

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 18th, 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, Karen Pugliesi, Jose Luis Cruz Rivera, John Georgas, Carmin Chan, Uri Farkas, Blue Brazelton, Juliana Suby, Miriam Espinoza, Claudia Rodas, Luis Fernandez, Karen Jarratt Snider, KT Thompson, Lisa Bliss, Jill Navran.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis

The 8/18 Agenda is voted on and **approved**. The 4/7 FSEC meeting minutes are voted on and approved.

3. Q&A with NAU President – Jose Luis Cruz Rivera

NAU President, Jose Luis Cruz Rivera, provides an update to the FSEC & answers questions.

- President Cruz Rivera thanks the FSEC for their leadership.
- He shares that the focus for this year is to work on enduring external forces and finding a way to strengthen NAU.
- NAU has created a five-year projection that we will use to plan the allocation of our resources.
- President Cruz Rivera acknowledges difficulties surrounding international student visas and shares that Student Affairs has been working to accommodate this population.
- He also shares that NAU cannot continue to increase tuition, and that the administration will examine non-personnel expenses to alleviate budget deficits.
- NAU will continue their commitment to increasing compensation for university employees.
- The Northern Arizona Artificial Intelligence Futures Alliance is a group created by NAU, Coconino Community College, Flagstaff United School District, Coconino County, and the city of Flagstaff, that will allow collaboration amongst these groups surrounding AI.
- Senator At-Large, Karen Jarratt-Snider, raises concern about the environmental issues that Generative AI brings. President Cruz Rivera acknowledges this concern and says that Administration will keep this in mind.
- President Cruz Rivera address the confusion regarding the use of Generative AI in an academic setting, and shares that with the creation of new groups, NAU will be able to better provide structure and suggestions to faculty.
- Senate Vice President, Blue Brazelton, suggests the importance of celebrating faculty and their work. He shares that it would be beneficial to start up a program that recognizes faculty for the work they do.
- President Cruz Rivera reiterates that NAU will continue to uphold their values to support student learning outcomes.

- Senate President, Kate Ellis, suggests that President Cruz Rivera host Q&As throughout the semester to provide guidance and information to faculty members.
- President Cruz Rivera shares his excitement for the 4,000-5,000 new freshman students that are moving on campus this week.

4. IAC & FAR – Uri Farkas

Vice President for Athletics, Uri Farkas, provides information surrounding the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (IAC).

- Senate President Ellis shares that there has been confusion about the IAC, as last year we could not locate their bylaws. She learned that the bylaws were with the Athletic director. The bylaws state that the IAC is charged by the President, and not the Faculty Senate.
- Vice President Uri Farkas shares that in his research, there was great confusion surrounding the IAC, and whether the committee is needed.
- Provost Pugliesi mentions that initial concerns about the charge of this committee were presented last year by the University's General Counsel.
- She also shares that the NCAA does not require an IAC committee for Universities, and ASU & U of A do not have an IAC.
- Provost Pugliesi suggests that informing faculty of collegiate athletics is important, but that it can be done outside of the IAC. This information leads to a diminished need for the committee.
- Senator At-Large, Karen Jarratt Snider, suggests that the FSEC reach out to NAU's Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), as she is involved with the committee.
- Provost Pugliesi shares that the IAC Bylaws do not align with the current university policies.

5. Senate President's Report – Kate Ellis

Senate President, Kate Ellis, provides her report.

- The FSEC will be meeting on Wednesday, 8/20, to discuss senate priorities for the upcoming year.
- The Senate will continue to work on the Student Attendance Policy and Student Opinion Surveys.

6. 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 he is organizing senate elections and will communicate with the senate about open council and committee positions. He also suggests the potential of a Faculty Spotlight program that helps celebrate faculty and highlight faculty work.
- Chair of the Council on Faculty Rights & Responsibilities, Luis Fernandez, has been updated by previous Chair Michael Smith, and will continue the work of the council.

- Chair of the Council on Career Track Faculty Issues, Jill Navran, has begun consolidating the information that was collected last year about Career Track Faculty concerns. This information will be shared with the FSEC once organized.

7. **Online Exam Proctoring - Carmin Chan**

Vice Provost Carmin Chan provides an update on Online Exam Proctoring.

- Last year, NAU Online focused on several major topics concerning digital learning. One of the topics was evaluating the usage of remote proctoring tools. In the past, NAU used Honorlock as their proctoring platform. Over the years, the contract with Honorlock has increased in price, leading to a reevaluation of the effectiveness of this service.
- A group of individuals from across the university met and reviewed different Online Exam Proctoring options and made a recommendation to the administration of the best option.
- YuJa Verify was recommended from the task force as the best Online Exam Proctoring option for NAU. This option was approved by the provost office and the update went into effect last week.
- Faculty who have previously used Honorlock for their course were notified of this change via email.
- This product will be implemented in the Canvas Portal to help promote ease of use.

8. **Provost Report – Karen Pugliesi**

Provost Karen Pugliesi gives the provost report.

- Provost Karen Pugliesi shares that NAU is preparing for the comprehensive evaluation from the Higher Learning Commission in 2027. One aspect that has been focused on is degree program expectations and assessment of learning.
- Provost Pugliesi acknowledges the difficulty faced by international students and shares that they have been working on supporting this population.
- Additional Career Professionals have been hired for colleges that have not previously had them to continue the support of the 100% Career Ready Initiative.
- The Lumberjack Academic Leadership Day occurred last week and was a success.
- Provost Pugliesi reiterates NAU's commitment to increasing compensation for faculty and staff.
- Provost Pugliesi shares more information on NAU's budget. This year the administration will continue to work with university leadership and college deans on the budget.
- Provost Pugliesi mentions the importance of streamlining our own bureaucracy so that faculty and staff can make the best use of their time. For example, streamlining the Curriculum Review Process so that it takes less time and energy.
- Discussions about ideas that would increase university revenue will continue throughout the year.
- Provost Pugliesi shares that university leadership will continue to review the design of our degree programs to ensure that we are adapting to the changes in the world.

- Previous Chair of the Council on Faculty Rights & Responsibilities, Michael Smith, suggested a Book Club for a book about on AI. This book club will be supported by the provost office this Fall.
- The provost will continue to have Q&As throughout the year, these dates will be shared amongst the Faculty Senate.
- Vice Provost John Georgas speaks about the IAAAI, which is a group that will work to bring alignment and cohesion to faculty members about AI in the classroom. This group will look at places where the integration of AI in curriculum makes sense, and where it does not make sense at NAU. Recruitment for positions in the IAAAI will occur over the coming weeks.
- Provost Pugliesi shares the continued support to NAU's research faculty amongst the federal changes to grants. Vice Provost Roger Bounds shares that any faculty impacted by these changes should reach out to him.

9. New Business/ Old Business/ Adjourn – Kate Ellis
The meeting is adjourned at 5:08pm.