

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes August 25th, 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, Blue Brazelton, Kyle Winfree, Juliana Suby, Andrea Trujillo Lerner, Corey Oshikoya, Maiah Jaskoski, Gina Nabours, John Georgas, Hillary Stowell, Roger Bounds, Michael Smith, Meghan McDowell, Luis Fernandez, Jerry Thull, Gioia Woods, John Tingerthal, Christina Baze, Nick McKay, Carmin Chan, Marco Cabera Geserick, David Castellano, Laurie Dickson, Rachel Starks, Kevin Tague, Shelly Thomas, Claudia Rodas, Hayley Root, Aimee Quinn, Jessie Finch, Samantha Clifford, Jasmine Garani, Seafha Ramos, Sara Maier, Lisa Bliss, Jennifer Duis, Kathleen Carpenter, Miriam Espinoza, Colleen Ross, Igor Steinmacher, Jose Cruz Rivera, Abby Fisher, Jenny Holzapfel, Okim Kang, Karen Jarratt-Snyder, Bradie Reiner, Theresa Carlson, Ashley Vaughan, Jill Navran, Natasha Dmitrieva, Donna Shillington, Jane Marks, Bettie Coplan, Kristin Greenwalt, Karl Krotke Crandall, Chris Sthultz.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis

The 8/18 Agenda is voted on and **approved**. The 4/21, 4/28, 6/2, and 7/7, Senate 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 Senate & answers questions.

- President Cruz Rivera thanks the Faculty Senate for their leadership.
- He shares three focuses for the upcoming year:
 - Strategic Finance
 - Generative AI
 - Adapting to state and federal policy changes.
- The Flagstaff Mountain Campus received a report of someone who possessed a firearm in Cline Library. University protocols were enacted, and no individual was found. The FBI is now investigating the report that was submitted.
- President Cruz Rivera reports that due to federal changes, the federal HSI program will likely be discontinued. NAU will continue to adapt to changes in grant funding.
- President Cruz Rivera shares the importance of shifting the mindset of “doing more with less,” to “doing more of what is important.”
- Senator Christina Baze shares her concern about the use of Generative AI and how it could replace faculty members, especially with NAU reducing the hiring of new faculty. President Cruz Rivera responds that faculty are extremely important to NAU and will not be replaced, but instead AI will be leveraged to improve student learning outcomes.
- President Cruz Rivera shares the biggest challenges that NAU faces today:

- Demographic cliffs
- Increased competition
- High costs of living in Flagstaff
- Growth of online programs
- Cuts in federal government spending
- President Cruz Rivera acknowledges difficulties surrounding international student visas and shares that Student Affairs has been working to accommodate this population.
- Over the past weekend, reconciliation had been done in NAU's data systems that showed that 900 more students are enrolled at NAU than we previously thought.
- FSEC Member at Large, Juliana Suby, mentions the concerns of increasing class sizes and how it could negatively impact student learning outcomes. Provost Pugliesi responds by giving credit to the excellent faculty at NAU who have increased student learning outcomes in larger class sections, and shares that we can work on improving the larger class experience for students.
- Senate President, Kate Ellis, suggests that President Cruz Rivera engage in Q&As throughout the semester and year to help provide guidance and information to faculty members and is invited to attend Senate meetings.

4. **Senate President's Report – Kate Ellis**

Senate President, Kate Ellis, provides her report.

- Senate President, Kate Ellis, will be offering a new Senator Orientation on Friday, 8/29. New senators who can't attend will be sent notes.
- Senate President Ellis shares what the senate will work on this year:
 - Student opinion surveys
 - Undergraduate attendance policies
 - Rollout of the Inclusive Excellence in Teaching and Teaching Portfolio Guide
 - Examination of the current curricular processes
- All senators have been invited to a breakfast with the vice presidents of the university. This breakfast will be on 9/5. The focus of this breakfast is to give faculty an outlet to share their work with administrators. The theme for this year's breakfast is *career readiness*.
- Senate President Ellis shares the priority of communication for this upcoming year as we all need to communicate more effectively.
- Senate President Ellis shares that the Senate office will schedule a Faculty Forum which is an opportunity for open discussion amongst faculty without the presence of administration.
- At the end of the meeting, college caucuses will meet and will select a lead representative. The goal of convening college caucuses is to increase communication between colleges, deans, and the Senate.
- Ex-Officio, Gioia Woods, suggests that the administration release more information about the website changes as many faculty members have been negatively affected by these changes.

