

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes January 22nd, 2024

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

## 1. Call to order – Kate Ellis

Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis calls the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

**Those Attending:** Kate Ellis, Karen Pugliesi, John Georgas, Carmin Chan, Roger Bounds, Tarang Jain, Marco Cabrera Geserick, Sara Rinfret, Michael Smith, Devon Burr, Gioia Woods, Juliana Suby, Pete Fule, Karen Sealander, Andrew Stevens, Mohamed Mohamed, Michelle Thomas, TS Amer, Miriam Espinoza, Kara Attrep, Maria Machelor, Christy Arazan, Lisa Bliss, Aimee Quinn, Blue Brazelton, Ashley Vaughan, Jessie Finch, Yiyan Li, Jennifer Duis, Emily Cope, KT Thompson, Diamond Bracey, Michael Leverington, Eric Cerino, Abby Fisher, Katie Tullmann, Jennifer Russell, Karina Collentine, Cindy Ivy, Melissa Lawton, Kaitlyn Davis, Mahendra Joshi, Anika Olsen, Steve Meyer, Jill Christensen, Chad Eickhoff, Laura Bounds, Marcela Alcaraz, Robyn Hansen, Devon Randall, Rosalicia Cordova, Donna Simon, Robert Church, John Tingerthal, Amy Rushall, Victoria Damjanovic, Emily Manone.

## 2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis

The 1/22 Agenda is voted on and **approved**. The 11/20 Full Senate meeting minutes are voted on and **approved**.

## 3. Faculty Senate President’s Report – Kate Ellis

Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis gives her report.

- Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis states the priorities for the Senate for the rest of the year.
  - Working on clarifying Teaching Expectations so they can implement them more easily (Council on Learning)
  - Getting Professional Development into faculty member’s SOEs. (Task Force chaired by Sara Rinfret)
  - Start rolling out revisions to COFS (Process lead by Roger Bounds). The FSEC is looking to review these revisions in February with a goal to bring these revisions to the full senate in March.
  - Revision of the Faculty Handbook, and what policies and information are needed in this document (Faculty Rights and Responsibilities). Is this document needed, and if so, what is the Handbook’s purpose?
  - Streamlining the annual review process. (Task Force chaired by Sara Rinfret)
  - The creation of a faculty listening session hosted by the academic leadership that will help educate faculty on freedom of speech and academic freedom on campus.
- Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis offers her thanks to those who participated in the Provost Search and meetings.
- Provost Pugliesi states that COFS is a policy document, while the Faculty Handbook is just in place to support faculty in processes around campus. For example, the

absence policy or NAU parking contacts and suggestions are located in the Faculty Handbook.

#### **4. Provost's Office Report – Karen Pugliesi**

Provost Pugliesi gives her report.

- There will be a special Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will focus on two items, new appointments, and new approaches.
- NAU will be appointing a new Football coach, along with presenting proposals for three new programs.
  - Bachelor of Science in applied wildland fire science.
  - Master of Forestry in natural resource management.
  - Master of Management and Information Sciences.
- At this meeting NAU will also be presenting their plans with the Arizona Healthy Tomorrow Initiative. They will be giving context regarding the growth of these new programs.
- Provost Pugliesi will continue to converse with ABOR regarding NAU's financial situation and how we are being effective stewards of resources.
- Last Tuesday, Provost Pugliesi, Lillian Smith, and Janina Johnson gave a presentation to the Arizona Health and Human Services Senate Committee. This presentation was a positive experience, and the committee was supportive of NAU's budget requests.
- We will be having an upcoming transition of Deans in the College of Engineering, Informatics and Applied Sciences. Andy Wang, the current dean, is stepping down to better focus on his current projects. James Palmer will step in as the current interim dean in April, while a permanent dean will be selected and start in July.
- The academic program portfolio refresh has begun regarding NAU online programs. This examination will also be focused on statewide programs. These action plans will be finalized in April, along with a protocol that requires us to reexamine our program portfolios every couple of years.
- This portfolio refresh has also been requested for all colleges. Provost Pugliesi offers her thanks to the academic leaders of these programs for their hard work and examination of their current programs and the creation of plans to better strengthen their portfolios.
- The provost office and deans are continuing their work examining curricular complexity.
- Vice Provost John Georgas mentions the importance of utilizing academic advisors as resources when examining curricular complexity.
- A team lead by Vice Provost Maribeth Watwood has focused on how we deploy our graduate teaching assistants and college's priorities for instructional staffing in various areas of the university.
- The new Vice Provost for NAU Online, Dr. Carmin Chan introduces herself to the faculty senate.
- Dr. Carmin Chan previously worked at University of Arizona, helping support and grow their Online Program.
- Vice Provost John Georgas gives an update regarding NAU online.

- There will be a focus on standing up our online student coaching team. This team will be able to provide an additional level of support to our online students to assist them in progressing toward their degree completion.
- John Cencioso is the new director for the NAU Online Instructional Design Team. This team will directly be focused on supporting NAU Online programs and faculty.
- There has been an exceptional amount of progress that has been made toward the NAU Online portfolio curation. These decisions and progress directly align with Arizona's labor market needs.
- There are 40 programs that will be discontinued. This decision was not made regarding the quality or design of the programs, but many different reasons in our institutional context that the university could not make work.
- Vice Provost John Georgas will be convening a Task Force that will discuss academic operations and improve the way we schedule classes.
- Recently, Provost Pugliesi met with the Deans and discussed how the university could define different modalities of courses, what the priorities are, and how we make decisions. Blended courses were a focus in this discussion, and these blended courses will be discussed more in the future. Currently, there is not a consistent way that blended courses are run. Creating a document outlining expectations could help faculty members follow best practices for these blended courses.
- Cody Canning & Michelle Miller are continuing to work on revamping the First Year Learning Initiative.
- Provost Pugliesi will be receiving each colleges workload documents on January 26<sup>th</sup>. These documents will be reviewed, and the provost office will provide feedback to the colleges regarding these documents. Each college has their own individual workload document, and each document is flexible enough to work for each department in their respective colleges.
- Provost Pugliesi will continue looking for a speaker to come to campus and speak on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech.
- FSEC Member Michael Smith asks if there is a "Fast-track" for classes in the catalog to be modified, reducing their curricular complexity. Provost Pugliesi responds saying that currently there is not a fast track for this, but we are looking at finding a way to expedite these changes.

