

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 6th, 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 3:03pm.

Those Attending: Kate Ellis, Roger Bounds, Karen Pugliesi, Juliana Suby, Miriam Espinoza, Karen Jarratt Snider, Blue Brazelton, John Tingerthal, Emily Manone, Kerry Thompson, Yvonne Luna, Jill Navran, Gioia Woods

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis

The 10/6 Agenda is voted on and **approved**. The 8/18 FSEC Minutes are voted on and **approved**.

3. Faculty Senate President Report – Kate Ellis

Faculty Senate President, Kate Ellis, shares her report.

- Senate President Ellis shares that the Q&A with the Provost is on Monday, 10/13, from 3:30-5:00pm. President Cruz Rivera will be attending this event.
- Senator Michael Smith recently discussed the Student Opinion Surveys with the FSEC and shared that the next steps are to move it to the full senate and discuss with administration on potentially removing harmful reviews from faculty member's records.
- Senate President Ellis shares that there has been discussion surrounding the security of classrooms around campus. Ex-Officio Gioia Woods shares that individuals from NAU Police Department can come into departments and provide a 90-minute active shooter safety training. Parliamentarian Claudia Rodas asks Provost Pugliesi about training for Statewide NAU Campuses. Provost Pugliesi responds by sharing that NAU PD can offer level one training to any statewide campus, but more integrative level two training would have to be organized by the police department that oversees the campus.
- The Faculty Senate will set up a special senate meeting without administrators, where Senate members can ask questions and have an open discussion regarding issues on campus.
- Senate President Kate Ellis will not be able to attend Fall Commencement. Senate Vice President, Blue Brazelton, and Ex-Officio, Gioia Woods, will fill her place in the upcoming ceremonies.

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 Vice President, Blue Brazelton, shares that internal senate elections have been completed. Following the internal elections, Vice President Brazelton will be

reaching out to colleges to fill vacant senate seats. The Elections Committee will also plan to host “Interest Sessions” to try and interest more individuals in the Faculty Senate.

- Chair of the Council on Learning, John Tingerthal, shares that the Council will have three non-senate at-large members this year. The following individuals who have been invited are Patricia Murphey, Lou Cirelli, and Rebecca Maniglia.

5. Curricular Processes – Kerry Thompson & Yvonne Luna

Kerry Thompson & Yvonne Luna present proposed changes to the current curricular process.

- Kerry Thompson & Yvonne Luna shares a proposal with the FSEC prior to the meeting surrounding the current senate-charged committees. This proposal states the current challenges surrounding the lengthy curricular process and makes suggestions for how to develop a more efficient timeline.
- To provide context, the senate-charged committees are an integral part of the current curricular process, and each proposal is reviewed and approved by each committee. Due to the number of committees and current structure, this process does take an extended period of time.
- Kerry Thompson shares that these committees often overlap in responsibilities, have unclear lines of authority, and create fragmented review processes where uneven application of standards could occur.
- With multiple committees, there is an extremely large number of faculty hours that go into the curricular process. The goal is to reduce the number of faculty hours needed by restructuring the senate-charged committees.
- The proposed changes are:
 - Consolidate committees to reduce duplication.
 - Strengthened roles for College Curriculum & Assessment Committees.
 - Include Advising & Program Coordinators in the current process.
 - Implement Ad hoc accreditation groups as needed.
- Kerry Thompson shares that with these changes it is vital that we continue our commitment to our inclusive perspective courses and proposals. These values will be upheld by the General Studies Subcommittee in the curricular process.
- Ex-Officio Gioia Woods shares that these processes are important, and these proposals should be deliberated by internal senate subcommittees. FSEC member-at-large, Karen Jarratt Snider, suggests that all senate-charged committee chairs be brought in for a discussion surrounding this proposal, as she states that some of the proposed changes may not increase efficiency.
- Kerry Thompson responds to these requests by agreeing and sharing that all faculty should have a chance to review this.
- Blue Brazelton raises concerns surrounding the proposed consolidation of the University Graduate Committee, as it is important that we distinguish the differences between undergraduate and graduate curriculum.
- Senate President Ellis charges the Council on Learning and Rights and Responsibilities to review these proposals and bring recommendations back to the FSEC.

