

**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
September 11, 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 3:04 in the Kaibab Room of the University Union.

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

Members Present: Shadow Armfield, David Auty, Rodrigo Bastos de Toledo, Laura Blank (appeared electronically), Laura Blocher, Laura Bounds, Alexandra Carpino, Rita Cheng*, Jeannie Copley, Bill Culbertson, Nora Dunbar, Dorothy Dunn (appeared electronically), Dan Eadens, Kate Ellis, Thomas Finger, Bruce Fox, Amalia Garzon, David Godley (appeared electronically), Sibylle Gruber, Susan Harris, Meredith Heller, Lenka Hospodka for TS Amer, Tom Hughes, Dan Kain, Laura Karnitschinig, Victoria Pomeroy for Lauren L'Escuyler*, Emily Manone, Brannon McCullough, Rich McNeill, Amanda Meeks, Cassandra Dakan for Tammy Mielke, Phil Mlsna, Mohamed Mohamed, Larry Mohrweis, Judith Montoya, Ishmael Munene, Shirley Navarro (appeared electronically), Marianne Nielsen, Wilbert Odem, Sean Parson, Jim Reed, Buck Sanford, Roy St. Laurent, Teki Sankey, Blase Scarnati, Anne Scott, Karen Sealander, Brendan Russo for Ed Smaglik, Lisa Tichavsky, Benning Tieke, David Vining, Nicole Walker, Lori Wilson, Philippa Winkler, and Gioia Woods.

Those Absent:

Stephen Dunn, Luis Fernandez, Danielle Ross, David Scott, and Claudia Sturgis.

Also Present:

Roger Bounds, Don Carter, Brian Hamilton, Valerio Ferme, Susan Lauer, Kimberly Ott.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Gioia Woods

Gioia presented the minutes of the [May 1st](#) FS meeting; and [the June 5th](#) and [July 10th](#) meetings of the Summer Senate for approval. **A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed with one abstention.**

III. Ratification of Motions

Gioia Woods

Gioia called for a vote of ratification on the following motions passed at the June Summer Senate Meetings:

- A vote to form a Senate subcommittee to work on revisions to the Senate Website.
- A vote to approve \$2,000.00 to consult with outside legal counsel on faculty-generated documents concerning harassment, constitutional matters, and bylaw issues.
- A vote approving edits to the Required Qualifications for Instructional Faculty Policy.

IV. ASNAU Announcement

Victoria Pomeroy

ASNAU representative Victoria (Tori) Pomeroy announced that NAU will select a student regent this year. She explained the process briefly and noted the application and process information can be found on the ASNAU website. They are looking for a diverse applicant pool and encouraged faculty to nominate candidates. The [process](#) information and [application](#) are available on the Faculty Senate website.

V. President's Report

President Cheng

President Cheng presented the following information:

- Overall enrollment is up this year with over 31,000 students 22,400 of which are on the Flagstaff campus. There are some areas that we need to look at improving for next year including graduate enrollment.
- The university has begun the process for recruiting a Dean of online and innovative educational initiatives. This position has been designed after much thought went into how to address distance education. The focus of this position will be on online and Personal Learning. The position will be a university Dean located in the Provost's office.
- An announcement regarding changes to the organizational chart will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.
- Retention numbers after the freshman year have improved by ½ point to 76%, but it is still lower than sister institutions and what ABOR and the university would like. They are looking into why students are no longer choosing NAU. There are many reasons unique to NAU such as its rural location and a larger percentage of first generation students.
- The president noted that she has sent communications to all students regarding the recent DACA decision as well as to students from Texas and Florida who may be been affected by the recent hurricanes.
- Kelli Smith has been hired as NAU's new Chief of Police.
- ABOR will hold its next meeting at NAU September 27th – 29th.
- President noted accolades including an award for NAU's civic engagement; recognition for its excellence in the Arts and Humanities; and ranking 6th best colleges in America for military.
- President's legal counsel office will be offering a mini course for faculty on Free Speech this week.
- The Arizona Attorney General has filed a lawsuit against the Board of Regents.

She then entertained questions. During this time she was asked that there be Senate representation on future hiring committees including the search for a new Chief Diversity Officer and on plans for responding to the federal government plans to rollback protections for campus sexual assault victims.

VI. Provost's Report

Provost Kain

Provost Kain reported on the following:

- Dan welcomed everyone. He noted the first three weeks of the fall semester are crucial for many reasons. A tremendous number of freshman make up their minds as to whether or not they are coming back. The work of faculty at this time is really important and he thanked the faculty for their efforts in this area.
- HLC reviewers will be on campus for their review October 16th and 17th. He thanked Laurie Dickson and her committee for their hard work and commitment to this process.
- ABOR will be discussing two central issues throughout this year: Quality and how we ensure it and how we organize general education at the university.
- ABOR will meet this week at NAU and all are welcome to attend the various public sessions.
- The Teacher Academy will be unveiled the first week in October. This initiative helps students receive teaching degrees without acquiring debt. NAU has decided to develop teachers in underserved communities. Won't see immediate results but we've chosen an extremely worthy approach.
- He reiterated the information regarding the course being offered on Free Speech and encouraged faculty to attend.
- He has tasked Vice Provost Roger Bounds with putting together a working group to look at part-time faculty issues.

