

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 10th, 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)	Kevin Smith (S)	Nyree-Dawn Nichols (S)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Erin Jones (S)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Paul Morrey (S)
Alma Laney (S)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Laurie Toro (E)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Brett Breton (S)	Heather Thiesset (S)	Maria Blevins (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Carolyn Howard (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Matt Flint (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Chris Lindquist (S)	James Cox (S)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Matti Smith (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Max Aeschbacher (S)	Tom Smith (S)
Dan Perry (S)	John Cornell (S)	Mel Gurr (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
Darin Eckton (S)	John Newman (S)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Tyler Schnese (S)
David Connelly (E)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Vince Rossi (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)	

Absent/Excused:

Jim Oldham (S) Nicole Gearing (E) Ron Miller (S)

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[2:30-2:35]

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

- Minutes stand approved

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught, Provost

[2:35-3:00]

- Provided updates on senior leadership searches (Dean of Engineering & Technology; Associate Provost roles) and encouraged faculty assistance in identifying candidates
- Promotion and tenure review process was discussed, with appreciation expressed for faculty and committee efforts
- Faculty raised questions regarding transparency and faculty involvement in ongoing academic decisions

Champions of UVU & Campus Climate Survey, Elisa Huhem, Program Director, Office of IEE

[3:00-3:10]

- Details on the Champions of UVU award program, including nomination categories and timelines
- The Spring 2026 Campus Climate Survey was announced, emphasizing anonymity, participation importance, and dashboard reporting
- Previous survey response rates were shared, and faculty were encouraged to promote participation among students

Policy

- **Comment/Discuss**

- [203](#) Employee Fringe Benefits (*Kedric Black*)

[3:10-3:20]

- No concerns/comments
 - [365](#) Consulting Leave & External Employment (*Drew Burke & Kat Brown*) [3:10-3:20]
 - Discussed ambiguity around consulting vs. external teaching and alignment with conflict-of-interest policy
 - Suggestions were made to clarify permissibility, summer work, and definitions
- **Vote**
 - [633](#) Faculty Performance Evaluation & Feedback (*Kat Brown*) [3:20]

VOTING RESULTS

37 agree, 0 disagree, 3 abstain

- **Follow-Up**
 - [637](#) Faculty Tenure (*Kat Brown*) [3:20-3:25]
 - Responses from policy stewards: changes to dates, rejected revise-and-resubmit period, and plans to develop department-level RTP criteria for early tenure applications

Non-Policy Items

- **Policy 639 Adjunct Faculty Drafting Committee** [3:25]
 - Call for nominations of faculty and chairs with adjunct experience to serve on the drafting committee
 - Emphasis placed on broad representation and practical experience
- **Commissioner Landward Update** [3:25-3:30]
 - Commissioner and TJ Bliss will be attending March 24th Senate meeting, which requires a change in meeting dates
 - Senators are encouraged to submit questions beforehand or come with questions
- **Center for Constitutional Studies** [3:30-3:50]
 - Faculty raised concerns regarding the proposal to make the Center for Constitutional Studies a standalone department
 - Discussion focused on funding sources, legislative influence, transparency, and impact on existing departments
 - Senate approved formation of a faculty committee/task force to gather feedback and provide recommendations
 - Motion to form a task force to provide feedback for CCS
 - Motion: *Jeff Packer*
 - 2nd: *Colleen Hough*

VOTING

29 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstain

- **President Search Committee Letter** [3:50-4:00]
 - Draft faculty letter outlining priorities for the next president was reviewed
 - Senators suggested reordering and condensing key points, emphasizing shared governance
 - General support was indicated, with revisions to continue before submission
 - Motion to support letter with proposed changes
 - Motion: *Craig Thulin*
 - 2nd: *Shelton Weech*

VOTING

34 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

- **Academic Freedom** [4:00-4:30]
 - Discussed the need for education and advocacy related to academic freedom
 - Challenges to faculty governance and communication under increasing legislative constraints
 - Strategies for improved faculty coordination and advocacy were shared such as contacting legislators from personal email accounts, coordinate advocacy efforts, and share information through department channels
 - Motion to seek AAUP consultation
 - Motion: *Sean Crossland*

- 2nd: *Alma Laney*

VOTING

31 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstain

Adjourn

[session end time 4:30]

- Meeting ended at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: February 24th; CB 104 & Teams 2:30-4:30pm

Announcements

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

Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill Endowed Fellowship

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill Endowed Fellowship is to support women scholars and their collaborators, scholars of any gender who mentor women students, or scholars of any gender whose work focuses on women.

1. *Women Scholars*: This category supports any scholarly or creative work conducted by a woman scholar on any topic. This category will also support collaborations and teams as long as the lead faculty member is a woman.
2. *Scholars Who Mentor Women Students*: This category supports any scholarly or creative work that will be carried out by one or more women students on any topic while under the direct supervision of one or more faculty mentors of any gender.
3. *Scholars Whose Work Focuses on Women*: This category supports any scholarly or creative work that focuses on women, broadly. This category will also support collaborations and teams including all scholars of any gender.

Please reach out to Maria Blevins with any questions (Maria.Blevins@uvu.edu)

Champions of UVU

- Champions of UVU (already live and accepting nominations): https://uvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bg827to0EGrxwb4?Source=SFNW
- Criteria for Champions of UVU Award: https://www.uvu.edu/engagement-and-effectiveness/docs/final_2026_champions_of_uvu_criteria.pdf

UVU Spring 2026 Campus Climate Survey

- Campus Climate Survey (opens Feb 11th): https://uvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9MLXiL14VrIHksC?Source=FS
- Will be open from Feb 11-March 6th

Presidential Search Feedback: To submit feedback to the Board with regards to the Presidential Search email UVUpresidentialsearch@ushe.edu or <http://ushe.edu/uvu-presidential-search-feedback>

3rd Annual Symposium on Teaching and Learning: *Joy in Teaching*, March 26–27, 2026 PROPOSALS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 20th

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 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.