

Faculty Senate Minutes

December 9th, 2025: 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)	Evelyn Porter (E)	Laura Ricaldi (S)	Peter Aldous (D)
Ahmed Alsharif (S)	Heather Thiesset (S)	Laurie Toro (E)	Rachel Atkins (D)
Allan Wong (D)	Howard Fullmer (S) (E)	Maria Blevins (S)	Rich Paustenbaugh (E)
Alma Laney (S)	James Cox (S)	Matthew Duffin (S)	Richard Cho (S)
Amin Zollanvari (S)	Jennifer Shubert (E)	Matti Smith (S)	Rick McDonald (S)
Brett Breton (S)	Jim Oldham (S)	Mel Gurr (S)	Sean Crossland (S)
Chris Lindquist (S)	John Cornell (S)	Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (S)	Sean Tolman (E)
Colleen Hough (S)	John Newman (S)	Nate Jeppson (S)	Shelton Weech (S) (E)
Craig Thulin (S)	Jordan Allen (E)	Nicolas Clark (S)	Summer Karafiath (S)
Dan Perry (S)	Joshua Fagan (S)	Nicole Gearing (E)	Tracy Sermon (S)
Darin Eckton (S)	Karen Arteaga (E)	Nizhone Meza (E)	Tyler Schnese (S)
David Connelly (E)	Kat Brown (E)	Noelle Taylor (E)	Vince Rossi (S)
Deb Dowd (S)	Kevin Smith (S)	Paul Morrey (S)	Wayne Vaught (E)
Erin Jones (S)			

Absent/Excused:

Max Aeschbacher (S) - Sabbatical	Diego Alvarado Karste (S)	Frank Jones (S)	Matt Flint (S)
Abdenmour Seibi (S)	Doug Czajka (S)	Jeff Packer (S)	Ron Miller (S)
Carolyn Howard (S)	Douglas Gardner (E)	Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen (S)	Stephanie Dunn (S)

Welcome & Updates, Sean Tolman, Faculty Senate Vice President

[3:00-3:00]

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

- Minutes stand approved

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught, Provost

[3:00-3:20]

- Leadership Departures & Interim Assignments**
 - Laurie Sharp has left her role as Sr. Associate Provost for Academic Programs; in the interim direct reports will report to Wayne
 - Tammy Clark will be stepping away from her position as Associate Provost for Academic Innovation; in the interim Wioleta Fedeczko will oversee the Innovation Academy, in addition to her Chief of Staff duties
- Organizational Structure Realignment**
 - Opportunity to review and realign Academic Affairs organizational structure, aiming to reduce overlap and clarify responsibilities. Kat Brown will oversee faculty affairs, including promotion, tenure, and faculty development, while the Office of Teaching and Learning will move under Kat's portfolio
 - The Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation will continue to oversee programmatic and accreditation matters
- Search Process for Key Positions**

- A national search, supported by a search firm, will be conducted for the Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation, with the goal of filling the position by March. The search for the Innovation Academy lead will be conducted internally due to cost and vendor restrictions, starting at the beginning of the academic year
- **Clarification of Reporting Lines & Responsibilities**
 - Emphasized that the realignment is intended to make it clear whom to contact for faculty affairs (Kat Brown), academic programming and accreditation (the new Associate Provost), and student support and success initiatives (Innovation Academy), with updated organizational charts forthcoming
- **Innovation Academy's Role & Future**
 - The Innovation Academy will continue to exist and expand, focusing on workforce alignment, adult learning, credit for prior learnings, and industry certifications, consolidating related responsibilities under a single leader to enhance student career development opportunities

Policy

- **Introduce**
 - [158](#) Tobacco (*Drew Burke*) [3:20-3:20]
 - A compliance change related to tobacco and the Clean Air Act, will be handled through an open comment document rather than the usual Senate process, due to workload from other major policy reviews. Comments will be sent directly to the policy steward
- **Discuss and Vote**
 - [635](#) Faculty Rights & Professional Responsibilities (*Kat Brown*) [3:20-3:40]
 - Feedback on Policy: while it specifies faculty must teach as scheduled, it lacks clarity on personal leave – whether it exists as a category, how it can be requested, and its management
 - Recommended that Policy either define personal leave or reference the relevant employee leave policy, and to seek clarification from policy stewards and People and Culture
 - Motion to Vote:
 - Seconded: *Alma Laney*

VOTING RESULTS:

31 agree, 2 disagree, 3 abstain

Non-Policy Items

- **Faculty Senate Elections and Committee Updates** [3:40-3:45]
 - Nominations for Senate President and Vice President closed with two candidates: Evelyn Porter and Alan Parry for President, and Sayeed Sajal and Jennifer Shubert for Vice President
 - Candidates will submit bios and statements, with elections scheduled for early to mid-January
 - Two nominees for the RTP&A committee chair provided statements and voting took place
- **Post-Tenure Review Update** [3:45-4:25]
 - Discussed the revised post-tenure review rubric, its alignment with Policy 635, the process for incorporating faculty feedback, clarifications on evidence requirements, and the Senate's approval of the updated rubric for use this year
 - Motion to Vote: *Alma Laney*
 - Seconded: *Colleen Hough*

VOTING RESULTS:

31 agree, 0 disagree, 1 abstain

- **Workload Task Force Update** [4:25-4:25]
 - Confirmed acceptance of the proposed structure by Academic Affairs, the appointment of co-chairs, and the process for selecting committee members
- **Spring Meetings** [4:25-4:30]
 - Meetings next semester will be held on Tuesdays from 2:30-4:30pm, primarily in person, with Teams available for exceptions

Good of the Order

[4:30-4:35]

- Questions were raised about the flag display in the courtyard; confirmed it would be removed within the next week or two, along with the physical barriers

Adjourn

[session end time 4:35]

- Meeting ended at 4:35pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 13th, CB 104 & Teams @ 2:30-4:30 PM

Announcements

Hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday break!

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.

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](#)

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 training and updates coming Summer 2026!

Questions? Reach out to the Office of Teaching & Learning. Let's make this transition together!

Next Meeting: [Date]

Upcoming Agenda Items

[Import from Agenda]

Announcements

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

[Import from Agenda]

Policy Updates ([process overview](#))

(Leave on template for now but don't include in Minutes)

Policies in Stage 1: *Coming to Senate for discussion, comments, and debate.*

- Policy 335: Staff Grievance
- Policy 113: University Awards
- Policy 116: Student Communication
- Policy 151: Pregnancy Accommodation
- Policy 203: Employee Fringe Benefits
- Policy 329: Telephone and Cellular Phone Usage
- Policy 336: Children in the Workplace
- Policy 541: Student Code
- Policy 633: Faculty Performance Evaluation and Feedback
- Policy 637: Faculty Tenure
- Policy 644: Department Chairs
- Policy 654: Faculty Merit Pay
- Policy 704: Minors on Campus