

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 17th, 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)	Kevin Smith (S)	Noelle Taylor (E)
Abdennour Seibi (S)	Erin Jones (S)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Paul Morrey (S)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Laurie Toro (E)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Alma Laney (S)	Heather Thiesset (S)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Maria Blevins (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Brett Breton (S)	James Cox (S)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Chris Lindquist (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Matti Smith (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Max Aeschbacher (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Craig Thulin (S)	John Cornell (S)	Mel Gurr (S)	Tom Smith (S)
Darin Eckton (S)	John Newman (S)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
David Connelly (E)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Tyler Schnese (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Vince Rossi (S)
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)	

Absent/Excused:

Carolyn Howard (S)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Matt Flint (S)	Ron Miller (S)
Dan Perry (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Nicole Gearing (E)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Douglas Gardner (E)	Kat Brown (E)	Nyree-Dawn Nichols (S)	

Welcome & Updates, Sean Tolman, Faculty Senate Vice President

[2:30-2:35]

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

- Minutes stand approved

Policy

• Introduce

- [608](#) Internship Program Requirements & Implementation (*Nizhone Meza, Kat Brown*) [2:35-2:40]
 - Limited-Scope
 - Focuses on updating names, allowing remote internships, and extending the eligibility window for former employers
- [131](#) Email Distribution of Surveys (*Taylor Lovell*) [2:40-3:15]
 - New Policy
 - Aimed at coordinating campus-wide email survey distribution to reduce survey fatigue and improve response rates
 - Surveyors must coordinate with the Institutional Engagement & Effectiveness office for email lists, with exemptions for course evaluations, in-class surveys, and IRB-approved instruments
 - Concerns were raised about the potential for increased email volume and misuse of distributed email lists, suggesting that the office should send surveys directly rather than providing lists to researchers

- Policy only allows coordination, and not outright denial of sample size and survey timing, and the priority would be given to time-sensitive surveys
- More transparency was requested in how decisions about survey timing and audience size are made, asking for clear guidelines and algorithms to avoid arbitrary or restrictive practices
- Current processes for student survey distribution would remain compliant and unchanged under the new policy
- Necessity of the policy was questioned given the rarity of survey conflicts
- Policy was prompted by a few past incidents and broader efforts to improve survey response rates
- **Discuss/Comment**
 - [361](#) Employee Leave (*Marni Fisher*) [3:15-3:25]
 - Comments focused on bereavement leave, parental leave timing, summer teaching compensation, leave usage order, and voluntary leave sharing
 - [653](#) Non-Tenure Track Faculty Employment Matters (*Kat Brown*) [3:25-3:45]
 - Confirmed this policy is specific to non-tenure track faculty such as lecturers and professionals in residence, not adjuncts
 - Comments focused on policy scope, contract terms, service expectations, evaluation standards, and committee participation
 - Motion to suspend the rules and vote on 361: *Richard Cho*
 - Seconded: *Shelton Weech*

VOTING RESULTS:

Policy 361: 34 agree, 0 disagree, 1 abstain

Non-Policy Items

- **GE Bylaws** (*Mark Lentz*) [3:45-4:00]
 - Reviewed proposed changes to the GE bylaws, focusing on election procedures, committee structure, representation criteria, and alignment with Faculty Senate processes
- **Nominations for ExCo Positions** (*Shelton Weech*) [4:00]
 - Seeking nominations for Senate Policy Liaison and Council on Academic Standards Chair
 - Nominees do not need to be a sitting senator
- **Faculty Senate Meetings** (*Sean Tolman*) [4:00-4:20]
 - Discussion on future Faculty Senate meeting formats; debating the merits and challenges of in-person, online, and hybrid modalities
 - Motion to form an ad hoc task force to develop recommendations
 - Motion for Special Investigations Chair to form an ad hoc task force: *Craig Thulin*
 - Seconded: *Shelton Weech*
- **Volunteers for Drafting Committees** [4:20]
 - Need for faculty volunteers to join drafting committees for Policy 358 (Faculty Compensation) and Policy 640 (Faculty Sabbatical Leave)
 - Those interested should contact Jennifer Shubert or Evelyn Porter

Good of the Order

[4:20-4:25]

- Resolution of Concern Regarding Interim University Leadership
 - Upcoming faculty forum to discuss related issues on Thursday, March 26th, CB 104 2:30-4:30pm
 - Any and all faculty are welcome
- Caucus meetings being held tonight; encouragement to attend
- Next week's meeting will be held in CB 409; the audio will not be ideal so encouraged to attend in person, especially as Commissioner is coming
- We will have Senate on the 31st, extra meeting

Adjourn

[session end time 4:25]

- Meeting ended at 4:25pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24th in CB 409 2:30-4:30pm

Announcements

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

Fulton Library: The Fulton Library is piloting a Faculty Library Liaison Program this spring. We're looking for five faculty volunteers of any discipline who are interested in a service opportunity working to strengthen communication between the library and academic departments. The goal of this program is to increase faculty understanding of library resources and services, and to position the library as a partner in teaching, research, and student success.

Faculty liaisons will help the library stay in touch with what's happening in their departments, share library information with colleagues, and offer us feedback when questions or needs come up. The time commitment is short: one hour-long meeting each semester and a monthly email update. In return, participating faculty will have direct communication with library administration and will be able to learn about tools, services, and resources that can support teaching and research. As a liaison, you can make sure your department's needs are heard and that students and faculty across the university are getting the most out of what the library has to offer.

We'll be onboarding liaisons through the end of spring semester, with the first group meeting taking place in fall 2026. If you're interested in joining the pilot group, please contact Lesli Baker at (lbaker@uvu.edu or (801) 863-8286 by March 16.

Office of Teaching & Learning: Join us for the 3rd Annual Symposium on Teaching and Learning: **Joy in Teaching**, hosted by the Utah Valley University Faculty Senate's Advancement of Teaching Committee (AoT) in collaboration with the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL).

This symposium provides a collegial forum for sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, and engaging in meaningful dialogue about teaching and learning. It also offers space for thoughtful reflection on foundational teaching practices and for rediscovering the joy and purpose of teaching.

Over the course of this two-day symposium, participants will hear from faculty who have received teaching awards, are conducting research on innovative pedagogical approaches, or are implementing distinctive and engaging practices in their courses. Each day will feature sessions aligned with these topics, highlighting both practice-based insights and scholarly perspectives on teaching and learning.

Keynote Speaker: We are excited to announce our keynote speaker, Dr. Kevin Gannon, Director of the Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence (CAFE) and Professor of History at Queens University-Charlotte, and author of *Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto*.

Reclaiming Hope and Humanity in Teaching and Learning

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 10am | MS Teams

YOU ARE INVITED!

The Office of Teaching and Learning is excited to bring to UVU the **finalists** for the **Director of Teaching Effectiveness and Fellowship**. This position was previously held by Dr. Aicha Rochdi.

All faculty are invited to an **interactive workshop** presented by each finalist on the following days.

- Monday, March 16th @11:00 – 11:50am in CB 417 – *Marylynne Viola-Lawson* – [LinkedIn Profile](#)
- Wednesday, March 18th @11:00 – 11:50am in CB 417 – *Juone Kadiri* – [LinkedIn Profile](#)
- Friday, March 20th @11:00 – 11:50am in CB 417 – *Damla Isik* – [LinkedIn Profile](#)

Please announce this invitation to faculty in your Department.

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.