- Senate Vice President, Blue Brazelton, shares that he is a faculty wellness fellow, and will be sharing information with the senate on how we can better support student and staff wellness.
- Chair of the Council on Learning, John Tingerthal, suggests a Senate Bulletin where non-senators can be updated on the work of the senate.

5. 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 internal elections and will communicate with the senate about open council and committee positions.
- 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 senate once organized.

6. 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 on digital learning. Four of the topics were evaluating the usage of remote proctoring tools. In the past, NAU used Honorlock as the proctoring platform. Over the years, the contract with Honorlock has increased in price, leading to a reevaluation of the sustainability of this service.
- Vice Provost, Carmin Chan, shares a [link](https://nau.service-now.com/kb?id=4744f414dbbb8010ab4696a9db961917&id=kb_article_view&sysparm_rank=1&sysparm_tsqueryId=d8201c1ec3a7ea10f7eaf4fdd40131b2) that provides information on how to use the new proctoring tool. (https://nau.service-now.com/kb?id=4744f414dbbb8010ab4696a9db961917&id=kb_article_view&sysparm_rank=1&sysparm_tsqueryId=d8201c1ec3a7ea10f7eaf4fdd40131b2)
- 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 had previously used Honorlock for their course were notified of this change via email.
- This product will be implemented into the Canvas portal to help promote ease of use.
- The senate discusses the importance of exam proctoring in their courses, and shares that it has been difficult due to the short implementation time with a new tool.
- Vice Provost Chan shares that Yuja Verify needs additional time to be implemented with third-party education tolls such as Cengage, Wiley, and Pearson. These requests have been made to the Yuja Verify team and will happen shortly.

7. Provost Report – Karen Pugliesi

Provost Karen Pugliesi gives the provost report.

- Provost Pugliesi apologizes for the website transition, as many faculty have communicated current issues with the website. The provost office will be reaching out to programs that are under accreditation review to ensure that their website requests are fixed.
- She also apologizes for the short implementation time of the new online proctoring program, Yuja Verify.
- Cesar Flores has been appointed to take on the responsibilities of previous Vice Provost Yimin Wang in the International Affairs Department.
- Jesus Colmenares is the new Assistant Vice Provost for the 100% Career Ready Initiative. He will be working alongside Vice Provost Yvonne Luna.
- Provost Pugliesi restates the administration's commitment to strengthening our already excellent degree programs and how they are serving students after they graduate. This can be done by embracing the Inclusive Excellence in Teaching framework.
- Curricular complexity will continue to be worked on this year, so that we can ensure that students have a clear pathway forward at NAU.
- Provost Pugliesi addresses the sentiment that with fewer faculty at NAU than previous years, the current faculty will have a greater workload. She shares that although NAU has hired less faculty, the number of students and class sections have also decreased.
- Provost Pugliesi acknowledges the difficulty faced by international students and shares that they have been working on supporting this population. She also thanks NAU Online for their work and increased enrollment.
- 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 a list of programs that have had notable growth:
 - Business Analytics
 - Applied Behavior Analysis
 - Immersive Media & Games
 - Logistics & Supply Chain Management
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Doctor of Medical Science in Physician Assistance Studies
 - Politics & Law
 - Psychology
 - Doctor in Physical Therapy
 - Public Administration
 - School Psychology
- Provost Pugliesi shares more information about NAU's budget. She shares that this year the administration will continue to work with university leadership and college deans on the budget. There have been cuts made to non-personnel budgets.

- 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 surrounding ideas that would increase university revenue will continue throughout the year.
- Provost Pugliesi celebrates the launch of the General Studies Program.
- Previous Chair of the Council on Faculty Rights & Responsibilities, Michael Smith, has suggested a book based on AI for the Book Club. This book club will be supported by the provost office this Fall.
- Vice Provost John Georgas speaks about the IAAAI, which is a group that will work to bring alignment and cohesion to faculty members regarding AI in the classroom. This group will look at places where the integration of AI in curriculum makes sense, and where it doesn't make sense at NAU. Recruitment for positions in the IAAAI will be happening over the coming weeks.

8. New Business/ Old Business/ Adjourn – Kate Ellis
The meeting is adjourned at 5:00pm.