Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2026
NAU University Union

1. **Call to order at 3 pm – Michael Smith presiding, Corey Oshikoya secretary**
   Senators Attending In-Person: Carie Steele, Christina Baze, Christopher Sthultz, Corey Oshikoya, Diana Stuart, Deb Huntzinger, Emily Manone, Eric Breault, Gina Nabours, Gretchen McAllister, J Jay Barber, Jack Hallin, Jasmine Garani, Jerry Thull, Jill Navran, Karen Jarratt Snider, Karl Krotke-Crandall, Kathleen Van Vlack, Kevin Tague, Kristin Greenwalt, Kyle Winfree, Lisa Bliss, Luis Fernandez, Marco Cabrera Geserick, Michael Smith, Nick McKay, Okim Yang, Priscilla Sanderson, Rachel Starks, Samantha Clifford, Sara Maier, Shane Werts, Theresa Bierer
   Senators Attending Online: Ashley Vaughan, Bettie Coplan, Blue Brazelton, Brandie Reiner, Cristina Castillo, Hayley Root, Jenny Hozapfel, Joelly Labato de Faria, Mary Harmon, Meghan McDowell, Miriam Espinoza, Norma Clark, Seafha Ramos

2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Michael Smith**
   The 9/21/26 Agenda was approved by unanimous consent. The 8/31/26 Faculty Senate Minutes were corrected and approved by unanimous consent.

3. **Faculty Senate President Report – Michael Smith**
   The Faculty Senate President discussed recent HLC accreditation events, planning for group photo after next Senate meeting, ongoing Provost search, and the upcoming Campus Speech and Academic Freedom book club events and panel discussion.

4. **Council and Committee Reports**
   The chairs of the Nominations and Elections Committee announced the results of internal senate elections. The Chair of the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Council discussed staffing the Part Time Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Subcommittee, and the chair of the Career Track Council discussed recent and upcoming office hours and forum events.

5. **Provost Karen Pugliesi** discussed trends in enrollments, NAU President-led visioning and planning efforts, revision of the General Studies program, and changes to employee health care pricing and options and the financial effects of increasing health care costs on NAU, which include cuts to State funding. Also discussed was ongoing merger of Academic Affairs with the Vice President for Research's office. The Provost indicated that a working group was being assembled to try to come up with a new plan for a less complex and more interchangeable General Education program at NAU co-chaired by Learning Council chair Kyle Winfree and Yvonne Luna, with an expectation that the plan(s) be presented to the Faculty Senate for endorsement in the Spring semester. The Provost took several questions from Senators, primarily focused on the details and process of the proposed General Studies revision. *General Studies Director Emily Manone* explained that in light of the revision process that no further General Studies course proposals would be accepted for review, and assessment efforts for General Studies would be paused.

6. **Senate Business**
   I) A motion to authorize spending approximately $3500 of Senate funds to send a delegation of 10 Senators drawn at random to NAU Yuma for a Faculty Senate meeting on February 22. Costs to be shared with Academic Affairs. Cost to Senate funds includes travel for 5 Senators by van to and from Yuma ($1000), hotel rooms ($1500), and ME&I ($1000) was approved.

   II) Motion to adopt a resolution addressing the Academic Affairs charge to revise the General Studies requirements and the process of making those revisions was referred to the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Council for further crafting.

   III) A motion to charge a Redesigning Together ad-hoc committee to be chaired by Faculty Senate Vice President Luis Fernandez was introduced.

7. Presentations from NAU Campus Health concerning available services for faculty and students.

8. Introduction and greetings from ASNAU President Jacob Orduño

9. **Adjourned at 5:03 pm on 9/21/2026 – Michael Smith**