VII. Faculty Senate President's Report

Gioia Woods

Gioia reported on the following:

- Gioia reinforced the importance of faculty taking advantage of the course being offered on Free Speech. There have been issues of faculty harassment on campus—both high and low profile. Faculty need to be informed on these issues.
- The Arizona Attorney General has filed a lawsuit against ABOR for support for DACA and increased tuition. She urged faculty to become informed about this. The law suit is in objection to ABOR's commitment to DACA students; and a raise in tuition. She encouraged faculty follow the lawsuit as it progresses.

VIII. Breakfast with the Regents Update

Gioia Woods

Gioia Woods explained the process of selecting this year's faculty representatives for the annual Breakfast with the Regents. In an effort to be inclusive and transparent and to create a diverse group of attendees an email was sent out for nominations to attend the ABOR breakfast. From the respondents a list was compiled taking into account various criteria (looking for a mix of faculty who may have attended previously and new attendees chosen across faculty ranks, units, and diversity in general). The Regents really enjoy this event. They see it is an opportunity to have good honest conversations with faculty. The topic of the breakfast discussion is shared governance and the faculty role in academic programs in tandem with regent's staff and university leadership. A mandatory preparation session is set for next Monday, September 18th. She will ask faculty at that time to be prepared to discuss their role in organizing education, academic plans, and programs, as part of a curriculum designed for student success.

IX. HLC Visit Update

Laurie Dickson

Vice Provost Laurie Dickson distributed [a handout](#) regarding the upcoming HLC reviewer's visit to campus October 16th and 17th. She noted that there is a 92-page document that highlights how we meet the five criteria for accreditation which are:

1. Mission – Our academic programs, research, public service and creative endeavors.
2. Integrity – Processes related to ethical and responsible conduct.
3. Teaching and Learning – Quality, Resources and Support
4. Evaluation – Evaluation and Improvement
5. Effectiveness – Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

There is a comprehensive (approximately 4000-pages) document that is a federal compliance report which addresses how Yuma, as a branch campus, meets the appropriate criteria.

There will be an agenda for the HLC visit which will delineate how, who, and when they will meet with faculty, students, etc.... which should be available by October 1st.

X. Elections

FS Vice President and Chair of the Elections Committee Dan Eadens presented a slate of vacancies on Senate councils and Committees. He noted that every Senator is expected to sit on a senate council or committee or a senate charged university committee. He announced the vacancies and called for nominations from the floor and added them to the ballot. A ballot on the two contested seats was held. **A motion was made to approve the final ballot as presented which included the first ballot's results. The motion passed.**

The results of the election are as follows:

Chair of the Council on Distance Education:

Tom Hughes

Council on Learning, 1-year position:

Nicole Walker

Council on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities:

Anne Scott

Council on Planning:

Brannon McCullough

Council on Part time faculty Issues

David Godley

Council on Part time faculty Issues

Ed Smaglik

Liaison to faculty grant committee
Liaison to university undergraduate committee
Liaison to Faculty Grievance Committee

Alexandra Carpino
Bill Culbertson
Laura Blank

XI. Rights and Responsibilities Council Update

- Blase gave a brief update on where we are on the 2016 Senate Constitution and Bylaws. The '16 constitution is not in effect. The primary language at issue is focused on what the senate does in its role in the shared governance process. Rights and Responsibilities will begin work to address this issue. Gioia will update faculty at large.
- R&R will be working on a COFS clean-up this year.
- A [safety advisory](#) document was created in collaboration with the Academic Chairs Council in response to issues that arose last year after several NAU faculty were targets of cyber harassment.

XII. PT Council Update

Philippa Winkler, PT Council

Philippa Winkler, Chair of the PT Council, had a meeting with Dan Kain to go over why there were changes to the part-time faculty pay. She asked the Senate to support a resolution to open a discussion of the Part-time Faculty Council's recommendation to re-establish the 2014 pay schedule to the 2014 PT faculty salary table. She explained that if a PT faculty member teaches more than 7.5 hours per semester this can create an ACA liability which creates very serious implications for the departments that have faculty who are teaching more than six credit hours per semester. Requesting Tier 2 for faculty teaching more than 7.5. **A motion was made and seconded that the NAU FS support a discussion of the PT Faculty Council's recommendation to re-establish the 2014 PT Faculty salary table. The motion passed with one against and four abstentions.**

XIII. Introduction of CAL Dean Valerio Ferme

Gioia introduced Valerio Ferme, recently appointed Dean of the College of Arts, and invited him to share his thoughts as CAL Dean with the Senate. He gave a brief background of his career and personal history. He believes in the value of public universities, particularly for students who don't have all the benefits that a family can provide. He also noted the importance of communication in the shared governance process. He stated we are public scholars and how we communicate with and contribute to our communities is also important. He is excited to be here and will put all the energy he can into be a Dean for the college.

XIV. DACA Resolution

Bruce Fox spoke of the recent events surrounding DACA. He in cooperation with Senator Benning Tieke and Gioia Woods prepared a resolution to put before this body similar to one passed a few years ago. Gioia noted that a resolution is not a policy, it is simply a way for us to state our values and in advise the administration of the faculty's wishes. **A motion was made and seconded. Discussion followed.** During the discussion it was noted that there are 38,000 DACA recipients in AZ and 241,000 university students across the country. **The motion was approved with two abstentions.**

XV. Announcements/Old/New Business/Adjournment

Gioia Woods

A minute of silence was observed in memory of the events of September 11, 2001.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56.