

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 21st, 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)	Frank Jones (S)	Kevin Smith (S)	Nyree-Dawn Nichols (S)
Abdennour Seibi (S)	Heather Thiesset (S)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Paul Morrey (S)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Alma Laney (S)	James Cox (S)	Maria Blevins (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Brett Breton (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Matti Smith (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Max Aeschbacher (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Dan Perry (S)	John Cornell (S)	Mel Gurr (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
David Connelly (E)	John Newman (S)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Tom Smith (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Tyler Schnese (S)
Doug Czajka (S)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Nicole Gearing (E)	Vince Rossi (S)
Erin Jones (S)	Kat Brown (E)	Noelle Taylor (E)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Evelyn Porter (E)			

Absent/Excused:

Amin Zollanvari (S)	Darin Eckton (S)	Laurie Toro (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)
Carolyn Howard (S)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Matt Flint (S)	Ron Miller (S)
Chris Lindquist (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]

- **Commencement Planning & Safety Protocols**
 - Faculty can still attend commencement dinner even if they haven't RSVP'd. They just need to let Stacy Fowler know
- **Leadership Transitions & Search Processes**
 - Krista Ruggles has been appointed as the interim dean of the School of Education, after James Jacob stepped down
 - Ongoing search for the new dean of the College of Engineering & Technology, with one external candidate interviewed and more scheduled. Goal is to have new dean in place by January 1st
 - Applications for the new university president is being conducted and applications are due May 28th with screenings to begin in June. Aim for a new president in place by fall semester
 - Explained that when deans step down, they typically return to a tenured faculty position at a salary commensurate with the highest paid faculty in their area, and are often granted a sabbatical to prepare for teaching, as outlined in their contracts

- **Shared Governance & Faculty-Administration Relations**
 - Addressed concerns about shared governance, faculty representation in decision-making, and communication gaps
 - Acknowledged that communication during campus incidents could be improved
 - Reiterated a commitment to shared governance, noting that while not all decisions will align with faculty preferences, the goal is open dialogue and visible evidence of faculty input in decisions

Policy

- **Vote**
 - [640](#) Sabbatical Leave (*Kat Brown*) [3:00]
 - Better clarity on how to nominate individuals and the criteria for a nomination
 - Provide more flexibility and customization for PACE and Faculty Senate awards

VOTING RESULTS:

32 agree, 2 disagree, 1 abstain

Non-Policy Items [3:00]

- **Policy Liaison**
 - Paul Morrey was ratified as the new Policy Liaison
- **CAS Chair**
 - Raiden Gaul was voted as the new CAS Chair
- **Post-Tenure Review Rubric** [3:05-3:15]
 - Faculty voted on whether to adopt the new rubric incorporated feedback from Academic Affairs and faculty, including the removal of a non-required line and clarification of negative wording. The rubric aims to provide clarity and consistency for post-tenure review

VOTING RESULTS:

33 agree, 3 disagree, 0 abstain

- **Wolverine Access** [3:15-3:40]
 - Overview presented and update on the textbook program, addressing its structure, costs, participation rates, inclusion of materials, and responding to faculty questions about opt-in/opt-out processes and equity across departments
- **Viewpoint Diversity** [3:40-4:00]
 - Presented the work of the Viewpoint Diversity Working Group, outlining its purpose, draft statement, recommendations, and the complexities of addressing viewpoint diversity in higher education, with discussion among faculty about implementation and the relationship to other forms of diversity
- **Faculty Senate Resolution** [4:00-4:45]
 - The session was closed at this point

Adjourn [session end time 4:45]

- Meeting ended at 4:45pm

Next Meeting: TBA @ 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!

FULTON LIBRARY: Discover New Stories: The George Sutherland Archives

The George Sutherland Archives at the Fulton Library preserves UVU's institutional history and regional collections while supporting faculty teaching, research, and scholarship. As the university's central archival repository, it houses campus records, publications, photographs, oral histories, and special collections that document UVU's growth and community impact.

With more than 100 physical and digital collections, the archives offers rich primary sources for coursework, publications, grant projects, and student research. Archives staff provide research consultations, class visits, and support for preserving departmental or faculty materials. Faculty can explore collections in person or online through curated digital exhibits. Visit the Sutherland Archives' website to access resources or make an appointment.

The Fulton Library's summer hours are:

Monday-Friday 7:00 am-9:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm-8:00 pm

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.