

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
January 5th, 2026**

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, Roger Bounds, Kerry Thompson, Justin Mallett, Miriam Espinoza, Blue Brazelton, John Tingerthal, Jill Navran, Luis Fernandez, Hillary Stowell, Lisa Bliss, Laura Umphrey, Viacheslav Fofanov.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis

The 1/5/26 Agenda is voted on and **approved**. The 11/3/25 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 ASNAU will bring two resolutions to the Faculty Senate in February.
- The FSEC sent a letter to NAU's President, Jose Luis Cruz Rivera, regarding the sunseting of the Commissions. The FSEC received a letter back from the President and discuss their initial reactions to his letter. Further information will be discussed with Vice President Justin Mallett in agenda item 6.
- Senate President Ellis shares that there will be continued discussion surrounding the roles of faculty in shared governance.
- On Wednesday, 1/14, the Faculty Senate will be hosting an Open House. This is an opportunity for faculty members to speak with senate leadership and ask any questions or voice concerns.
- Senate Parliamentarian, Claudia Rodas, will be working to set up a "Bylaws 101" meeting where senators can learn more about Senate Bylaws.

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 he has begun preparation for the upcoming senate elections in Spring.
- The Council on Career Track Faculty Issues will be meeting with Provost Pugliesi to discuss the results of a Career Track Faculty Survey collected last year.
- Faculty Senate Treasurer, Lisa Bliss, volunteers to chair the Faculty Senate Scholarship Committee this year.

5. Curricular Processes – Kerry Thompson

Kerry Thompson discusses proposed changes to the current curricular process.

- Kerry Thompson & the FSEC met with the chairs of the college and senate-charged curriculum committee chairs prior to Winter Break.
- Senate President Ellis shares that there was a request to put together a task force to look at the current curricular process and discuss potential solutions.
- Miriam Espinoza suggests that faculty who write and revise curriculum should be involved in the task force.
- Kerry Thompson shares that there is confusion surrounding what are the goals in changing the curricular process. Senate President Ellis shares that faculty are proud of the current robust review system. She shares that associate Dean's express frustration surrounding the rotation of members on college curriculum committees. Kerry responds by stating that in keeping the robust review process, there will be very few areas to cut down the time it takes to review a proposed course.
- Kerry Thompson also shares the importance of creating time for assessment, as portions of our academic accreditation hinge on assessment.
- Vice President Brazelton shares how NAU's culture has placed less importance on assessment in the past, and it will be vital to shift this culture toward faculty participation in assessment.
- Kerry Thompson also shares that the forms related to the curriculum process need to be reviewed and edited.
- Senate President Ellis states that she will convene one task force to review this process.

6. Engagement Opportunities with the Inclusive Advisory Board – Justin Mallett

Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, Justin Mallett, answers questions surrounding the new Inclusive Advisory Board.

- For context, NAU President, Jose Luis Cruz Rivera, intends to establish the Inclusive Excellence Advisory Board. This structure would function like the current advisory board structure on campus, like the University Budget Advisory Board. The Faculty Senate will be asked to have representatives on this board.
- In Spring, there will be listening sessions where faculty can learn about the developing structure and provide feedback. Senate President Ellis recommends that commission members have increased opportunity to share their opinions and voices in the scheduled listening sessions. Vice President Mallett shares that many different groups across campus will have opportunities to share their feedback, including the commission members, ASNAU, SAC, etc.
- Vice President Mallett shares that he has partnered with Cline Library to properly document and archive the work that the commissions have accomplished.
- Vice President Mallett provides information surrounding our sister institutions, as they operate differently compared to NAU.
- Vice President Mallett shares information regarding different local advocacy groups in Flagstaff.

7. Senate Priorities for Spring - FSEC

The FSEC discusses Senate priorities for the Fall Semester.

- Senate Vice President, Blue Brazelton, recommends the creation of a task force to look at senate-charged committees.

8. Provost Report – Karen Pugliesi

Provost Karen Pugliesi gives the provost report.

- Provost Pugliesi announces that the provost office has hired a new dean for the College of Education and has begun a search for the next dean of the Franke College of Business.
- NAU was approved for a new location in Singapore and will be working to create three new programs to offer at the new location.
- Provost Pugliesi shares the importance of NAU's enrollment and financial position for the upcoming years.
- NAU President Cruz Rivera will be in communication with the FSEC regarding upcoming concerns and how NAU will respond and adapt to them.
- Vice Provost Roger Bounds discusses information surrounding current faculty compensation, CUPA benchmarks, and other factors that determine faculty salaries. More information regarding this topic will be shared with faculty in the future.

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

The meeting is adjourned at 5:11pm.