

**Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
August 30, 2021**

Please email corrections to [Faculty.Senate@nau.edu](mailto: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:** Kate Ellis, Ed Smaglik, Karen Renner, Bruce Fox, Alexandra Carpino, Pete Fulé, Chrissina C Burke, Jessie K. Finch, President Cruz Rivera, Provost Karen Pugliesi, Anika Olsen, Laurie Dickson, John Georgas, Jane Marks, Astrid Klocke, Becky Pratt-Sturges, Blue Brazelton, Cat Edgeley, Colleen Byron, Emily Manone, Eck Doerry, Gayla Stoner, Ian Wischmeier, Jaewook Lee, Jason Beduhn, Jason Wilder, Jennifer Duis, John Joseph Doherty, Jon Lee, Juliana Suby, Kristen Alaniz, Laura Blank, Lisa Tichavsky, Luke Maring, Mahendra K Joshi, Mandy Dang, Meredith Heller, Michelle Lynne Thomas, Oaklee Rogers, Patricia Frederick, Rebecca Rinsema, Sibylle Gruber, Susan Harris, Therese Myers, and Jaime Yazzie
- **Those also present (electronically):** Gioia Woods, Ellie Blair, Abigail Kessler, Alyssa Deaver, Amy Rushall, Blue Brazelton, Catrin Edgeley, Christopher Scherpereel, Claudia Sturgis, Cynthia Ivy, David Albritton, Elizabeth Berney, Grace Okoli, Jermaine Martinez, Jon Lee, Joshua Emery, Rick Keeling, Angie Hodge, Andy Wang, Judith Winfield, Kara Attrep, Karen Sealander, Lisa Tichavsky, Marianne Nielsen, Mary Towle Harmon, Mary Gemma O'Donnell, Matt Billings, Mohamed Mohamed, Paul Bakke, Samantha Meirer, Donna Simon, Richard McNeil, Rodrigo De Toledo, Ruth Whisler, T S Amer,
- **Those absent:**

**2. NAU President's Report—Provost José Luis Cruz Rivera**

- President Cruz Rivera provided an update of a successful first week at NAU with high compliance in mask-wearing. There were only two incident last week. President's Office has laid out the structure for working on various issues. We will be developing a three-year plan to organize our work to distinguish our university in the state of Arizona and nationwide. That message will be coming out tomorrow with a subject line referencing "NAU's role advancing equity."
- President shared a provisional marketing plan. ABOR wants NAU to be better differentiated from the other universities. 13 focus groups composed of members from a variety of groups, including students, staff, ABOR staff, etc., selected a combination of "Boundless" and "Together" concepts. President Cruz Rivera presented marketing samples for billboards. This is the first phase of the plan as they will be seeking feedback.

**3. Resilience Project ---Melissa Griffin**

- Melissa Griffin presented on resources available for students struggling with mental health issues through the [NAU Resilience Project](#). Students can complete and get a certificate of completion. We would be happy to work with you on ideas of how faculty could incorporate it into their classes. Faculty and staff are also able to access. The results

show the top strengths: hardworking, kindness, open-mindedness and the top values: respect, growth, and compassion.

#### **4. Faculty Senate President's Report—Kate Ellis**

- FS President summarized one-on-one meetings with senators and provided updated on the COVID Impact Statement, Academic Leadership Collaborative as well as senate representation on committees.
- COVID Impact statement: Alexandra Carpino and Paul Lenze authored guidelines for faculty about how they could write a statement about how COVID affected their work in their annual review if they chose. Faculty have the option to develop a COVID impact statement for Academic year 21-22.
- Academic Leadership Collaborative met--includes Provost's office, deans, representative chairs, FSEC members. We are looking to add a NTT faculty member representative. The major issues of focus currently are workload and part-time faculty salaries.
- Additional senate representation needed for President's Distinguished Teaching Award screening committee, Information Security Committee, and Strategic Space Planning Committee. Please contact [Faculty.senate@nau.edu](mailto:Faculty.senate@nau.edu) or [Cathryn.Ellis@nau.edu](mailto:Cathryn.Ellis@nau.edu)
- ABOR will meet at NAU on Sept. 29-30 and Oct 1. The format will be COVID compliant.

