. **Introduction of the Director of the Office of Inclusion**

Ivy Banks

Gioia introduced Ivy Banks, Director of the Office of Inclusion. Ivy spoke of her background and her various jobs and appointments in the areas of diversity and inclusion. She spoke of the initiatives the office is currently working on including the NAU Cares campaign. She noted that the office has only 5 full time staff to serve the needs of thousands of students. She hopes to increase this number of staff; however, in order to reach more students she is collaborating with Student Life, the Faculty Development office, and others to let students know what services are available and get the word out to the entire campus of resources available to them. She then entertained questions.

VIII. **Question and Answer Session of Major Campus Projects**

Dan Okoli

This item will be tabled for a future meeting after consultation with Dan Okoli.

IX. **Committee and Council Reports**

Committee Chairs

- **Bylaws Committee** Ishmael Munene, Parliamentarian, has a few more committee bylaws for review by the Senate. However he has not received bylaws from the Library Committee. Once he has received their bylaws he will submit the remaining bylaws to the Senate for approval.

- **Rights and Responsibilities Council** Blase Scarnati, Chair of the R&R gave a brief background on the progress of the amendments to the FS 2002 Constitution which were sent to the President on Nov 2. At this time we are still waiting for the President and her legal team's comments on the proposed amendments.
- **Council on Learning** Emily Manone, Chair of the COL noted that the "tool box" for faculty developed by the COL is available on the Senate website.

X. **Faculty Grant Program Update on Faculty Grant Program**

Alexandra Carpino

Alexandra Carpino, Liaison to the FGP, noted that the bylaws have been submitted and gave a brief explanation for the changes made to them. She noted there were fewer submissions this year which might be due to changes to the submission deadline. Informational sessions were available to interested faculty but no one chose to attend. It was suggested that perhaps next year the informational session could be video-recorded and placed on various NAU websites.

XI. **Dark Sky Lighting**

Larry Mohrweis

Larry Mohrweis introduced a resolution in support of Flagstaff's Dark Sky policy. Larry gave a brief description of events that led to today's action item. Larry presented the [Resolution](#) as a motion, a second was made after which discussion followed and the resolution was voted on and passed unanimously.

XII. **Resolution on Tuition Waivers**

Gioia Woods

Gioia presented a resolution regarding tuition waivers which became a motion which was seconded. Discussion followed and amendments were made and accepted. The [Resolution](#) passed as follows:

Tuition waivers and other student benefits are indispensable sources of aid that enable research, teaching, and innovation. The reduction or taxation of these benefits would have a chilling effect on education by compromising program completion, discouraging new students from entering programs, and reducing the diversity of students in such programs. The NAU Faculty Senate supports policies that encourage the pursuit of post-secondary education for all, regardless of income. Thus, we affirm our endorsement of untaxed tuition waivers and other student benefits for the vigorous and sustained production of knowledge that is critical to an educated Arizona workforce and competitive state economy.

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

Gioia Woods

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:51.