

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 4th, 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)	Laurie Toro (E)	Richard Cho (S)
Alma Laney (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Rick McDonald (S)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Heather Thiesset (S)	Maria Blevins (S)	Ron Miller (S)
Brett Breton (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Chris Lindquist (S)	James Cox (S)	Matti Smith (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Mel Gurr (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Stephanie Dunn (S)
Dan Perry (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Darin Eckton (S)	John Cornell (S)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Tracy Sermon (S)
David Connelly (E)	John Newman (S)	Nicole Gearing (E)	Tyler Schnese (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)		

Absent/Excused:

Max Aeschbacher (S) - Sabbatical	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Matt Flint (S)	Vince Rossi (S)
Carolyn Howard (S)			

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[3:00-3:05]

- Spring Senate meetings will be held from 2:30-4:30pm; Room change to CB 104

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

- Minutes stand approved

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught, Provost

[3:05-3:10]

- **Laurie Sharp, Sr. Associate Provost/Academic Programs/Assessments & Accreditation, Departure**
 - Direct reports will temporarily report to Wayne directly
 - National search will be conducted with hopes to fill the position early Spring semester
- **Invitation**
 - Senators invited to share their faculty concerns or questions

Follow-Up Items, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[3:10-3:15]

- **Testing Center Follow-Up**
 - Information relayed regarding Testing Center's soft funding model, current fee structure, and challenges with balancing makeup and accommodative testing

[3:15-3:20]

- **Directory Access**

- Update on removal due to security concerns; outlined upcoming changes to directory content and access
 - Taken offline due to security concerns, including threats involving office locations and unwanted media contact
 - Directory will return in a modified form within weeks, omitting office numbers and allowing faculty to opt out of displaying photos; department or admin assistant phone numbers may replace individual listings

Presentations

- **Faculty Workload**, Anne Arendt, *Associate Dean, CET* [3:20-3:50]
 - USHE policy R485 eliminates S11 workload calculator, giving institutions authority to define instructional hour equivalents (IHE) and workload models tailored to their needs
 - Recommended forming a new task force, with subcommittees by college, to define IHE, address discipline-specific needs, and propose policy revisions
 - Policy 641 is already open for revision, but further changes are on hold pending recommendations from the new task force
 - Senate voted to support forming the joint task force
 - Motion to Vote: *Rick McDonald*
 - Seconded: *Craig Thulin*

VOTING RESULTS:

30 agree; 4 opposed; 0 abstain

- **Graduate Student Survey**, Tim Loveridge [3:50-3:55]
 - Employee Benefits Survey
 - Introduced survey on tuition remission benefits, seeking faculty and staff participation to support research on expanding the program to include graduate tuition
 - Open to all employees, takes about 5 minutes to complete, and has IRB approval; results will inform recommendations to university stakeholders

Policy

- **Drafting Committees and Faculty Participation** [3:55-4:10]
 - Call for volunteers to serve on several faculty policy drafting committees
 - Performance evaluation ([633](#)), department leadership ([644](#)), endowed chairs ([659](#)), faculty workload ([641](#)), and internships ([608](#))
 - Typically led by policy stewards but may be chaired by faculty volunteers; limited-scope policies require fewer meetings and less time commitment
 - Nominations by departments chairs or colleagues, and those seeking service opportunities for tenure or RTP requirements are encouraged to participate
- **Discuss and Comment**
 - [662](#) Graduate Program Credit & Graduation Requirements (*Steven Sylvester*) [4:10-4:20]
 - Comments asked for clarification on course numbering restrictions and the rationale for limits on special topics coursework
- **Voting**
 - [648](#) Faculty Personnel Reduction (*Kat Brown*) [4:20-4:25]

VOTING RESULTS:

39 agree, 0 disagree, 2 abstain

Non-Policy Items

- **Bylaws Vote** [4:25]

VOTING RESULTS:

40 agree, 1 disagree, 0 abstain

- **Senate President, VP, and RTP&A Chair Nominations** [4:25-4:35]

- Opening of nominations: open campus-wide with eligibility requirements including tenure and prior Senate experience
- Senators may also nominate candidates for the RTP&A Chair
 - Nominations will be open for 2 weeks, until next Faculty Senate meeting (11/18)
- **2026-2027 Senate Meeting Time Survey** [4:35-4:40]
 - Survey launched to gauge interest in moving Senate meetings to earlier time slot to improve accessibility and reduce scheduling conflicts
 - Survey will be open for 2 weeks, until next Faculty Senate meeting (11/18)
- **Letter to UBHE** [4:40]
 - Evelyn will report back after meeting with commissioner later this week
- **Student Voice Survey**, Abbie Fisher, *UVUSA Academic VP* [4:40-4:55]
 - Qualitative analysis of student feedback following the campus shooting
 - Highlighting concerns about safety, academic accommodations, and communication
 - Shared UVUSA's recommendations to administration
 - Extending flexible academic policies, improving emergency protocols, maintaining mental health supports, and ensuring transparent communication about security measures
 - Recommendations for memorial recognition to focus on campus values; and also managing external visitors and media after traumatic events

Good of the Order

- None

[4:55-5:00]

Adjourn

- Meeting ended at 5:00pm

[session end time 5:00]

Next Meeting: November 18th; 3-5pm KB 306 & Teams

Announcements

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

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.

Workforce Alignment: You are warmly invited to attend the upcoming **Durable Skills Lunch and Learn**, scheduled for Monday, **November 17**, from **12:00 to 1:30 p.m.** This engaging event will feature a panel of distinguished industry professionals who will share insights on the durable skills they value most in UVU graduates—skills that are essential for success in today's workforce.

To confirm your attendance, please complete the registration form using [this link](#). Faculty registration opens on October 15, and remaining seats will be made available to the broader campus community beginning November 1.

We look forward to your participation in this important conversation and hope to see you there. We want all interested faculty to register at the link in the message! For any questions, please contact [Seth Larson](#).

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