

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 7th, 2025: KB 306 & Teams, 3-5 PM

Call to Order; Silent Roll Call (0 min.)

[session start time 3:00]

Present:

Senator (S), ExCo (E), Other Non-Voting Member (O), Designee (D)

Abbie Fisher (E)	Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Paul Morrey (S)
Abdennour Seibi (S)	Doug Czajka (S)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Kevin Smith (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Allan Wong (D)	Erin Jones (S)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Rick McDonald (S)
Alma Laney (S)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Laurie Toro (E)	Ron Miller (S)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Ryan Harte (D)
Brett Breton (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Maria Blevins (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Chris Lindquist (S)	James Cox (S)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Matti Smith (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Stephanie Dunn (S)
Dan Perry (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Darin Eckton (S)	John Cornell (S)	Nicole Gearing (E)	Tracy Sermon (S)
David Connelly (E)	John Newman (S)	Noelle Taylor (E)	Vince Rossi (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Jordan Allen (E)		

Absent/Excused:

Max Aeschbacher (S) - Sabbatical	Heather Thiesset (S)	Mel Gurr (S)	Tyler Schnese (S)
Carolyn Howard (S)	Matt Flint (S)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Wayne Vaught (E)

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

- Minutes stand approved

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[3:00-3:05]

- Update on changes to faculty workload policies affecting research & regional institutions, including passage of R485 which will impact future workload determinations at UVU

Presentation, Maria Blevins, Research Institute Director

[3:05-3:15]

- Transition from the Women's Success Center to a broader research support institute. New initiatives outlined such as writing groups, grant workshops, and interdisciplinary think tanks to foster faculty research across the university

Policy

Members on Drafting Committees

[3:15-3:20]

- Call for volunteers to serve on policy committees
- Value of broad faculty involvement in policy drafting & review
- Nominations for Senate representative on the AI Task Force

Vote

- [136](#) Intellectual Property (*Bradley Baugh*)

[3:20-3:25]

VOTING RESULTS:
agree, disagree, abstain

- **Introduction**

- [648](#) Faculty Personnel Reduction (*Kat Brown*) [3:25-3:35]
 - Explained revised policy covers separation procedures for all full-time faculty, including tenured, tenure-track, & non-tenure-track, with specific provisions for program discontinuance & related responsibilities such as reinstatement & severance
 - Major changes including removing references to Policy 649 (sanctions & dismissal), eliminating termination for medical reasons, & excluding financial exigency, which is addressed in Policy 373
 - Specifies notice periods for layoffs due to program discontinuance

- **Debate/Comments**

- [637](#) Faculty Tenure (*Kat Brown*) [3:35-4:20]
 - Detailed review of comments focusing on tenure procedures, portfolio requirements, review timelines, appeals, & the elimination of the Tenure Advisory Committee

Non-Policy Items

- **Post-Crisis Impact Review Task Force**

[4:20-4:25]

- Formation of an ExCo-led task force to review the academic impact of the recent campus shooting, aiming to collect data, conducts interviews, & produce recommendations for improving academic & support responses, with periodic invitations for faculty participation
- Share information about the task force within departments and identify colleagues interested in contributing expertise; participation is open and not restricted to current committee members

- **Open Letter to Utah Board of Higher Education**

[4:25-4:40]

- Introduced draft open letter to UBHE requesting specific considerations in their investigation of the campus shooting; outlined the process for faculty review, feedback, & voting before submission

- **Faculty Senate Bylaws Revision**

[4:40-5:00]

- Presented proposed revisions, focusing on improved organization, clearer committee requirements, & alignment with current policy. Faculty invited to review & comment on the changes

Adjourn

[session end time 5:00]

- Meeting ended at 5:00pm

Next Meeting: October 21st, 2025; 3-5pm; KB 306 & Teams

Announcements

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

Compliance Training: Due by Friday, October 31st

Emergency Alert System Registration: Ensure all faculty and staff verify and update their phone numbers in the emergency alert system to receive notifications. The link can be found on my.UVU.edu

“See Something, Say Something”: Contact Campus Police (863-5555) if you notice something concerning.

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 faculty senate@uvu.edu.

The Office of Teaching & Learning is happy to announce the completion of the promised RSI training that fulfills the federal compliance requirement.

It is titled ***Essential Elements of Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI)*** and can be found on the [OTL Events page](#) for easy access.

