

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 21st, 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)	Doug Czajka (S)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Noelle Taylor (E)
Abdennour Seibi (S)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Kat Brown (E)	Paul Morrey (S)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Erin Jones (S)	Kevin Smith (S)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Allan Wong (D)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Alma Laney (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Laurie Toro (E)	Rick McDonald (S)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Heather Thieset (S)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Ron Miller (S)
Angela Banchero-Kelleher (D)	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)	Jeff Packer (S)	Matti Smith (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Mel Gurr (S)	Stephanie Dunn (S)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Darin Eckton (S)	John Cornell (S)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
David Connelly (E)	John Newman (S)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Vince Rossi (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nicole Gearing (E)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Nizhone Meza (E)	

Absent/Excused:

Max Aeschbacher (S) - Sabbatical	Dan Perry (S)	Tyler Schnese (S)
Carolyn Howard (S)	Matt Flint (S)	

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[3:00-3:05]

- Reminder to join drafting committees

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

- Minutes stand approved

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught, Provost

[3:05-3:20]

- **Updates & Organizational Changes**
 - Laurie Sharp upcoming departure; initiation of national search for her replacement
 - Ongoing organizational restructuring within Academic Affairs to improve efficiency
- **Campus Security & Infrastructure Planning**
 - Ongoing collaborations with city officials, increased security presence, and the status of security audits
 - Many aspects managed through Val Peterson's office
 - Both a UVU-specific security audit and a broader-system audit are being conducted

Policy

- **Introduce**
 - [662](#) Graduate Program Credit & Graduation Requirements (*Steven Sylvester*) [3:20-3:25]
 - Significant changes since March 2024 and explained the plan to separate procedures into a handbook, which will be subject to regular faculty review and approval

- **Discuss & Comments**
 - [648](#) Faculty Personnel Reduction (*Kat Brown*) [3:25-3:35]
 - Comments & concerns focused on due process, faculty consultation in program discontinuance, appeal rights, and transparency in reassignment procedures
- **Voting**
 - [637](#) Faculty Tenure (*Kat Brown*) [3:35-3:45]

VOTING RESULTS:

37 agree, 2 disagree, 1 abstain

Non-Policy Items [3:45-3:50]

- **AI Institute Representative Ratification**
 - Paul Morrey's name was ratified

RESULTS:

40 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstain

- **Bylaws** [3:50-4:10]
 - Discussion on proposed revisions, focusing on eligibility for Executive Committee members, the advisory nature of the Senate, and representation for non-tenure track faculty
 - Proposed voting on bylaw changes position by position, with note that some roles are constitutionally required to be tenured
 - Will vote on them in next Senate meeting
- **Faculty Senate Executive Task Force Update** [4:10-4:15]
 - Task Force logo was introduced (red umbrella); explaining its purpose in distinguishing task force communications and ensuring data collected is stored securely and anonymously
 - Ongoing work to review student and faculty feedback forms to inform future data collection for the task force's report
- **Letter to UBHE** [4:15-4:55]
 - Closed

Good of the Order [4:55-4:55]

- Watch for announcements regarding new safety and awareness training

Adjourn [session end time 4:55]

- Meeting ended at 4:55pm

Next Meeting: November 4th, 2025; 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 facultysenate@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

Join us for the **Durable Skills Lunch & Learn** on **Monday, Nov. 17 from 12–1:30pm**. Industry leaders will share top traits they seek in UVU graduates—communication, adaptability, teamwork, and others. Enjoy lunch, connect with colleagues, and shape how we prepare students for success in the workforce. [Register](#) here.

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_4T6YmIWNJz9Xlxs