

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2nd, 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, John Georgas, Luis Fernandez, Blue Brazelton, John Tingerthal, Hillary Stowell, Michelle Parker, Justin Mallett, Michael Smith, Laura Umphrey, Jill Navran, Lisa Bliss, Karen Jarratt-Snider, Juliana Suby, Jill Navran, Claudia Rodas, Miriam Espinoza.

2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis**

The 2/2/26 Agenda is voted on and **approved**. The 1/5 FSEC Minutes will be sent out and voted on in March.

3. **Faculty Senate President Report – Kate Ellis**

Faculty Senate President, Kate Ellis, shares her report.

- Senate President Ellis shares that herself, Blue Brazelton, Claudia Rodas, & Kerry Thompson have been meeting to discuss the curricular process, and how to move forward with improving the current structure.
- The chair of the AFC, Elisa Kawam, will be sharing the AFC's report to ABOR this month.
- Faculty Senate Admin, Andrew Stevens, announces that he will be resigning from his position in late June to pursue an internship opportunity.

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.
- Senate Parliamentarian, Claudia Rodas, shares that the Bylaws Committee has begun to develop revisions for the Senate Bylaws regarding attendance and the use of substitutes when voting. A discussion regarding the proposed changes will occur in March.
- 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, shares that a letter will be sent out to faculty regarding senate dues. The payroll deduction for senate dues will occur on March 20th. She also shares an update from the University Budget Advisory Board.

5. Student Applications, Admit, and Acceptance Tableau & Funnel – John Georgas

Vice Provost, John Georgas, shares data regarding the current application, acceptance, and admission numbers for Fall of 2026.

- John Georgas presents the current numbers of applications for the Fall of 2026 and compares the numbers with previous years.
- John Georgas shares that there is a large dip in application due to partnerships, refinement in advertising, and other factors. In previous years, there were more applications, but less individuals who were admitted and accepted the offer.
- Vice Provost Georgas shares that he doesn't believe that the numbers presented are not a result of changes made to the website. He shares that there is a chance that we see these shifts in Fall 2027 applications and admissions due to students making decisions on college attendance much earlier than previous years.
- FSEC Member at Large, Karen Jarratt Snider, shares that the website changes have not been resolved in her department, and this is negatively impacting applications and admissions.
- Provost Pugliesi shares a published article regarding the Utah State University's admissions forecast. This forecast predicts a consistent decline in college admissions for the following years.
- Vice Provost John Georgas shares data regarding international student enrollment, and how it impacts graduate and undergraduate admissions data.

6. Student Opinion Surveys – Michael Smith

Chair of the Student Opinion Survey task force, Michael Smith, discusses recommendations to the FSEC.

- For context, there was a letter signed by 60+ faculty regarding student opinion surveys and how they can be biased toward specific populations. A task force was convened to look at these surveys and create recommendations for the Faculty Senate to review.
- The committee suggested the creation of a "best practices" document that can help faculty and students provide and retain the best feedback. The committee also recommends potentially creating a process where faculty can expunge abusive reviews from their record.
- Chair Smith shares that the committee also recommended a header viewable by students at the top of the survey that would help students provide useful feedback.
- Provost Pugliesi shares that mentioning bias in the header could potentially lead to more biased answers in the survey.
- The FSEC suggests that the section mentioning potential bias should be removed.
- Vice President Blue Brazelton shares that it may be valuable to meet with ASNAU representatives as they can provide context on the student perspective.

- The Faculty Senate will have a first read of this document in February, with a goal of voting on it in March or April.
- Vice Provost Roger Bounds shares that the redaction of abusive comments is possible, but there needs to be further discussion on whether it would be beneficial and how the process would take place.

7. **Campus Safety – Michelle Parker & Justin Mallett**

Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, Justin Mallett, and NAU's General Counsel, Michelle Parker, provide an update on campus safety.

8. **Provost Report – Karen Pugliesi**

Provost Karen Pugliesi gives the provost report.

- Provost Pugliesi announces that there will be upcoming changes to the University Governance and Operations Committee that is supported by ABOR. These changes will help streamline the processes of the committee.
- NAU will continue to focus on their statewide and online programs and the implications of a changing competitive market.
- NAU will also continue to work on examining and refining their program portfolio.
- The President's and Provost office will continue to work on research strategy as NAU is designated as a R1 university.
- The provost office finished reviewing 94 promotion and tenure cases last week.
- NAU will continue to review space utilization and deferred maintenance on campus. Administration has recognized that the university is not utilizing space as effectively as they could have and will be consolidating building infrastructure in the upcoming years. SBS West is one of the buildings that being considered and relocation options are being explored for faculty and staff located in this building. The provost office will be in contact with faculty and staff impacted by this change.

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

The meeting is adjourned at 5:06pm.