

**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
July 26, 2021**

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

1. Call to order/Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes—Kate Ellis

Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis called the meeting to order over Zoom at 3:02 pm.

Agenda accepted.

- **Those present (electronically):** Kate Ellis, Ed Smaglik, Karen Renner, Gioia Woods, President Cruz Rivera, Provost Karen Pugliesi, Amy Diekelman Rushall, Alexandra Carpino, Andy Wang, Angie Hodge, Anika Olsen, Astrid Klocke, Becky Pratt-Sturges, Blue Brazelton, Bruce Fox, Cat Edgeley, Chrissina C Burke, Claudia Sturgis, Corrine J Gordon, Elizabeth Berney, Emi Isaki, Emily Manone, Eck Doerry, Grace Okoli, Ian Wischmeier, Jaewook Lee, Joshua Emery, Jason Wilder, Jeff Berglund, Jennifer Duis, Jermaine Robert Martinez, Jessie K. Finch, John Georgas, John Joseph Doherty, Jon Lee, Judith Winfield, Juliana Suby, Kate Ellis, Kristen Alaniz, Laura Blank, Laurie Dickson, Lisa Tichavsky, Luke Maring, Lyric Peate, Mahendra K Joshi, Mandy Dang, Matthew Wall, Maylee Acosta, Marianne Nielsen, Meredith Heller, Nicole Price, Pete Fulé, Raven Munoz, Rick Keeling, Scot Raab, Sibylle Gruber, Steven Burrell, Tammy L. Mielke, Theresa Carlson, William Johnson, and Jaime Yazzie

2. Faculty Senate President’s Opening Remarks—Kate Ellis

- President’s Fall Steering committee has met frequently. Academic Success sub-committee will be providing reports soon. Please make sure that you are reading emails coming in from the President and Provost on fall academic semester.

3. NAU President’s Report—Provost José Luis Cruz Rivera

- President Cruz Rivera provided updates on concerns discussed in previous summer senate meeting (June 28). These concerns were categorized into four issues. 1) Faculty Issues 2) Academic Programs--new HSI status, Indigenous students, Liberal Studies. 3) Evaluating and improving support services, e.g., OGEI. 4) Senate Constitution and Bylaws. President Cruz Rivera stresses that Provost is chief academic officer and that she is able to speak to the Senate on his behalf and ensure that the administration is responsive.

4. NAU Provost’s Report—Provost Karen Pugliesi

- Provost Pugliesi provided an update on the Academic Leadership Assembly, workload and part-time faculty salaries, tenure clock, fall planning, and priorities for leadership. One of the first priorities was a foundation for working together--creating a space where academic leadership could convene and communicate. Provost is moving forward with a different framework, Academic Leadership Assembly, which is a “flexible platform that allows different levels of academic leadership to come together” to address key issues. The dean’s council will meeting monthly. Also meeting monthly is expanded group called “Academic Leadership Collaborative,” to include deans, associate deans, FSEC, and representative group of chairs and directors, including Yuma and online. Platform

will begin addressing priority issues and giving shape to ad-hoc groups or task forces, operating on a 45-day basis. Academic Leadership Assembly's first issue will be Faculty Workload assignments.

- We have implemented another window for Tenure-Track (TT) faculty to request one-time extension of tenure clock and implement plan to give multi-term contracts to non-tenure track (NTT). Looking at options to carry that practice forward.
- Fall planning: Steering committee for Fall Opening has charged a subgroup "Academic Success and Learning Engagement." Committee has recommended that we revert to syllabi policies prior to pandemic and advise faculty to convene office hours virtually to avoid mask mandates or vaccination inquiries.
- Another issue to address is creating more instructional capacity for the larger number of freshman. Late hires were made and resources made available to expand capacity. We understand that areas lost faculty lines and that made this more challenging. Looking ahead, we are committed to working with enrollment management to get a fix on enrollment expectations and put in place resources to adapt staffing in a timely and reasonable manner.
- Additional challenge of faculty leaving: We have seen departures in recent weeks. Many driven by personal considerations, such as family situations, opportunities in other locations that are closer to family. Other people received offers from other institutions, and we did make appropriate offers to retain, taking into consideration equity and what is feasible at our institution.
- We have generated a long list of priorities--some from the president, some from senate, some from deans, etc. We will begin to put those into place in our new leadership framework to address Teaching Stream proposal, diversity, equity, justice, HSI status, and Indigenous students.
- Other major area was review and approval of Senate Constitution and Bylaws. General Counsel provided a review. Provost, Vice Provost, and President are looking at review and will work with FS President. Timeline will likely extend into spring.

5. General Studies Efforts—Vice Provost Dickson

- In April 2021, Faculty Senate approved revisions to General Studies with the caveat that implementation would depend on feasibility. We have significant capacity shortfalls to meet needs of proposed program. We are recommending a working group to come up with implementation plan. We ask Faculty Senate endorsement to ask Curriculum Assessment Coordinating Committee (CACC) to take on that work.
- **A motion was made for senate to approve CACC with additional membership to move forward with first stage of implementation plan and seconded. Motion approved with 28 in favor, 0 against, and 4 abstentions.**
- After discussion, Vice Provost Dickson hears that senate wants more than one representative from advising.

6. Website Refresh—Steve Burrell, Matthew Wall, Lyric Peate

- We would like to share update on NAU website. ITS, Marketing, and Enrollment Management have been working on enhancing website with planned improvements, timelines, and revitalizing shared governance around website. Matthew Wall introduced the strategy components: website redesign, web governance, organic media optimization,

salesforce integration. Lyric Peate presented on what redesigns need to be addressed for recruitment and enrollment. Team tested site with current and prospective students. See presentation and recording for details of discussion.

7. Emergency “Escape” Button for NAU Websites—Jessie Finch, Raven Breanne Munoz, Steve Burrell

- Raven Munoz, graduate student, did content analysis of websites in relation to sexual assault or domestic violence. NAU is missing something that other college websites have implemented. An “emergency button” is a floating icon that allows students to quickly exit from sites that may make students feel or be vulnerable. Steve Burrell will work on how to incorporate. Reach out to [Jessie Finch](#) to provide feedback on proposal. (See Faculty Senate BBLearn \ [Meeting Materials](#).)

8. Research Opportunities through the NAU Green Fund—Natalie Pierson

- NAU Green Fund Research Grant is an annual application for NAU students to apply for research funding. Please share opportunity with students and encourage them to develop ideas for proposals. Visit nau.edu/greenfund and email nrp76@nau.edu for more info

9. New NAU Registrar—Ian Wirschmeier and John Georgas

- John Georgas introduced Ian Wirschmeier and opened the floor for discussion based on prompts sent out with the agenda. NAU Registrar handles anything that touches student transcript and enrollment and class scheduling.

10. LMS Review Committee—John Georgas

- Contract with BBLearn ends in 2023. New LMS choice will be a broader and more collaborative process. Open and consultative process requires that we work outside of the RFP process, which means we have to limit our choices to Blackboard Learn Ultra, Canvas, or D2L. IT is developing sandbox sites so that they can be tested out. Members of committee represent Provost Office, Faculty Senate, Academic Technology Advisory and Coordinating Council, Deans, ITS, ASNAU, and GSG.

11. Council & Committee Updates

- **Council on Learning—Chrissina Burke:** Meeting on Aug. 18. Email [Chrissina Burke](#) to be added to list.
- **NNT Council—Jessie Finch:** More NTT Spotlights to come.

12. New Business and Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.