

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes April 28th, 2025

Please email corrections to 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, Roger Bounds, Jose Luis Cruz Rivera, Juliana Suby, Samatha Sabo, Monica Lininger, Yimin Wang, Karl Krotke-Crandall, Bjorn Flugstad, Shelly Thomas, Christopher Sthultz, Jennifer Duis, Corey Oshikoya, Seafha Ramos, Jasmine Garani, Michael Smith, Jerry Thull, Ashley Vaughan, Victoria Damjanovic, Brandie Reiner, Jill Navran, John Tingerthal, Gioia Woods, Nick McKay, John Georgas, Stacey Magee, Amy Rushall, Robert Church, Jennifer Russell, Blue Brazelton, Kevin Tague, Karen Jarratt Snider, Gavin Healey, Stephen Tegler, Donna Simon, Jane Marks, Ann Huffman, Jessie Finch, Claudia Rodas, Samantha Clifford, Eric Lenz, Jacob Gubler, Jenny Holzapfel, Gina Nabours, Marco Cabrera Geserick, Bonita Switala, Hayley Root, Emery Eaves, Amanda Pollitt, Lisa Bliss, Rachel Starks, John Lynch, Katherine Tullman, Aimee Quinn, Jason Bradley, Luis Fernandez, Bettie Coplan, Dierdra Bycura, Richard Dehn, Alison Essary, Nick Goodman, Steve Palmer, Sara Abercrombie, Laura Bounds, Eric Cerino, Kevin Hummert, Stephen Nuno, Meredith Heller, Maribeth Watwood, Theresa Brier, Natalie Cawood, Emily Manone, Heather Thomas, Sara Rinfret, Jill Christensen, Paola Lecorchick, Chris Jocks, Deedee Perez-Granados, Pamela Rogers Bosch, Miriam Espinoza, David Folch, Angelina Castagno, Heather Lindfors-Navarro, Scot Raab, Clare Aslan, Rodrigo Bastos De Toleda, Hal Tagma, Carmin Chan, Rebecca Macaulay, Oaklee Rogers, Katy Yanez, Gina Nabours, Suzanne McWilliams, Karli VanderMeersch, Angie Hansen, Benjamin Tucker, Kelly Roberts, Patricia Nelson, Okim Kang, Tina Culhane, Viacheslav, Fofanov, Udaya Wagle, John Imundi, Shannon Greenwood, T Mark Montoya, Jermaine Martinez, Kelley Hays-Gilpin, Stephani Willians, Lauren Pierce, Emily Dale, Ronda Jenson, Patricia Murphey, Joshua Merced, EmiLee Smart, Julie Fritzler, Nora Dunbar, Marianne Nielsen, Michael McCarthy, Rita Stageman, Gabreille Mohr, Kristin Greenwalt, Dilofarid Miskinzod, Anne Medill, Constantin Ciocanel, Ramona Mellott, Carla Wilson, Jennifer Russell, Stefanie Kunze, Julie Mueller, Rebecca Maniglia, Heather Thomas, Nora Timmerman, Jamie Awe, Brian Register, Danielle Kempton, Kirsten Bonnin, Megan McCoy, Eylin Palamaro-Munsell, Alder Keleman Saxena, Pamela Bishop, Stephanie Dove, Colleen Ross, Morgan Ruff, China Medel, Nicole Rose, Andie Lenhart, John Doherty, Shabe Haberstroh, Jeff Berglund, David Politzer, Janice Sweeter, Monica Brown, Emily Manone, Nick Goodman, Emily Schneider.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis

The 4/28 Agenda is voted on and **approved**.

3. Senate President's Report – Kate Ellis

Faculty Senate President Kate Ellis shares her report.

- Senate President Kate Ellis offers her thanks to Senate Admin Andrew Stevens.

- The Faculty Senate was able to offer two Senate scholarships this year. The recipients are Rachel Negovan and Ethan Ward. Both students attended the Senate meeting and thanked the Faculty Senate for their generosity.
- Senate President Ellis also thanks the Faculty Scholarship Committee, which consists of Lisa Bliss, Ashley Vaughan, and Claudia Rodas.
- Senate President Ellis conducted research on the Big 10 Defense Compact and was able to share some information on it. She shares that 9 of the 18 universities passed non-binding senate resolutions but has no impact on whether the administrations of the universities can create a compact. NAU will continue their partnership with ASU and U of A through the Arizona Faculties Council. The NAU Faculty Senate will continue to monitor the situation and can discuss a resolution in the future if needed.

