

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

August 29, 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:**

- **Those also present (electronically):** Lisa Tichavsky, Tarang Jain, Ian Wischmeier, Mohamed Mosaad Abdelaziz Mohamed, Cindy Ivy, Mary Harmon, Kara Attrep, Catrin Edgeley, Erin Stam, Blue Brazelton, Marjaneh Gilpatrick, Alice Gibb, Mahendra Joshi, Rodrigo Bastos De Toledo, Christopher Scherperee, Samantha Clifford, Sam Meier, Karina Collentine, Blake Rayfield, Juliana Suby, Hal Tagma, Michael McCarthy, Miriam Espinoza, Brian Register, Sibylle Gruber, Melinda Trembl, Donna Simon, Karen Snider, Blasé Scarnati, Andy Wang, Aimee Quinn, Todd Firth, Corrine Gordon, Laura Bounds, Jonathan Gagliardi

- **Those absent:**

## 2. Approval of Agenda—Kate Ellis

Agenda voted on and accepted.

## 3. Faculty Senate President's Report—Kate Ellis

Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis discusses vacant seats in the senate, along with work that will be completed by the senate soon.

- There are currently 4 vacant senate seats from CAL and three vacancies in SBS.
- The Senate goals this year are as follows
  - Revise the Senate Bylaws
  - Work along the Provost's office to revise CoFS
  - Revise the Faculty Handbook

## 4. NAU President's Report—President José Luis Cruz Rivera

President Cruz Rivera discusses focal points that NAU is going to focus on and shares the goals of these focuses.

- Main focus of this year will be working with, and implementing the Strategic Roadmap, Elevating Excellence
- Work with the board to finalize a set of NAU specific goals for the year
- Board is reviewing the alignment of the general studies programs at all three universities, with the current board policies
- Differentiate NAU Online so that we find an optimal fit, that will position students, obtaining their degree, for success
- Statistics based on this new year at NAU
  - Largest NAU Freshman class ever
  - Highest Core GPA for and NAU class ever
  - Over a 100% increase of International students studying at NAU
  - Most Diverse incoming class of NAU ever
  - NAU has added more than 130 new faculty member this year

**Questions:** *Are there any specifics that you can provide to us regarding concerns of the general studies programs? Concerns are being raised regarding Diversity requirements against the policy. This policy will be in discussion over the next couple months.*

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

Provost Karen Pugliesi issues thanks to all senate members for their hard work, as well as, thanking everyone for the work they have completed regarding the 160+ new faculty.

- Discusses the expanding Elevating Excellence which is giving academic support to students in lower division classes. Growing support undergraduate research and creative activities.
- Academic Leadership Assembly will have the following adaptations in the future.
  1. Academic Chairs and a Directors Community, these will be an Self-Governing group which will create their own agenda
  2. Improving communications, so that current faculty can better access the updated information thus improving communications between faculty and the assembly.
- Moving forward quickly on the selection of the dean for Forestry, screening of candidates have begun
- Better research and focus toward post graduate student outcomes. Being able to relate student success after NAU and tailor student pathways to provide the skills needed to succeed in the workforce.
- Reinforcing and supporting current staff through Academic Advising program, also working with Human Resources to create a better structure and retain more advisors
- Take a deeper look at state wide locations and work to provided better support for students. Potentially open up new NAU branches to be able to support these students.
- Create a plan for NAU Online. We need to create a system where students can work and engage with the programs that we offer online. The goal is to complete this plan by the end of the year to strengthen our online resources and address programming and business, so the plan is sustainable.
- Expand the Allied and Behavioral Health programs. We have received funding from the Legislature and Board to back The New Economy Initiative. Looking to provide healthcare providers to out of Metro Areas. HHS, COE, and SBS have been thanked for help this initiative. Funding has also been provided to Forestry in support to prevent fires and improve resource management.
- We need to continue to focus on Student Success. Look into the way which we design our curriculum and how we design our courses. Elevating Excellence promotes looking at Equity and look to work with that in the design of the courses. Ensuring that every student at NAU has the tools to reach their potential.
- Implementation of Professional Project Program which creates an opportunity in regards to teaching, and encouraging creative activity focused projects starting the year of 2024-2025.

**Questions:** *There were a large amount, 100+, proposals for the Elevating Excellence Program, will we be receiving feedback on those proposals so we can redraft and*

*potentially resubmit them?* Sad to say that you won't get feedback. This is due to the fact that there is not a review board that is set in place to be able to review all of the proposals, and provide sufficient feedback to those who submitted them. Some strong proposals were reviewed and did not follow the set goals that we are looking for in the Elevating Excellence Program.

## **6. General Studies Implementation—Yvonne Luna**

Yvonne Luna discusses a plan to tackle remaining challenges regarding diversity and general studies. Currently they are in their second year of planning this and looking to implement the new program in 2024.

