

Faculty Senate Minutes

January 27th, 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)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Nicolas Clark (S)
Abdennour Seibi (S)	Erin Jones (S)	Kat Brown (E)	Nicole Gearing (E)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Kevin Smith (S)	Nizhone Meza (E)
Alma Laney (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Noelle Taylor (E)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Heather Thiesset (S)	Laurie Toro (E)	Nyree-Dawn Nichols (S)
Brett Breton (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Paul Morrey (S)
Chris Lindquist (S)	James Cox (S)	Maria Blevins (S)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Matt Flint (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Dan Perry (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Matti Smith (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Darin Eckton (S)	John Cornell (S)	Max Aeschbacher (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
David Connelly (E)	John Newman (S)	Mel Gurr (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Jordan Allen (E)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Doug Czajka (S)			

Absent/Excused:

Carolyn Howard (S)	Tom Smith (S)	Tyler Schnese (S)	Vince Rossi (S)
Ron Miller (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

[2:30-2:40]

- **Commencement Participation & Dinner**
 - Encouraging tenure-track faculty to attend, but all faculty (non-tenure and part-time) are welcome
 - All faculty in attendance are invited to the dinner
- **Award Nominations**
 - Nominations for Provost-level awards, including the President Trustee award, are due this week
- **Presidential Search Committee**
 - President has announced she'll step down May 1st, a search committee has been announced; Evelyn will serve as faculty representative, with other members including board representatives, staff, and the student body president

Policy

- **Introduce**
 - [329- Telephone & Cellular Phone Usage](#) (Kedric Black)

[2:40-2:45]

- [406- Courtesy Vehicles](#) (*Kedric Black*)
- [203- Employee Fringe Benefits](#) (*Kedric Black*)
 - Bundled together as Policy 203
 - Emphasis placed on clarifying tax implications and improving readability
 - Green Bucks does not change under new policy
- [365- Consulting Leave](#) (*Drew Burke & Kat Brown*) [3:25-3:40]
 - Consolidated previous policies
 - Defines consulting as paid professional services outside UVU
 - Clarifies that it applies to full-time faculty, staff, and executives, but not adjuncts unless feedback suggests otherwise
 - Teaching as an adjunct at another institution outside regular UVU hours is governed by the Conflict of Interest policy, not Consulting Leave
- **Closing the Loop**
 - [637- Faculty Tenure](#) (*Kat Brown*) [2:45-3:25]
 - Reviewed the comments made to the policy steward(s) and their responses back
 - Emphasized need for clearer, more transparent processes, and better mechanisms for correcting errors

Non-Policy Items, Evelyn Porter, *Faculty Senate President*

- **Workload Task Force** [4:05-4:05]
 - Call to Ratify Matt Ballard, SCET
 - *In favor: 34*
 - Dean Representatives: Sue Jackson, Steven Clark, and Jim Godfrey
- **Health Insurance** [4:05-4:15]
 - Announced upcoming health insurance plan changes and asked for faculty input on whether access/choice or cost should be prioritized
- **Presidential Search Letter** [3:40-4:05; 4:15-4:30]
 - Reviewed letter drafted by ExCo
 - Emphasized the prioritization of shared governance and student-centered values

Adjourn

- Meeting ended at 4:30pm

[session end time 4:30]

Next Meeting: February 10th, 2026

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 Director of Academic Program Assessment Position: The Faculty Director of Academic Program Assessment provides faculty leadership and coordinates university-wide academic program assessment, ensuring it is systematic, sustainable, and focused on improving student learning and program quality. Key duties include, but are not limited to, faculty development, coordinating assessment efforts across colleges, reviewing annual assessment reports, and ensuring accreditation compliance. This role is supported by the Accreditation and Academic Assessment Office. The role receives a stipend of \$2,350 per month for the academic year and a \$4,000 summer payment, plus a \$10,000 annual budget for expenses. It is a renewable one-year appointment.

Reach out to [Justin Atkins](#) with questions or any interest. (801) 863-7549

3rd Annual Symposium on Teaching and Learning: *Joy in Teaching*, March 26–27, 2026

Discover fresh ideas, inspiring practices, and renewed purpose at UVU's 3rd Annual Symposium on Teaching and Learning, hosted by the Faculty Senate's Advancement of Teaching Committee in partnership with the Office of Teaching and Learning. This two-day virtual event brings faculty together to share experiences, explore innovative approaches, and reflect on the joy at the heart of teaching.

[Symposium Website](#)

[Submit Call for Proposal](#)

[Register for Symposium](#)

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

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