4. Council and Committee Reports – All FSEC Committee & Council Chairs

The Chairs of the various Senate Committees and councils share their current council & committee reports.

- Senate Parliamentarian, Blue Brazelton, shares that the senate office will be sending out an email regarding FSEC internal elections. FSEC elections will end on May 7th and the open positions are as follows:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Parliamentarian
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Two members at large positions
 - Chair of the Council on Learning
 - Chair of the Council on Faculty Rights & Responsibilities
 - Chair of the Council on Distance Education
 - Chair of the Council on Career Track Faculty Issues
- Self-nominations for these positions are due by May 5th.

5. CoFS Updates – Michael Smith & Roger Bounds

Chair of the Council on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Michael Smith, and Vice Provost, Roger Bounds, share updates on CoFS.

- Chair Smith shares the two major changes in previous years that have guided the proposed CoFS changes.
 - Formalized a series of career tracks within the faculty ranks.
 - Rearrange our schedule of faculty review so that faculty are not required to be reviewed annually.
- The proposed changes to CoFS would allow the document to reflect these previously approved policies.
- Other minor changes include:
 - Clarification surrounding the timeline in which faculty members receive and respond to a letter from the reviewers.

- Separation of the comprehensive review process and the retention recommendation process.
- Small update to match the current practices of the grievance process.

The CoFS Updates are voted on and approved by the Faculty Senate.

6. Provost Report – Karen Pugliesi

Provost Karen Pugliesi succeeds her time to President Cruz Rivera's Q&A.

7. NAU President Q&A – Jose Luis Cruz Rivera

NAU President Jose Luis Cruz Rivera answers questions from the Senate and Faculty.

- President Cruz Rivera thanks the senate and guests for their hard work this past year.
- President Cruz Rivera opens up Q&A to all guests and senators in the meeting.
- President Cruz Rivera mentions the anxiety surrounding higher education and how we can stay true to our values while navigating the turbulent time. There will be actions through congress and the legal front, which have been changing at a quick rate.
- NAU continues to stay involved in multistate lawsuits, through their General Counsel. He shares that we continue to work on being lawful but still stating our values.
- He shares that we are keeping our commitment to completing research, and that we will continue to readjust moving forward.
- We will continue to work with PIs to support them, creating emergency funds for individuals working on grants, etc.
- There is a small group that will be looking at the potential impacts that grants have on faculty. This team will then develop strategies that the provost office can use to support them.
- Surrounding students access to Financial Aid, President Cruz Rivera is concerned regarding the efficiency of services with the cuts to programs.
- Fall enrollment is looking lower than this year, as predicted.
- There is difficulty with new grants that have been submitted, being awarded. Some faculty are still receiving grants, so we should continue to write and submit them.
- No one has lost their job due to the cutting of grants, but there are research groups who may not be renewed due to expected cuts to grants.
- President Cruz Rivera states NAU continued commitment to freedom of speech.
- There are many open houses and events offered to support international students.
- Discussion surrounding Discipline based accreditation and DEI.
- President Cruz Rivera shares that we will continue working on our HSI initiatives.

- President Cruz Rivera also shares that the University Budget Advisory Board developed plans in case there is a dire financial situation. The university currently has 170 days of cash on hand to support the university in case there are difficult financial situations ahead.
- Provost Pugliesi shares NAU's commitment to Graduate Education, Vice Provost of Graduate Education, Maribeth Watwood, will be retiring after this semester, and to practice strategic finance, this position will not be replaced. Laura Bounds & John Georgas will continue this work, and deans will appoint representatives of the graduate programs in the college to help lead.
- President Cruz Rivera mentions that the General Studies Program is in great shape, and we are looking forward to integrating it in the following years.
- President Cruz Rivera shares that strategic finance has been going well. Next year will be tough, but we will continue to adjust. We will implement dynamic enrollment strategies and utilize technological advances in our favor.
- Discussion surrounding centralization. President Cruz Rivera shares that when there are problems with decentralized areas, they centralize them. If there are centralized areas that struggle, we look to decentralize them. He relates this motion as a pendulum and shares that NAU is a living organism.
- International faculty who complete international research will be provided with support if needed.
- Next year's focus may change, but President Cruz Rivera shares that we will focus on AI Empowerment.
- Provost Pugliesi finishes the meeting by sharing all of the items to celebrate from last week: Undergraduate research, Deans presentations to the foundation, commencement, thanking of new leaders, and thanking of the leaders who are retiring.

8. New Business/ Old Business/ Adjourn – Kate Ellis
The meeting is adjourned at 5:02pm.