

Faculty Senate Minutes

January 13th, 2026; CB 104 & Teams, 2:30-4:30 PM

Call to Order; Silent Roll Call (0 min.)

[session start time 2:30]

Present:

Senator (S), ExCo (E), Other Non-Voting Member (O), Designee (D)

Abbie Fisher (E)	Doug Czajka (S)	Kat Brown (E)	Noelle Taylor (E)
Abdennour Seibi (S)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Laurie Toro (E)	Nyree-Dawn Nichols (S)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Erin Jones (S)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Paul Morrey (S)
Alma Laney (S)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Maria Blevins (S)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Matt Flint (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Brett Breton (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Carolyn Howard (S)	James Cox (S)	Matti Smith (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Chris Lindquist (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Max Aeschbacher (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Mel Gurr (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Craig Thulin (S)	John Cornell (S)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Tom Smith (S)
Dan Perry (S)	John Newman (S)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
Darin Eckton (S)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Tyler Schnese (S)
David Connolly (E)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Nicole Gearing (E)	Vince Rossi (S)
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)	Wayne Vaught (E)

Absent/Excused:

Deb Dowd (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Ron Miller (S)
Heather Thiesset (S)	Kevin Smith (S)		

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[2:30-2:30]

Approval of Previous Minutes (available in Faculty Senate teams/[website](#))

- Minutes stand approved

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught, Provost

[2:30-2:50]

- Office of AA Restructuring
 - Purpose is to improve agility and support for faculty, department chairs, and deans
 - New structure includes three divisions:
 - Faculty Affairs Administration (Kat Brown); will oversee faculty development, RTP policy, and teaching & learning responsibilities
 - Academic Programs and Assessment (TBD)
 - Academic Innovation (TBD)
 - National search is underway for the two vacancies
 - An updated organizational chart will be posted
- Budget Reduction Exercise
 - University anticipates a revenue decline requiring a 5% overall budget reduction, totally \$9 million, with AA responsible for \$3 million
 - Efforts will focus on reviewing open positions to determine which vacancies should remain unfilled
 - Concerns were raised about preserving academic quality

- Personnel cuts may involve full-time, part-time, and adjunct roles

DX Security Updates, Christina Baum, Nathan Gerber & Brian Hall

[2:50-3:15]

- **Banner Migration**
 - Acknowledged gaps in the communication and the need to broaden testing groups for future system migrations
- **Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Updates**
 - Following September 10th incident, have expanded cybersecurity measures, heightened monitoring, and ongoing FBI collaboration
 - Adjustments to the public directory were made to protect employee privacy

Faculty Research regarding 9/10/2025 & IRBs, Kat Brown & Dan Fairbanks

[3:15-3:25]

- Faculty can use public-facing data and resources, but institutional support for data requests and surveys is currently unavailable
- An FAQ or one-pager outlining the guidelines for faculty research will be provided

Policy

- **Introduce**
 - [633 Faculty Performance Evaluation & Feedback \(Kat Brown\)](#) [3:25-3:30]
 - Limited-Scope revision

Non-Policy Items, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[3:30-4:10]

- **Senate President & Vice President Elections**
 - Elections will be open on Monday, January 19th (12am) – Friday, January 30th (11:59pm)
 - Check the [link](#) for the candidates' bios and CVs
- **Faculty Travel Grants**
 - About half of the funds for the year have been allocated for travel grants
 - Note department must match the amount of the grant
 - Check the [website](#) for instructions & guidelines
- **Curriculum Guidelines for 5000-level Courses, Jordan Allen & Steven Sylvester**
 - New guidelines were developed in response to changes in USHE policy
 - Guidelines address the transition from 3000 to 5000 level courses and the replacement of 6000 level courses with 5000 level
- **Workload Task Force**
 - Will address workload issues and develop a policy that accommodates the unique needs of different colleges/departments
 - Names were presented and ratified as listed
 - Motion to ratify: Alma Laney
 - 2nd: Maria Blevins
 - Vote: 29
- **PTR Task Force**
 - The RTP&A committee, plus 2 dean representatives, will develop a post-tenure review rubric
 - Goal is to have rubric approved by the end of Spring 2026 semester
 - Motion to ratify: Colleen Hough
 - 2nd: Alma Laney
 - Vote: 30