##### **5. Annual Review Task Force – Sara Rinfret**

Associate Vice Provost Sara Rinfret gives an update on two Task Forces.

- The first task force that has been created is looking to get professional development into faculty SOE's.
- A short survey will be sent out to chairs and directors to collect more information and recognize themes regarding professional development.
- They will also be examining the data collected from each College's workload policy.
- They are looking to develop a document regarding this for the FSEC to discuss in March.
- The second task force that has been created is focused on streamlining Annual Review.

- The group will be meeting and collecting information from academic leadership to form a document that suggests revisions and ways to streamline the annual review process.
- This current timeline was previously recommended by chairs but is open for review and change.
- Ex-Officio Gioia Woods offers her thanks to Sara and the Task Forces for collecting data with surveys to provide the best suggestions regarding these topics.
- Provost Pugliesi states that our current practice of showing recognition, letter writing, is a large burden on those writing and reviewing these letters. With this, we need to find a way to give recognition to faculty, in an easier and more streamlined fashion.
- Provost Pugliesi also stresses the importance of providing constructive feedback to faculty members through the annual review process.
- Vice Provost John Georgas mentions concern in the media regarding tenure, and how strengthening these post tenure reviews is extremely important.
- Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis also mentions the importance that the suggestions made by the task forces properly reflect the Workload Policy.

## **6. General Studies Update – Emily Manone**

General Studies Director Emily Manone gives an update regarding the General Studies Program.

- There are three new components that separate the General Studies program from the old Liberal Studies program.
  - Social Sciences imbedded into scientific literacy.
  - American institutions course.
  - Indigenous people's course.
- There is currently one shortfall in goals for these new components. Social Sciences needs 700 more seats for the General Studies program to meet their second-year goal.
- The Tri-University Assessment is an assessment charged by ABOR where all three state universities are to collaborate and assess their Gen. Ed Programs for written communication, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and civic knowledge of American institutions.
- In 2023 quantitative reasoning was assessed at the three universities. These results were presented to ABOR and now will be presented internally.
- The results of this assessment:
  - Contextualize and Evaluate: 67% meet expectations, 11% exceeds expectations.
  - Application and Analysis: 86% meet expectations, 8% exceeds expectations.
  - Interpretation: 84% meet expectations, 8% exceeds expectations.
  - Communication: 68% meet expectations, 9% exceeds expectations.
- There will be faculty discussion dates in March and this information will be presented to faculty and a deeper conversation will occur.
- There will be a staged approach to the implementation of the ethics requirements in all degree programs.

- Currently, many degree programs already contain these ethics requirements and thus do not need to make any changes.
- The General Studies Program will be examining and reviewing their current information literacy practices. These will be further tested and improved to better serve faculty and students.
- The General Studies Program will be offering a professional development opportunity for faculty called the Ancestral Knowledge: Braiding Curriculum Seminar. This Seminar will occur after finals from May 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.
- This Seminar will provide a stipend for faculty and will be building on the work that the General Studies Program has done with Indigenous Peoples.
- There will be 20 openings for faculty members. This number is lower due to the seminar being both curricular and experiential. Time will be spent with campus elders, picnic at the San Francisco Peaks, and how to best relate those activities into the pedagogical experiences.

#### **7. RAISE/Enrollment Management – Anika Olsen & Marcela Alcaraz**

Anika Olsen & Marcela Alcaraz give an updating on RAISE and Enrollment Management.

- In the United States, many universities face a decline in student enrollment. This is especially prevalent in Arizona, due to the state having a lower rate of High School students transitioning to college.
- The RAISE challenge is that by 2035, NAU will have awarded high value credentials to over 100,00 people.
- For 2023, we are above the previous projections of awarding credentials.
- The RAISE program is in place to help us focus on strategies that lead to higher student enrollment at NAU. This program is rooted in supporting people, NAU's programs, places where students live and complete work, and pricing for the university and their programs.

#### **8. Councils and Committee Reports – Michael Smith, John Tingerthal & Tarang Jain**

Council and Committee Reports are shared.

- Chair of the Council on Learning John Tingerthal states that currently the Council on Learning is processing the Teaching Expectations document with intent to work on a new draft. This draft will be taken to the Academy, then will hopefully be presented to the Faculty Senate in February.
- Faculty Senate Vice President Tarang Jain states that March 1<sup>st</sup> will be the deadline for colleges to submit their election results for the senate. With this date, senators can then work with their respective chairs to create a class schedule that does not conflict with senate meetings.
- Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis requests that senators going on sabbatical leave next year notify Senate Admin Andrew Stevens, so we can ensure that the senate is fully staffed next year.

#### **9. New Business/ Old Business/ Adjourn – Kate Ellis**

- Senate Scholarship committee will be assembled soon to review the senate scholarship applications.

**Meeting is adjourned at 5:00pm.**