

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

April 27th, 2026

NAU University Union

Please email corrections to Faculty.Senate@nau.edu.

1. Call to order at 3 pm – Kate Ellis presiding

Those Attending In-Person: Kate Ellis, Michael Smith, John Tingerthal, Eric Breault, Karl Krorke-Crandall, Nick McKay, Seafha Ramos, Karen Jarratt Snider, Kathleen VanVlack, Diana Stuart, Jill Navran, Juliana Suby, Jasmine Garani, Jennifer Duis, Luis Fernandez, Meghan McDowell, Catherine Harpst, Jerry Thull, Gioia Woods, Emily Manone, Kyle Winfree, J Jay Barber, Corey Oshikoya, Karen Pugliesi, Roger Bounds, Melinda Miller, Andrew Stevens.

Those Attending Online: Marco Cabrera Geserick, Kevin Tague, Gavin Healy, Laurie Dickson, Abby Fisher, Gina Nabours, Shelly Thomas, Theresa Bierer, Holly Aungst, David Castellano, Shane Werts, Claudia Rodas, Brandie Riener, Ashley Vaughan, Lisa Bliss, Rachel Starks, Angie Hansen, Aimee Quinn, James Drake, Jessie Finch, Okim Kang, Blue Brazelton, Bettie Coplan, Christina Baze, Melissa Lawton, Miriam Espinoza, Kristin Greenwalt, Andrea Trujillo Lerner, Corrine McCawley, Sara Maier, Chris Sthultz, Natasha Dmitrieva, Samantha Clifford, Igor Steinmacher, Jenny Holzapfel, Cristina Conroy Castillo, Juliana Suby, Rachel Forte, Eesha Syeda, Bonita Switala, Deedee Perez-Granados, Colleen Ross, Mark Manone, Sara Rinfret, Kerry Thompson, Hillary Stowell, Melinda Treml, Nora Dunbar, Lynn Jones, Laura Bounds.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kate Ellis

The 3/27/26 Agenda was approved. The 3/23/26 Faculty Senate minutes were voted on and approved.

3. Faculty Senate President Report – Kate Ellis

Faculty Senate President, Kate Ellis, welcomed new senators and shared her report.

4. Council and Committee Reports

The chairs of the Career Track and Teaching councils and Budget committee shared reports.

5. Announcement: NAU Travel Teams lead Melinda Miller discussed Travel. NAU VP Laurie Dickson shared information concerning the upcoming HLC accreditation.

6. Senate Business

- I) Motion to endorse Student Opinion Task Force recommendations: Items B, C, & D of the Student Opinion Surveys: Approved, 39 yays, 1 nay.
- II) Motion to approve non-substantive clarifying CoFS changes that codify that comprehensive review documents not needed when P&T is being evaluated. Voting: 39 yays, 0 nays.
- III) Endorsement of ASNAU Resolution recommending an alternative teaching day the Wednesday before Thanksgiving: Approved, 30 yays, 9 nays.
- IV) Endorsement of ASNAU resolution regarding the Completion of the Fieldhouse Multipurpose Facility: Approved, 34 yays, 4 nays.
- V) Motion to amend Bylaws regarding voting at meetings: Option A – Designated Proxy Voting at Meetings, 21 votes of approval; Option B- Pre-Submitted Vote to Admin & Secretary, 17 votes of approval. Neither option was adopted (2/3 vote is required for Bylaws changes).

7. Announcement of Faculty Senate leadership election results

President: Michael Smith, Vice President: Luis Fernandez, Treasurer: Lisa Bliss, Secretary: Corey Oshikoya, Parliamentarian: Emily Manone, Senators-at-Large: Karen Jarratt Snider & Juliana Suby, Chair of Council on Learning: Kyle Winfree, Chair of Council on Faculty Rights & Responsibilities: Samantha Clifford, Chair of Career Track Council: Jill Navran, Chair of Council on Statewide & Online: Miriam Espinoza

8. Discussions with NAU President Cruz Rivera and Provost Pugliesi

9. Adjourned at 5 pm on 4/27/2026 – By incoming Faculty Senate President Michael Smith