6. NSSE/FSSE – Roger Bounds

Vice Provost Roger Bounds shares the results of the NSSE & FSSE Survey.

- For context, the FSSE & NSSE are two surveys that were distributed out to faculty & Students in previous years.
- After the results were collected, a taskforce was put together to examine these results and share what NAU could learn from them.
- Some key takeaways were:
 - Affinity for the university rose from a student's first year to their senior year.
 - First year students reported more positive interactions with university advising compared to seniors.
 - Faculty reported higher levels of critical evaluation and reflective learning in their upper division courses while students did not.
 - Student reported higher collaboration and diverse discussions than faculty believed there had.
 - Students reported that they would like more discussion on how classroom materials and assignments relate to potential careers.
 - Students reported that they spend more time preparing for class than faculty believe they do.
- Vice Provost Bounds mentions the importance of intentionality and describing those intentions to their students.
- Provost Pugliesi suggests that the FSEC shares this report with their colleagues, then the Council on Learning can examine and create actionable items.

7. Undergraduate Student Attendance Policy Task Force – Kate Ellis

Co-Chair of the Undergraduate Student Attendance Policy Task Force, Kate Ellis, facilitates a discussion surrounding the work of the Task Force.

- The Undergraduate Student Attendance Policy Task Force worked throughout AY24-25 and came up with a suggestion to eliminate Attendance Cliff Policies. These are policies that state, if a student were to miss a set number of classes, they would automatically fail the course.
- Concerns were raised regarding this suggestion, as there are many different labs and group-based courses that require attendance to ensure the learning outcomes are met. FSEC Secretary, Miriam Espinoza, shares concerns about her Nursing students, as they require a certain number of in-class clinical hours to pass certain courses.
- To provide more context on the suggestion, faculty members would still be able to have assignments that students would need to attend class to complete and earn points. They would just be unable to fail a student based solely on an attendance threshold.
- Vice President Brazelton shares that he is not in support of this policy, as there already seems to be the creation of workarounds, and the prospective “fixes” to the problems that this policy would create lead to additional busy work for faculty and students.
- Provost Pugliesi suggests the creation of a set of best practices for attendance policies that could be shared with faculty and better create uniformity across NAU.

8. General Studies Program – Emily Manone

General Studies Program Director, Emily Manone, provides an update regarding the General Studies Program.

- For context, the General Studies Program launched this Fall, 2025.
- As conducted in previous years, NAU, U of A, and ASU, organize a Tri University General Education Assessment. This assessment focuses on written communication, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and American Institution Civics. An internal report for NAU will be drafted and shared with the Senate in Spring. This year, they are reporting on American Institutions and Civics to the Board.
- The General Studies Program Alignment Project will continue for the upcoming year, and in-person Workshops are offered throughout the Fall semester.
- General Studies Director Emily Manone encourages the Senate to provide feedback on the roll-out of the new program.

9. Provost Report – Karen Pugliesi

Provost Karen Pugliesi gives the provost report.

- Provost Karen Pugliesi thanks all faculty who attended the Regent's Breakfast last month.
- Last week, NAU received approval from the Higher Learning Commission regarding their Bachelor of Professional Studies degrees.
- NAU administration has been collaborating with campus partner Sodexo, about potentially developing a hospitality administration degree.
- In preparation for the upcoming accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission, NAU will continue to work on sharpening the General Studies Programs and Assessments.
- The provost office will continue to work on degree program expectations and conceptualizing how to frame learning outcomes throughout programs.
- Provost Pugliesi urges FSEC members to share information regarding the Regent's cup with their colleagues and students. Students that participate in the Regent's Cup have opportunities to win scholarships and create valuable connections.
- The College of Arts & Letters (CAL) will be completing a dean search this month. The Franke College of Business (FCB) will be organizing a dean search at the end of the academic year.
- The FSEC has a discussion surrounding the Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education.

10. New Business/ Old Business/ Adjourn – Kate Ellis

The meeting is adjourned at 4:51pm.