

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 18th, 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)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)
Abdenmour Seibi (S)	Doug Czajka (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Noelle Taylor (E)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Paul Morrey (S)
Allan Wong (D)	Erin Jones (S)	Kevin Smith (S)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Alma Laney (S)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Laurie Toro (E)	Rick McDonald (S)
Brett Breton (S)	Heather Thiesset (S)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Carolyn Howard (S)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Maria Blevins (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Chris Lindquist (S)	James Cox (S)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Matti Smith (S)	Stephanie Dunn (S)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Mel Gurr (S)	Summer Karafiath (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)			

Absent/Excused:

Max Aeschbacher (S) - Sabbatical	Matt Flint (S)	Ron Miller (S)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Kat Brown (E)	Nicole Gearing (E)		

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[3:00-3:00]

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

- Minutes stand approved

Policy

- **Introduce**
 - [635](#) Faculty Rights & Professional Responsibilities (*Kat Brown*) [3:00-3:15]
 - Limited Scope changes which clarify definitions around instructional contract periods, technology accessibility requirements, vacation restrictions, and the renewal of outdated grievance references
- **Vote**
 - [662](#) Graduate Program Credit & Graduation Requirements (*Steven Sylvester*) [3:15-3:20]

VOTING RESULTS:

Policy 662: 40 agree, 0 disagree, 1 abstain

Non-Policy Items

[3:20-3:20]

- Spring Faculty Senate Schedule

- Vote to move Faculty Senate meetings from 2:00-4:00pm
- **Meetings will be held from 2:30-4:30pm in the Spring semester**

VOTING RESULTS:

10 in favor, 14 opposed, 4 abstain

- **Report from Student Feedback Survey, Abbie Fisher** [3:20-3:25]
 - Survey results were presented to President's Council as well as PACE
- **Academic Calendar, Tiffany Evans** [3:25-3:50]
 - Presented the Academic Calendar Committee's recommendations, including moving Spring break one week later starting in 2027
 - Efforts to balance instructional days, and ongoing challenges with aligning the calendar with local school districts
 - Final exam scheduling concerns were raised; faculty recommended to contact the academic scheduling office and ongoing discussions about revising the scheduling algorithm
 - Discussed the impact of the academic calendar on student housing, especially for those graduating in winter or spring
- **New Syllabus Submission Process** [3:50-3:55]
 - Updates given on the implementation of Simple Syllabus for required courses, discussed technical issues, and clarified that state law and USHE policy requirements for syllabus posting, including ongoing discussions about due dates and faculty privacy
 - Clarified that only courses with no substitutions in a program (e.g. Ethics and Values) are considered required and must be uploaded, while courses with alternatives do not need to be posted unless the institution decides otherwise
- **Communication Concerns** [3:55-4:10]
 - New security measures, including the use of metal detectors at convocations and commencement, clarified that while costs will be absorbed by the university through the end of the year, individual departments may need to cover these costs in the future
 - Ongoing concerns regarding communication and accountability from administration following the campus shooting were raised, including the lack of direct engagement from the Provost and President, and efforts to improve messaging and close feedback loops
 - Encouraged continued use of feedback forms and professional, constructive comments
- **Workload Task Force Structure and Approval** [4:10-4:15]
 - Outlined a multi-tiered committee structure for the workload task force, with a university-level committee co-chaired by Anne Arendt and senator or ExCo member, five to six faculty members, and two Dean offices representatives, as well as college/school-level committees for broader input
 - Motion to move forward with the workload task force as outlined:
 - *Formally moved: Rick McDonald*
 - *2nd: Craig Thulin*
 - *All in favor: 28*
 - *Opposed: 2*
 - *Abstain: 1*
- **Closed Session** [4:15-4:40]
- **Good of the Order** [4:40-4:45]
 - College of Science- Science Night tonight (11/18); event for the entire family
- **Adjourn** [session end time 4:45]
 - Meeting ended at 4:45pm

Next Meeting: December 9th, Teams Only, 3-5pm

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.

Questions & Comments regarding the recent events on Campus: Link is on my.uvu.edu. Please make sure the feedback is constructive.

Campus Safety & Emergency Preparedness: https://my.uvu.edu/workplace/news/general/2025/q_and_a_2025.html

OTL: Get an Early Start Preparing Your Spring 2026 Courses



Spring semester begins on Monday, January 5, so we encourage an early start preparing for your course(s)! OTL's [Semester Start Checklist](#) is full of great resources for updating and maintaining your online content on Canvas and Teams. We will also have dedicated time during December 15-19 for Spring prep. [Schedule an appointment](#) or call OTL's main line at 801-863-8255.

Teaching Technology Tune-Up (T3) Recordings Available Until December 18



OTL hosted a successful T3 event with keynote speaker Dr. Jasper Roe presenting "AI, Education, and Assessment: where do we go from here?" We were grateful for the insights provided by him and the rest of our fantastic presenters. Weren't able to join? We've recorded every session, and they are available until December 18.

[Join the Microsoft Teams Space and View Recordings](#)

Workforce Alignment: In order to further the work of the Jobs CEO Council, we are forming a faculty advisory arm of the Council.

The Jobs CEO Council Faculty Advisory Board will provide input on Jobs CEO Council initiatives, develop internal (UVU) projects, processes, systems, and efforts that align with or expand Jobs CEO Council priorities, and participate as assigned in Jobs CEO Council subgroups.

Members of the Faculty Advisory Board will be expected to:

- Respond with meaningful feedback to questions and requests from the Jobs CEO Council
- Attend twice/yearly meetings of the Faculty Advisory Board
- Participate in at least one Jobs CEO Council Insight Group, if assigned
- Attend periodic related meetings, as available
- Opportunities for summer fellowships

Nominations are open through November 25.

- Self-nominations are acceptable.

- Department chair & associate dean approval is required. Upon submission of a completed nomination form we will obtain chair and associate dean signatures.
- All Faculty Advisory Board members will receive service letters at the end of the academic year for RTP.

A virtual info session will be held Thursday, November 20, 3:30-4pm. Register [here](#).

Nominations may be submitted [here](#). For questions about the nomination process please contact Miki Brent, miki.brent@uvu.edu.

Thank you so much for supporting this important work.

Fulton Library Extended Library Hours

Finals are almost here, and the Fulton Library is extending its hours to help students finish the semester strong. From December 1–13, the library will have extended hours for finals:

- Monday–Thursday: 7:00–12:00 am
- Friday: 7:00 am–9:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am–6:00 pm
- Sunday: 1:00–8:00 pm

These extended hours give students extra time to study, collaborate, and access research materials as they prepare for exams and final projects.

After finals, the library will observe holiday hours and closures from December 14–January 4. Regular spring hours will resume January 5, which will match the extended finals schedule listed above.

Please remind your students that the library offers quiet study spaces, group study rooms, computer labs, and personalized research help from librarians. Whether they need a peaceful spot to focus or help with a final paper, the Fulton Library is here to support their success.

For full holiday hours and closures, visit [the Fulton Library's website](#).