Good of the Order

[4:10-4:45]

- Closed session

Adjourn

[session end time 4:45]

- Meeting ended at 4:45pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 27th, CB 104 & Teams @ 2:30-4:30 PM

Announcements

No time allocated. Please review and send to your departments, as applicable.

Faculty Senate President & Vice President Voting: Voting will be open Monday, January 19th – Friday, January 30th. Please pass the word along to your faculty. <https://www.uvu.edu/facsenate/election/index.html>

Faculty Senate Email: Faculty Senate has a generic Faculty Senate email address: faculty senate@uvu.edu.

Provost Questions: If you would like to submit questions for the Provost to address at the next Senate meeting, please email faculty senate@uvu.edu.

Faculty Convocation Resource Fair: Any faculty who have an organization/group they'd like to have represented during the Resource Fair next Fall, please let [Cindy Wilkinson](#) know.

OTL: Our Web Pages Have Moved!

- You can now find the majority of our pages in myUVU Workplace. Things like our [Semester Preparation for Faculty](#), [Certificates & Events](#), [Accessible Course Content](#), and more now have a new home there! To navigate to the new pages, start on the myUVU home page, select departments in the top navigation bar, and find the OTL link under the Academic Affairs section.

[OTL MY UVU WORKPLACE SITE](#)

- **OTL Spring Certifications, Lunch & Learns** and other workshops are open for registration on the [OTL Certifications & Events](#) page

NEW: ONLINE TEACHING ACADEMY 2.0

[REGISTER FOR ONLINE TEACHING ACADEMY 2.0](#)

ONLINE TEACHING ACADEMY 2.0

The redesigned Online Teaching Academy (OTA) 2.0 offers a flexible, modular approach to professional development through a series of targeted micro-credentials.

Each module is designed to be completed in 4-6 hours, making it feasible for faculty to engage with meaningful training within a single semester, without the time commitment of a full 25-hour course. This structure accommodates the realities of faculty schedules while maintaining academic rigor and relevance. Faculty can choose modules that align with their immediate instructional needs, earning micro-credentials that recognize their expertise and progress.

Registrants are welcome to complete as many individual micro-credential modules for credit on the OTL transcript, but we recommend joining only 2 per semester. To be awarded the full Online Teaching Academy certificate,

instructors must complete the 3 required micro-credentials, as well as 3 more optional ones from the rest of the list Required for Full OTA 2.0 Certificate

- Online Course Design Fundamentals
- Developing Social Presence in an Online Course
- Robust Online Assessments

Additional Modules (Choose Three More for Full OTA 2.0 Certificate)

- Active Learning in Online Courses
- Fostering Teamwork Online
- Effective Online Feedback
- Advanced Topics in Online Teaching

Essential Elements of Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI)

Member Benefits through AdvanceHE for those who have received their HEA Fellowship
[Member Benefit Global Themes 2025-2026 - Ian 1 \(1\).pdf](#)

Spring Library Hours

The Fulton Library has new extended hours to help serve our patrons this spring semester. The hours are as follows:

- Monday–Thursday: 7:00–12:00 am
- Friday: 7:00 am–9:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am–6:00 pm
- Sunday: 1:00–8:00 pm

These extended hours give students extra time to study, collaborate, and access research materials as they prepare for exams and projects. Please remind your students that the library offers quiet study spaces, group study rooms, computer labs, and personalized research help from librarians. Whether they need a peaceful spot to focus or help with a final paper, the Fulton Library is here to support their success.

For an overview of hours and holiday closures, visit [the Fulton Library's website](#).