

**Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
October 24, 2022**

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

**1. Call to order—Kate Ellis**

Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:00

- **Those Present:** Kate Ellis, Karen Pugliesi, Blase Scarnati, Jon Lee, Jason BeDuhn, Tarang Jain, Jane Marks, Emily Manone, Jennifer Duis, Emily Cope, Michael Leverington, Juliana Suby, Andrew Stevens
- **Those also present (electronically):** Kara Ann Attrep, T S Amer, Emi Isaki, Christy Arazan, Amy Diekelman Rushall, Mary Towle Harmon, Donna Simon, Madron Schutten, Catrin Edgeley, Maribeth Watwood, Taylor Lyster, Sibylle Gruber, Rodrigo Bastor De Toledo, Paul Bakke, Aimee Quinn, Laurie Dickson, Jayme Davis, Peter Fule, Chris Paige, Erin Stam, Melissa Lawton, Blue Brazelton, Joshua Emery, Jennifer Russell, John Georgas, Gretchen McAllister, Lisa Bliss, Jessie Finch, Samantha Clifford, Michael McCarthy, Katie Cinader, Melinda Treml, Karen Sealander, Michelle Mack, Miriam Espinoza, Marjaneh Gilpatrick, Andy Wang, Corrine Gordon, Karen J-S, Mahendra Joshi, Mohamed Mohamed, Astrid Klocke, Laura Bounds, Jill Navran, Cindy Ivy, Stephen Meyer, Roger Bounds, Sakenya McDonald, Diana Coleman, Zach Smith, Karina Collentine, Julie Piering, John Tingerthal, Alice Gibb, Oaklee Rogers, Louise Lockard, Meredith Heller
- **Those absent:**

**2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes - Kate Ellis**

Agenda voted on and accepted.

**3. Faculty Senate President's Report & SCA Updates - Kate Ellis**

Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis discusses the agenda, and takes a vote on the 3 Proposed SCA Changes. **Vote for 3 SCA Changes are all approved.**

- Due to some challenges facing the general studies program, this agenda does not line up with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the time of the meeting today will be for discussion regarding the general studies program.

**4. Context of General Studies Discussion—Karen Pugliesi**

Provost Karen Pugliesi gives thanks to the many committees that have been working hard and presents her report regarding updates and context for the General Studies Program.

- In September of 2021, The provost presented the general studies program to ABOR at the academic affairs and attainment committee and it was accepted
- At the current time the Board has changed along with the environment, and some negative attention was brought to the program and the board
- In the meeting in September of 2022, the board announced they would review all the policies and framework of the universities again
- They have withdrawn the approval of the general studies program and we have a short timeline to make changes and present again for their approval

- It will have to be presented at the academic affairs and attainment committee next week
- The new board looked back at the framework and the 12 of the 27 required units are in the diversity perspectives and they would like there to be a change in implementing these into current classes
- They are looking to support student momentum and have students create their own pathway through our program, and give them options, would prefer only to require 2 of 3 diversity perspectives and not the 3 of 4 that we originally had
- Would like to see the critical thinking definition that is required for all of the diversity perspectives courses
- Reduce the extent of which our program focuses on intersectional identities
- Looking to see the categories reduced from 2 of 3 being required and take out the intersectional identities perspective
- Interested us in being far more effective and interested in communicating with external stakeholders, and making informational more understandable and descriptive
- Looking to change the language of “Diversity Perspectives” to “Inclusive Perspectives”
- Change the language in the descriptions of critical thinking in these perspectives
- Use a more traditional formulation in our formal documents changes of the word “Latinx” to “Latine”
- Provost Pugliesi offers apologies to the many faculty and committees that put in so much work regarding the General Studies program that was designed
- We look to uphold the values that we initially set, but adapt to the changes that we may need to make to fulfill the needs of getting approved

**5. Diversity Curriculum Committee – Gretchen McAllister and Chris Page**

Members of the DCC Gretchen McAllister and Chris Page address the DCC’s opinion of the recent changes.

- A letter presented regarding the changes that were requested by the ABOR
- The DCC communicates their disappointment regarding the changes and shifts to the previously approved program, but give consent to move ahead with the changes although not agreeing with them
- Recognizes the difficult position the provost and president have been placed in, and wants to support them in moving forward
- They are still committed to the diversity aspects within the General Studies program
- They will look to revise the procedures and send them out to all faculty

**6. General Studies Committee – Jason BeDuhn and Susan Smiley**

Chair of the General Studies Committee Jason BeDuhn shares his comments and opinions regarding the changes of the General Studies Program.

- Discusses disappointment in the changes of the General Studies Program that was previously approved

- The GSC moved and voted regarding the changes, all 3 changes were approved. First, changes to inclusive perspectives. Second, change to require 3 of 3 classes instead of 3 of 4. Finally, the removal of the Intersectional Identities.
- The GSC are going to look at the language that needs to be changed and then adjust it coming up

## **7. Senate Discussion, General Studies – All Senators**

All senators discuss the changes to the general studies program and vote on the topics.

- Provost must submit the paperwork to the board next Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Senator Mohamed Mohamed suggests that we create a statement from the Faculty of NAU letting the board know of our opinion
- Discussion of how some members of the DCC did not really have a choice in this vote regarding the changes of the General Studies Program
- Says there was a lack of transparency between the faculty
- Wanted to let the Senate know that the letter presented did not support the position of all the members in the DCC
- Wanted to express support to the Provost and President in this time and the tough position they have been put in
- Jane Marks discusses the loss of the individual discipline of intersectional identities and how this will impact the indigenous studies capacity
- Suggestion to make a path that requires students to learn about indigenous peoples due to it being so impactful to this university
- Mentioning of the hiring of academic excellence scholars upcoming
- Senate President Kate Ellis offering to speak during the call to the audience at the next meeting ABOR will be at on November 17<sup>th</sup>
- Discussion of how will we ensure our academic freedom regarding how teachers decide what and how they teach?
- They believe that it is important with how students learn in different ways along with not restricting speech
- We were very descriptive in regards to how we presented the information while other presenters, did not release as much information and more of a framework
- Idea brought up to require 3 of 3 to ensure that indigenous peoples and studies is prioritized
- We currently have far more classes in global and us ethnics so this change would water down the indigenous people and create less pressure to add more classes regarding this topic
- Courses can still be offered but due to some changes that will not be required
- Proposal of faculty and students organizing general protests regarding this
- Talk to implement the intersectional identities perspectives into these other perspectives

### **Voting Commences**

#### **1. Removing the Intersectional Identity Perspective**

**Majority voted to remove the intersectional identity perspective**

**2. Change from Diversity Perspectives to Inclusive Perspectives**  
**Majority votes to change the word Diversity to Inclusive**

**3. Changing from 3 of 4 required to 2 of 3 required**  
**Majority votes for requiring 3 of 3**

**8. New Business/Old Business/ Adjourn—Kate Ellis**

Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis discusses upcoming business.

- Bylaws will be looked at upcoming and changes will be proposed and submitted to the bylaws committee
- Working with the Teaching Academy we will look to provide faculty with some more guidance regarding faculty review for promotion and annual reviews
- A committee to review COFS will be meeting and a representative of each college will be meeting with them
- The student government will be updating everyone regarding what they are working on
- The people working on the campus master plan will be coming in to the next meeting to talk about the campus master plan
- Josh Mackey and Bjorn Flugsted will be coming in talking about service teams in the next meeting

**Motion to Adjourn Approved**

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:26pm**