

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 14th, 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)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Noelle Taylor (E)
Abdenour Seibi (S)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Nyree-Dawn Nichols (S)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Erin Jones (S)	Kevin Smith (S)	Paul Morrey (S)
Alma Laney (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Heather Thiesset (S)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Brett Breton (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Maria Blevins (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Chris Lindquist (S)	James Cox (S)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Max Aeschbacher (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Mel Gurr (S)	Tom Smith (S)
Dan Perry (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
Darin Eckton (S)	John Cornell (S)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Tyler Schnese (S)
David Connelly (E)	John Newman (S)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Vince Rossi (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)			

Absent/Excused:

Carolyn Howard (S)	Laurie Toro (E)	Matti Smith (S)	Ron Miller (S)
Evelyn Porter (E)	Matt Flint (S)	Nicole Gearing (E)	Sean Tolman (E)
Kat Brown (E)			

Welcome & Updates, Jennifer Shubert, Faculty Senate Policy Liaison

[2:30-2:30]

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

- Minutes stand approved

AAUP Presentation, [Michael DeCesare](#), AAUP

[2:30-3:05]

- [AAUP Redbook](#)- collection of policy documents
- [1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#)
 - Cornerstone of academic freedom in the US
 - Most institutions with tenure systems base their policies on this statement
- **Faculty Governance & Academic Freedom**
 - Lack of faculty participation in governance and academic freedom can lead to administrative overreach and threaten academic freedom
- **Boundaries & Limits of Academic Freedom**
 - Academic freedom does not grant faculty the right to say anything in the classroom without limits
 - Faculty are constrained by professional ethics and competence, and any concerns should be adjudicated by faculty committees, not administrators
 - Controversial topics are protected as long as they are relevant to the subject matter
- **External Threats & Advocacy**
 - AAUP policy does not directly address actions by state or federal governments

- Recommends contacting the AAUP's Department of Organizing and Services and the Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom for resources and advocacy strategies

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught, Provost

[3:05-3:20]

- **Legislative Changes & Shared Governance**
 - Recent state legislative changes shifted authority for granting tenure from the board of trustees to the university presidents, noting that while the president has final authority, faculty recommendations are followed in the vast majority of cases
 - Willingness to collaborate with Faculty Senate to maximize shared governance within legislative boundaries
- **Faculty Voice & Policy Development**
 - Faculty have a voice in the process of policy development
 - Encouraged open conversation
- **Academic Freedom in Classroom & Extramural Activities**
 - Faculty may speak as private citizens but should not represent the university without authorization
 - Described university's approach to protecting academic freedom in the classroom
- **Faculty Research & Risk Management Concerns**
 - Acknowledged the tension between institutional risk management and academic freedom in relation to the handling of faculty research related to the Charlie Kirk incident
 - Expressed willingness to discuss the issue further and recognized the need for clearer guidance

Policy, Jennifer Shubert, Faculty Senate Policy Liaison

- **Vote**
 - [131](#) Survey Distribution (*Taylor Lovell*) [3:20-3:30]
 - [608](#) Internship Program Requirements & Implementation (*Kat Brown*)

VOTING RESULTS:

Policy 131: 12 agree, 23 disagree, 2 abstain

Policy 608: 34 agree, 1 disagree, 0 abstain

- **Introduce – Limited Scope**
 - [640](#) Faculty Sabbatical Leave (*Kat Brown*) [3:30-3:35]
 - Updated to remove outdated language about sabbatical leave evaluations, reflecting a change from a five-point to a two-point rating system
 - Only change is that faculty can now only receive 'does not meet expectations' for an unsuccessful sabbatical
- **Policy Liaison Nomination & Role Clarification**
 - Encouraged participants to suggest names or self-nominate privately
 - Role requires tenure by July 1 but does not require current Senate membership
 - Receives course release with typical time commitment of two hours each for Senate and ExCo meetings with additional hours between meetings

Good of the Order

[3:35-4:30]

- **Post-Tenure Review Rubric Feedback & Next Steps**
 - Clarified that the negative wording of the post-tenure review rubric is intentional to ensure reviewers do not go beyond the provided materials
 - Need for improved parallel language and readability, and it was agreed that a written explanation for faculty will be provided
- **Faculty Senate Resolution on Provost & Governance Concerns**
 - Senators expressed concerns about the resolution's wording, noting it was perceived as too vague, overly focused on the individual rather than systemic issues, and lacking specific evidence
 - Suggestions were made to clarify objectives and provide concrete examples
 - Consider a resolution
 - Motion: Maria Blevins
 - 2nd: Nicolas Clark

In favor to consider: 22; Disagree: 9

- Small task force formed to collect comments, revise the resolution, and present a plan at the next meeting
- Comments are to be submitted by Friday, April 16th @ 1pm
- Clarified that the resolution, if adopted, would be a public statement of the Faculty Senate, intended for the administration, news media, and broader public, not just an internal document

Adjourn

[session end time 4:30]

- Meeting ended at 4:30pm

Last Meeting: April 21st, CB 104 & Teams @ 2:30-4:30pm

Announcements

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

Exciting News: Honorlock Is Coming to UVU! Say Hello to Our New Exam Proctoring Service

Big changes are on the way! Starting Fall 2026, UVU will make the switch to [Honorlock](#) as our official online exam proctoring solution. That means easier, secure, and improved testing experiences are just around the corner!

No worries—Proctorio isn't leaving just yet. It'll stick around through Summer 2026 to help everyone transition smoothly.

Key Dates

- Proctorio stays with us through Summer 2026.
- Honorlock takes the stage in Fall 2026!

What's Next?

- Watch for 2-part faculty training series coming in August 2026 before semester start!

Questions? Reach out to the Office of Teaching & Learning. Let's make this transition together!

Faculty Senate Email: Faculty Senate has a generic Faculty Senate 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.