#### **5. NAU Provost's Report—Provost Karen Pugliesi**

- Provost Pugliesi extended thanks to the committees that helped us prepare for fall and provided an update on the first week of classes on campus. NAU is continuing to encourage mask wearing and voluntary mitigation testing (which showed low rates of infection). As of Friday, there are 40 cases of COVID-19 on and off campus. We are allowing Tenure track (TT) faculty to apply for a one-year extension on the tenure clock. We also announced to deans and chairs that NTT faculty may have a research percentage. We are trying to make changes to empower deans and in some cases chairs and directors to make decisions. Discussion of the Teaching Stream proposal is starting again. We will also be looking at revisions to Section C of COFS. We are beginning to look at the Diversity Strategic Plan to determine top priorities.
- We are making a change to multi-term enrollment. We are going to take steps to pull back from that in order to be more effective in serving our students.
- We are also hoping to set up a structure so that faculty searches can be initiated in January. We will be making decisions regarding TT lines in fall for the following academic year. We also have to tackle the larger question of how resources should be allocated across campus. We first need to create college portraits in order to make sure that we have transparency, the construction of which will include members of IRA, the Provost's office, and faculty members.
- Gayla Stoner is forming a task force to examine statewide programming, with a special focus on NAU Yuma.
- We are working on ways to bring resources to the university via TRIF funds and New Economy Initiative to support program expansion and development. Last year focused on Health and Behavioral Health, which is likely to continue.
- **Questions/Comments:** *There is concern that self-selected mitigation testing might result in an inaccurately low infection rates. 94% of faculty self-reported being vaccinated.*

## 6. Fall Enrollments—Anika Olsen

- Anika Olsen provided a quick summary of first-day enrollment numbers. Graduate numbers look strong. AZ Native American/Indigenous enrollment numbers are the only racial/ethnic group that is down. Roll-through population is down. Further more detailed reports are coming.
- **Questions:** *How are we comparing to our sister institutions?* It is hard to compare. Takeaway is that we have more students here and now work focuses on retention and success.

## 7. FSEC Statement in Support of Masking—Kate Ellis

- Arizona Faculty Councils met to discuss drafting a letter regarding mask requirements at the 3 universities. Letter went from being a request to a thank you since all three presidents made the announcement to require masks. FSEC created a statement to endorse the NAU president. Once approved, the statement will be posted to the FS website.
- **A motion was made for senate to approve the FS Statement in Support of Masking online and seconded.** Poll will be distributed via email.

## 8. Council and Committee Reports

- **Election Committee—Ed Smaglik:** Fall senate elections for councils/committees is starting. We received only one nomination. Remember that it is expected that each senator participates on one committee.
- **NTT Council—Jessie Finch:** We have an opening on the NTT Council. Please send Ed your nominations. Thank you to the provost's office for returning research percentages to NTT faculty. We are also excited that the Teaching Stream is coming under discussion again. We will also be working on the NTT Spotlight--will be doing another round of recruitment in fall. Meeting schedule is posted on the Faculty Matters Forum in the Senate BbLearn shell. Next is Monday, Sept. 20, at 3 pm. Email [jessie.k.finch@gmail.com](mailto:jessie.k.finch@gmail.com).

## 9. New Business/Old Business—Kate Ellis

- Senate president presented several issues brought up in one to one meetings with Senators, which will inform work tasks of the committees and councils this year, mirroring the model of a 45 day working group. Where this is overlap with Administration priorities, there will be coordination to ensure appropriate faculty representation to working groups.
- One priority is making sure we represent statewide faculty fairly. Statewide faculty hadn't been invited to graduation, for example. There was also interest in Faculty Exchanges, where statewide and Flagstaff faculty swap teaching roles. Discussion around how to increase statewide representation in the meeting and over zoom chat.

## 10. New Business and Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **4:46 pm**.