- American Institutions have 4 diversity perspectives: US Ethnic Diversity, Global Diversity, Indigenous Peoples and Sexual identities.
- We are currently doing well for meeting capacity for these Diversity groups
- Discusses the metrics of seats that are needed for the full implementation for the launch.
- Currently looking for more seats for all 4 of these Diversity groups, especially the Indigenous Peoples Diversity group
- Course proposals are being brought up to the FSEC, General Studies and Diversity Curriculum Committees and Curriculum & Assessment Coordinating Committee.
- These Committees agreed to a Phase Approach which allows them to build capacity for a launch in Fall of 2024
- This approach would offer all 4 of these diversity perspectives would be offered to students.
- Students would be given the choice to select any 3 of the 4 diversity groups to study in their undergraduate studies
- For the years that the students are required to take these 3 courses, they will work to implement a program that covers all 4 of these diversity perspectives

**Questions:** *How would you suggest we best plan these schedules and courses, given that there is so much uncertainty and shifts that may arise in this change of courses and seats for these 4 diversity perspectives?* We are moving forward with uncertainty, but we will not change it to a degree where we need to hire faculty all over the university. After this last round of hiring we have many new faculty members that have expertise in these areas to contribute. *Why are we dropping Liberal Studies for General Studies, are we still maintaining the process and emphasis of critical thinking?* We are not wanting to remove a core program and produce critical thinking individuals. That is still our commitment and when looking at the design of the General Studies program it reinforces these values of engaging students and faculty in rigorous critical analysis, fueled by a wide range of opinions and ideas.

**Motion to endorse this proposal to require to students to complete 3 of the 4 diversity perspectives. Seconded. Approved.**

**7. Syllabus Policy Statement Revision—Maribeth Watwood**

Maribeth Watwood speaks about the Syllabus Policy Statement Revision in order to change the syllabus template and give faculty the resources to be able correctly change their syllabus

- Discussed how that we are behind in current processes and were unable to get this policy in cycle for review by the senate during the summer.
- New additional policy in regards to copyright infringement and the sales of course content to websites like Course Hero and CHEG. This policies discusses the student's use of these materials that could impact academic dishonesty.
- This was brought up and approved by the FSEC in the FSEC meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Further updates will be coming later this academic years and will be brought to the full senate.

**8. Proposed Revisions to the Policy on Principal Investigator Eligibility—Jason Wilder**

Jason Wilder is looking for proposed revisions to the Policy on Principal Investigator Eligibility

- Lecturers and Academic Professionals will now be automatically eligible for PI or Co-PI status.
- This opens up virtually for all full-time faculty on campus.
- All faculty who were previously eligible retain that automatic eligibility.

**9. Mental Health Task Force Updates—Cal Dindo**

Matt Van Schoick presents a slideshow regarding what new and current services the Mental Health Task Force offers this year.

- Change of name from Mental Health Task Force to Mental Health Coalition
- Expansion of imbedded counselor to the Native American cultural center, IMT office, Black Student Union, Athletics, and look to expand to more.
- Care reports are implemented to give the faculty an ability to report behavior that may prevent dangerous activities and provide mental support to the students
- Mental Health Support Squad: A peer matching program where a student/mentor take a class learning how to help others are paired with someone who need more support and connections to help them
- All services are offered in person or through tele help
- Offers consoling for all NAU students statewide
- Showcases new graphic decision tree regarding steps to help students with mental health problems
- Jacks Care 24/7 provides 24/7 remote, free mental health and wellbeing support to all NAU students and any time and any location.
- Easily accessed by NAU students, downloading the MySSP App or visit the website, at <https://myss.app/us/home>
- Will help provide care to all students and help counseling services with time management and helping all students

- Shows new websites, One regarding faculty that includes their resources and ability to report, and one regarding students that can be used to find student resources and advertised to students so they are away of the services that they offer.

**Questions:** *A few semesters ago there was news that there was a wait list for counseling of almost an entire semester, what is your current situation on that and has it gone down?* Yes, this was one of the reasons we were able to get funding for the Jack Care. When we would hire new staff we were still experienced a waitlist. Currently we do not have a waitlist and can provide ongoing counseling for students in a short period of time. Hopefully, the implementation of Jacks Care will help keep the counseling caught up and eliminate the need for a wait list. *Does Jacks Care 24/7 have a capacity limit?* No, Jacks Care does not have a capacity limit.

#### **10. Council and Committee Reports—Blue Brazelton**

Ian Wischmeier, Chair of the academic standards committee, discusses the change to the bylaws

- Change in bylaws represents change the representatives needed for the Yuma location.
- They are proportional to the students and faculty in these locations

**Motion to approve the changes to the bylaws, Lisa Tichavsky motions, Approved**

#### **11. New Business/ Old Business/ Adjourn—Kate Ellis**

Faculty Senate President mentions the New Faculty Welcome that is occurring on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1899.

The meeting was adjourned at