

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

November 3rd, 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, Melissa Griffin, Kerry Thompson, Jill Navran, Gioia Woods

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis

The 11/3 Agenda is voted on and **approved**. The 9/8 and 10/6 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 she hopes to attend the ABOR meeting in Tucson in two weeks. If she is unable to attend, Vice President Blue Brazelton or Ex-Officio Gioia Woods will attend to represent NAU.

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.

- Chair of the Council on Learning, John Tingerthal, shares that the Council has been meeting with various administrators across campus regarding the integration of the Teaching Portfolio Guidelines. Teaching Academy members will share information with their departments, and Chair Tingerthal will present at different departments.
- Chair of the Council on Career Track Faculty Issues, Jill Navran, provides a report developed from feedback collected at a Career Track open forum event in Spring 2025. The survey had a response rate of over 25% of career track faculty providing feedback. Career track faculty expressed frustration about the lack of compensation and recognition of workload, as often career track faculty teach intro level courses with high numbers of students. Annual contracts present the appearance of job insecurity for career track faculty, which pushes them away from NAU to try and look for more stable positions, leading to high turnover. Career track faculty do express gratitude for the university's efforts to increase compensation for this group. The council asks for more clarity and transparency about changes to policies that would impact career track faculty. A written summary of this report will be shared with the FSEC & administration.

5. Proposed Curriculum Committee Reconfiguration – FSEC Members

The FSEC discusses the proposed Curriculum Committee changes.

- Various Senate Councils & Committees were tasked to review and discuss the proposed Curriculum Committee changes. The consensus of these groups was that any changes to curriculum committees should be developed from a ground-up process, instead of a top-down process.
- The FSEC discusses next steps due to the need for changes to the curriculum review process.
- Member at-large, Karen Jarratt Snider, suggests that the FSEC meet with the co-chairs of the senate-charged curriculum committees, as well as the college curriculum committees. We then could find where the process is inefficient and suggest changes that would reduce the time needed for courses to be approved. She also shares that it is important to continue the current steps of the process, as they ensure that students' outcomes are properly met in course design.
- Senate President Ellis shares the importance of having the provost office involved with these discussions, as they can share whether developed plans can be implemented.
- Member at-large, Karen Jarratt Snider, shares that part of the problem is the lack of software that can be used to increase the efficiency of this process. Currently, senate-charged curriculum committees communicate via email and spreadsheets. This communication and documentation style has led to many delays throughout the process.
- Senate President Ellis schedules a meeting for the coming week with curriculum committee chairs to discuss potential changes and current delays in the curricular process.

6. Assessment Processes – Kerry Thompson & Yvonne Luna

Kerry Thompson & Yvonne Luna present the current assessment process & recommendations.


- Kerry Thompson shares that NAU spends a great deal of time on curricular design and editing and spends much less time when developing and improving assessments for programs. She recommends changes to streamline the process by simplifying the current requirements.
- She recommends the following changes:
 - Reduce the length of Program Purpose Statements.
 - Reduce the number of Student Learning Outcomes.
 - Simplify the current Curriculum Map for each program.
 - Change the structure of Assessment Reporting to focus on use of results.
 - Continue to strengthen the understanding of student learning trends.
- Kerry Thompson shares general timeline that she hopes programs can improve aspects of their assessment process by.
 - Mid Spring 2026: Program Profiles
 - Late Spring 2026: Evidence of Learning Plans
 - May 2026: Annual Improvement Briefs
- Senate Vice President, Blue Brazelton, shares that when faculty are overwhelmed due to workload, assessment is often the first item to be cut out. He suggests that the

provost office look at ways to empower faculty to work on and improve assessment which could be facilitated by allowing additional SOE time.

- Provost Pugliesi shares the importance of assessment prior to NAU's upcoming comprehensive review by the Higher Learning Commission in AY27-28.

7. Health Promotions – Melissa Griffin

Leaders of different campus health programs present information about their roles and how they support students, staff, and faculty.

- Melissa Griffin shares the following PowerPoint from Campus Health:  [CHS PPT 25-26.pptx](#)
- Campus Health has partnered with 12 faculty to support and create the conditions for well-being in the classroom.
- The Health & Learning Center (HLC) on campus offers holistic care for staff and students at NAU. The HLC has a full-service medical clinic that can provide chronic care, acute care, urgent care, women's care, and behavioral care. The HLC offers psychiatric support and counseling services to both staff and students.
- Counseling Services provides counseling to students. Employee Assistance and Wellness is a program that provides counseling and wellness opportunities for faculty and staff members.
- Counseling Services also provides many resources, from 24/7 phone lines to peer groups. These resources can be found at: [NAU Counseling Services | Campus Health Services](#)
- Information on these resources is shared with new students via email and at orientations.

8. Provost Report – Karen Pugliesi

Provost Karen Pugliesi gives the provost report.

- Provost Karen Pugliesi clarifies information about the sunseting of the Commissions. Vice President Justin Mallett will continue to work with the individuals in the Commissions regarding next steps. Provost Pugliesi clarifies that Commission Co-Chairs were notified of these changes at the start of the Fall semester. The Faculty Senate will continue to facilitate discussion on this topic in future meetings.
- Provost Pugliesi thanks the FSEC for participating in Book Discussions and AI Panels across campus.
- Provost Pugliesi discusses the current government shutdown and how it is impacting grant funding at NAU. The NAU Office of Research will continue to monitor the situation and respond to any departments affected.
- NAU has terminated their partnership with the Chinese University CQUP. There are two faculty currently located at this university who have been notified. After the semester, they will return to Flagstaff to teach in Sanghi College of Engineering.
- Vice Provost John Georgas will be presenting a new program that allows students to pay a one-time fee at the beginning of the semester which will grant them access to all required class textbooks and materials.

- NAU will be working to develop strategies to generate more revenue over summer sessions.
- NAU has begun to look at a “reverse transfer” program where students who are unable to complete a bachelor’s degree at NAU can transfer course credits to Community Colleges in hopes of getting an associate’s degree.
- Elevate, NAU’s Fundraising campaign, will be launching on Saturday, 11/8/25.

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

The meeting is adjourned at 5:10pm.