Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
January 9th, 2023

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

1. **Call to order - Kate Ellis**
   Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:00pm
   - **Those Present:** Kate Ellis, Karen Pugliesi, John Georgas, Roger Bounds, Maribeth Watwood, Jon Lee, Blue Brazelton, Blase Scarnati, Karina Collentine, Mohamed Mohamed, Rodrigo Bastos de Toledo, Lisa Tichavsky

2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes - Kate Ellis**
   Motion to approve the Agenda and 11/7 FSEC minutes. Agenda voted on and **approved**. Minutes for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meeting of 11/7 voted on and **approved**.

3. **Faculty Senate President's Report - Kate Ellis**
   Faculty Senate President gives a short report on the process that will be made regarding updating the Faculty Senate Bylaws.
   - Senate President Kate Ellis provided a brief update regarding the Senate Bylaws.
   - After reviewing initial changes/discussion points the Bylaws will be handed over to Blue Brazelton and the Bylaws Committee to work on.
   - This particular document does not need be approved by the Faculty, only by the Faculty Senate.

4. **Provost's Report - Karen Pugliesi**
   Provost Pugliesi highlights work and updated the FSEC since last meeting in November.
   - At the last Academic Leadership Summit meeting, discussion groups were used to gain ideas regarding the workload policy and Faculty Service.
   - In collaboration with the Senate, two tasks forces will be created;
     - A task force looking into the streamlining faculty service and analyzing the ideas that were produced at the Academic Leadership Summit breakout groups.
     - A task force that would look at operational practices from a strategic perspective.
   - Vice Provost, Gayla Stoner, is pursuing a position at another university, while we navigate this transition, President Cruz Rivera wanted to look at how we are structured for Statewide, Online, and In-Person operations.
   - The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) wants us take a close look at our NAU Online Program, and create a new strategic model that we will be presented at the Board Meeting in June.
   - Discussion of Jonathan Gagliardi and the Arizona Attainment Alliance, which is a plan to establish strong framework and pathways to assist students with transitioning to NAU from Community Colleges.

- Due to Gayla Stoners departure, President Cruz Rivera has shifted her workload and duties into the portfolios of other Vice provosts, these assignments of duties will be closely monitored to ensure this realignment is successful.
    - Vice Provost John Georgas will take a role in focusing and supporting NAU Online, and Personalized Learning. This directly correlates through work he has already been completing with the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee.
    - Vice Provost Yvonne Luna will take on the tasks of supporting NAU Statewide, Workforce Development, and Arizona Transfer Steering Committee.
    - We will begin a search for a new associate Vice Provost for curriculum and assessment.
- Provost Pugliesi forecasts that evaluating these changes through observation to determine if the structure changes have impacted programs, NAU will look to bring someone in with a specific focus on running Online Operations to help support NAU Online.
- Concerns arise regarding the low enrollment and struggles with marketing for NAU Online and Personalized Learning from FSEC Member Donna Simon, she recalled a previous meeting that occurred with NAU Online and NAU marketing where the demographics of who marketing was advertising to was shared, these demographics did not match the target group of NAU Online. Advertising was focused on students in the age range of 16-18, while the average age of NAU online students is 34 years old.
- Donna Simon also mentions lack of transparency that the Personalized Learning Unit has experienced and how shifts in leadership raise concern from faculty members on their role in the future.
- Provost Pugliesi reminds the FSEC that NAU Online members are imbedded in academic units, this leads to our academic leaders for these units to work directly with these members and support them.
- FSEC Member Mohamed Mohamed raises the concern regarding the hiring of those previously in Higher Education, for positions that a business and marketing background would be vital and extremely valuable.
- Provost Pugliesi discusses Vice Provost Maribeth Watwood's work with the Career Initiative program. She has met with Deans, Unit and Career Development leaders across the university. With the information gathered from these meetings, they are putting together this timeline, which colleges will use to forecast program building.
- FSEC Members Blue Brazelton and Tarang Jain are on the budget advisory board, Provost Pugliesi will be giving a presentation to this board tomorrow 1/10 and will be explaining the current draft workload policy and implications of this to the budget advisory board.
- Many faculty have expressed dissatisfaction to academic leaders regarding Faculty Titles, some say that their current work does not alignment with their title ex. A faculty member is an Associate Professor, despite them completing clinical work, which would give them the title of clinical professor. Because of this, Deans were asked to organize proposals in their units regarding faculty title changes. Vice Provost Roger Bounds will be looking at these proposals and adjusting titles of faculty

members to better align the work they do with the track/title they work under, this will be called the Title Realignment.