This 30 minute training provides an overview of federal and institutional expectations for Regular and Substantive Interaction in online courses. Faculty will gain a clear understanding of the principles, requirements, and responsibilities necessary to ensure instructional activities meet compliance standards and promote effective student engagement.

A linked announcement is also posted in the News and Updates section of the [OTL myUVU Workplace homepage](#).

Teaching Technology Tune-Up (T3)

We are excited to announce that [Jasper Roe](#), Assistant Professor in Education at Durham University UK and renowned expert in AI and education with a focus on the AI Assessment Scale, will be our keynote speaker.

T3 is a virtual event that will provide you with opportunities to learn and share best practices with Teaching Technologies at Utah Valley University.

All events will be live (or recorded) on the MS Teams Space. Attendance of each session will be collected during this pedagogical development event and added to your OTL Transcript (which can be requested at otl@uvu.edu). **More information and individual sessions will be provided throughout the event in the T3 UVU 2025 MS Team Space.**

[JOIN THE T3 CONFERENCE MICROSOFT TEAMS SPACE](#)

The Research Institute 2025/26 Schedule of Events

The Research Institute at Utah Valley University is here to support faculty in their research endeavors. This campus-wide initiative is in its first year, to provide support for the research aspects of your job. The goals for this year are to connect people across campus who share similar research interests, provide a space for writing with others (if that is motivating to you), and connect faculty with grant opportunities on campus.

Weekly Writing Party (WWP): From Draft to Done Every Week

Starting Wednesday, October 8, and Thursday, October 9

Co-Sponsored by: The Research Institute and the CHSS Faculty Engagement Committee

Come and join us weekly to create a space for writing and finding community. This group will meet every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:00 PM in FL 306. No pressure, but motivation and accountability with friends to get any of our writing goals done!

We will be using the Pomodoro method, in which we will set a 25-minute timer at 1 and 30 minutes and will write for 25 minutes with a 5-minute break.

If you cannot attend in person but would like to join a group to work online, please email maria.blevins@uvu.edu for an invitation to participate on TEAMS.

Faculty Grants Workshop

Location: SC 206 G/H

Time: Tuesday, October 28, 11:30-12:45

UVU offers resources to help faculty secure funding for research. This workshop is designed to introduce faculty to the grants available at UVU and the resources available for researching and applying for outside grants. Come and discover funding opportunities for your research and receive a lunch voucher!

Think Tanks

In an effort to connect UVU faculty conducting research on similar topics across disciplines, the Research Institute, UNESCO initiative, and the Integrated Studies program are collaborating to present three "Think Tanks" events during the 2025/26 school year. The goal is to create a network across campus that fosters interdisciplinary connections and support.

If any of these themes align with your research agenda, come meet other people on campus who share your interests. We can establish research networks and provide mutual support for one another's work.

This year's Themes/ Dates:

Environment and Culture, on Wednesday, October 29, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. SC 213 C

Living Healthy Lives, February 4, 2:00-3:00 PM SC 213 C

AI March 25, 2:00-3:00 PM SC 213 B

Please check out the events that are planned for this year, and if you have ideas for other support that you could use, workshops you would be interested in, or want to say hi, please email me [at Maria.blevins@uvu.edu](mailto:maria.blevins@uvu.edu)

Thanks,

Maria Blevins

Associate Professor, Communication

Director of the Research Institute

Employee Photo Shoot

You're warmly invited to join UVU's upcoming Employee Lifestyle Photoshoot, happening **Wednesday, November 12th**. This is a wonderful opportunity to capture the authentic moments at UVU and celebrate the many backgrounds, experiences, and roles that make UVU a great place to work.

The shoot will feature two themes:

- **Late Morning (11am-1pm):** Capturing moments of wellness and energy, such as walking or running on the track, beginner's yoga, or other exercises at the SLWC Gym. All fitness levels are welcome.
- **Afternoon (2pm-4:30pm):** Workplace collaboration, workshops, trainings, and everyday interactions across campus

Whether you're interested in being part of a group shot or just want to represent your department, we'd love to have you involved. No modeling experience is needed. We welcome everyone and will guide you through everything.

These photos will be used in UVU's marketing and outreach efforts, and we want every employee to see themselves reflected in our story. More details will be shared as we get closer to the date.

As a thank you, we are offering food vouchers to participants. Please take a moment to fill out the short survey below to let us know your interest and availability. Let's celebrate the people who make UVU great!

https://uvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4T6YmlWNJz9Xlxs