- Dr. Sara Rinfret has been identified for the next Associate vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, she has accepted this position and an announcement was made on 1/12/2023.
- Vice Provost John Georgas discusses NAU's Canvas Transition, operationally it is going well, but an issue has emerged that may delay an automated migration support to classes. However, we are still currently on track to begin the full transition to Canvas Instruction over Summer Semester.
- John Georgas is asked to discuss the implementations of Chat GPT, Chat GPT is an AI that can generate answers to questions that are asked in the program
  - o Prompts can be inputted into this Program and it will give back a very well-written answer that are extremely difficult to catch that they weren't written by a human being.
  - o This can be used by students to answer questions on tests or homework, which is a violation and is considered Academic Dishonesty.
  - o Donna Simon discusses how difficult it is to detect this AI generated material, as well as ways to combat this by using specific and certain resources to be cited and used in the work that is submitted.
  - o Senate President discussed how she brought this issue up to Regent Manson to ensure that this is a topic of discussion for the Arizona Board of Regents.
  - o A question was raised of how we can train our students to leverage the capabilities of this tool in preparation for the workforce.
  - o Create a merged group with the Teaching Academy and Advisory Council for Technology to look at Chat GPT and come up with a plan to use this effectively, teach it for a professional environment, while still upholding our Academic Policies.
  - o Even greater focus on teachers learning and becoming familiar with their students so they can detect a change in content or quality as submitted human work vs. AI created work. Great focus also will be needed in question writing, so that questions engage students in critical thinking.
  - o Blue Brazelton shares that this will not transition a poor student into a scholar, we will just need to design our courses around this tool.

5. **Faculty Senate By-Laws – Kate Ellis**
   Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis shared the Current Bylaws Document, with highlight on what should be changed in order to reflect our policies.
   - Changes in structure for section 1.2.3.3, this structure change would ensure that senators are not only representatives of their units and departments, but representatives of the entire college.
   - Discussion regarding Senate Quick Notes; notes that are sent out right after a Senate meeting, these notes are a brief summary and overview of the meeting which gives a snapshot for the campus community of the Senate's work.
     - o These minutes should not take the place of the official minutes, but used as a tool to generate interest in the Official Senate Minutes.

- Discussion based on Units that do not currently have a representative on the Faculty Senate, these units have previously gone to other senators who are available to provide quick notes and other information to them.
- Discussion of 1.3.1 regarding the replacement of senators, this should be examined with discussion if it should be updated to reflect current practices.
- Senate President Kate Ellis brings up the Councils found under section 2, The Council for Professional and Lecturer Track Faculty, and The Council on Statewide, Online, and Personalized Learning Education, these two councils should be examined and potentially restructured to better support these groups.
- In section 2.3, which is based on membership elections, the previous Bylaws do not reflect our current practices, the Bylaws committee should look into this and discuss changing whether to reinstitute the outlie in the bylaws or update to current practices.
- Section 3.1 regarding committees, the Summer Senate should not be an internal standing committee. Summer senate meetings are optional and are there to discuss work being done over summer.
- Section 3.2.3, this section discusses written reports from the Senate charged committees, the current languages require the discussion during senate meetings and written reports, should this be changed to optional reports to the senate? (these reports can required a lot of time the senate doesn't necessarily have)
- Suggestion from FSEC Member Mohamed Mohamed suggesting that these councils and committees should submit an agenda at the start of the year, this agenda will contain goals and steps that the groups will take, and what they are looking to achieve this given year.
- Section 3.6 was related entirely to the Summer Senate, request to remove this from the Bylaws.
- Section 3.7 is based on Committees, this is an area to look to try and find changes that can be made, especially since some policies are outdated. For example, senators are not elected for these committees but appointed.
- Sections 4.1.1.8 – 4.1.1.10, these sections cover the elections of NAU Phoenix, NAU Tucson, or NAU Yuma; currently there are not senators from Phoenix and Tucson directly.
- Section 4.12 this is describing appointment and number of senators elected per college. Due to the senate only being 50 seats we need guidelines for apportionment of senate seats by college/number of faculty. (we need to find the plan which was previously instituted)
- Sections 4.1.5-4.1.7 Discussion regarding the previous voting and election processes. Previous process is that senators must collect 15 nomination signatures to run for a senate seat, this is not currently practiced and should be examined-should this be changed?
- Section 5.1, this section discusses the frequencies and months that the Senate Meets. Currently we meet in August, September, October, and November in the fall semester, previous policy states that we meeting in September, October, November, and December. Perhaps specify four meetings in the fall and four in the spring semesters.
- Discussions about the goals for this semester, we are looking to try and move the workload policy along, get the new Senate Bylaws approved by the end of the

semester, have Mohamed Mohamed and Roger Bounds work on the revision of COFS, streamlining the service teams and processes.
- Call out to Senate Committees to reach out to Senate president Kate Ellis to get in the agenda for future meetings.
- Update on the creation of a Microsoft Teams Server for the FSEC and the Senate, it is currently being created by ITS, this tool can be used for discussion.

6. **Council and Committee Reports—Elections**
No updates from any Councils or Committees.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:57pm
Motion to Adjourn Approved