

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 8th, 2026: KB 306 & Teams, 2:30-4:30 PM

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

[session start time 2:30]

PRESENT (53): Alfredo Medrano-Fernandez, David Connelly, Erin Peeples, Evelyn Porter, Howard Fullmer, Jennifer Shubert, Karen Arteaga, Noelle Taylor, Paul Morrey, Raiden Gaul, Rich Paustenbaugh, Roxanne Brinkerhoff, Shelton Weech, Wayne Vaught, Aaron Stewart, Abdenmour Seibi, Alma Laney, Amin Zollanvari, Brett Breton, Chris Lindquist, Colleen Hough, Craig Thulin, Darin Eckton, Diego Alvarado-Karste, Doug Czajka, Elaine Tuft, Elizabeth Golden, Erin Jones, Eunmi Joung, Frank Jones, George Odongo, Howard Fullmer, Isaac Hurtado, James Cox, Jerrell Rosales, Jeremy Boden, John Cornell, Kevin Smith, Laura Ricaldi, Maria Blevins, Matti Smith, Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer, Nicolas Clark, Nyree-Dawn Nichols, Patrick Mallory, Paul Morrey, Richard Cho, Ryan Baker, Ryan Rushton, Shelton Weech, Tom Smith, Tyler Schnese, Vince Rossi

EXCUSED (0): none

ABSENT (8): Sally Rocks, Carolyn Howard, Gordon MacKay, Timothy Stout, Jim Oldham, Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen, Matt Flint, Ronald Miller

PROXY (0): none

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, Faculty Senate President

[2:30-2:35]

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

- Minutes stand approved

Presidential Updates, President Jon Anderson, UVU President

[2:35-2:50]

- **Campus Safety & Emergency Communications**
 - Campus will be closed Thursday, September 10th
 - UVU is not sponsoring an institutional memorial event; an outside group is using campus space
 - September 2nd incident: a person displaying concerning behavior was observed on campus several hours prior to a direct police report being made
 - No text message was sent for the Sept. 2nd incident; the notification was email-only
 - Urged faculty, staff, & students to report unusual or urgent behavior promptly rather than attempting to manage it themselves
 - For urgent concerns, use 911; for questions about possible criminal activity or activity near campus, contact the police emergency number (801-863-5555)
 - UVU police can deploy a behavioral assessment team & respond immediately to reports, including reports that ultimately prove harmless
 - UVU has reduced the number of people required to approve emergency messages & prepared templates intended to reach university channels within seconds
 - In classrooms with weak cellular service, faculty should log into the classroom computer & keep email open because urgent email notifications should work through the university network

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught, Provost

[2:50-2:55]

- **Campus Support, Enrollment & Upcoming Town Hall**
 - It's a difficult week and department chairs & faculty are asked to be as accommodating as possible with students & colleagues, since people process things differently
 - Promotion & Tenure process is wrapping up and questions about that are welcome
 - Town Hall is being around for around October 1st where focus will be on non-safety/communications topics

Presentations

- **AI Data Guidelines**, Brett McKeachnie, Dx [2:55-3:25]
 - Approved tools may be used freely for public or internal UVU information & non-protected work
 - Users should minimize or anonymize names, contact details, student information & other personal or internal data when possible
 - Approved tools: Ask Wilson, tenant subscriptions for ChatGPT, Claude & Microsoft Copilot, the UVU AI Gateway, and approved APIs.
 - Try AI Gateway before requesting a paid tenant subscription. They cost approximately \$360 per platform per year and are paid by the requesting department
 - The Gateway is centrally funded, has a token-use allowance & also includes locally hosted models that do not consume the same external token budget
 - Students do not currently have access to the AI Gateway, although a student offering is being planned for a future project cycle
 - Each course or instructor define acceptable AI use; Digital Transformation will provide tools & institutional guardrails rather than dictate pedagogy or discipline-specific classroom practices
- **Student Affairs Update**, Michelle Kearns & Andrew Stone [3:25-3:55]
 - Reviewed UVU's student profile, enrollment pressures, student-support infrastructure, recruitment & completion plans
 - Fall 2025 enrollment was approximately 48,669 with continuing students forming the largest group, followed by concurrent-enrollment students, new students, transfer students, returning students & graduate students
 - Student Success Center is intended to be the central referral point for students when faculty or staff are unsure where to send them. Staff can meet students in the center & walk them to financial aid, advising, or other support areas. Faculty are encouraged to refer students there rather than trying to identify every specialize service themselves
 - Students increasingly identify difficulty connecting with faculty, staff & peers. Faculty are encouraged to contact students directly when they have not enrolled, disappeared from class, or submitted an early alert because personal contact can connect students to value & belonging more effectively than generic messages

Policy

- **Comments/Discussion**
 - [101: Policy Governing Policies](#) (Cara O'Sullivan) [3:55]
 - No comments
 - [133: GRAMA](#) (Kedric Black) [3:55]
 - No comments
 - [637: Faculty Tenure](#) (Kat Brown/Nizhone Meza) [3:55-4:15]
 - Proposed comments focused on paused tenure clocks, shortened probationary periods, midterm reviews, early applications & the treatment of prior institutional work
 - [611: Credit for Prior Learning](#) (Kat Brown/Colleen Sorensen) [4:15-4:25]
 - Comments centered around fee setting & use, assessment quality, accredited vs. non-accredited evidence, the proportion of a degree that may be earned through prior learning & the number of attempts allowed
 - [659: Endowed Chairs & Professorships](#) (Kat Brown/Melanie Lafranca) [4:25-4:28]
 - Proposed comment to expand eligibility for endowed professorships to Professional in Residence, based on the policy's recognition of exceptional academic & professional achievement

Faculty Work Session

[4:28-4:30]

- Voting on policy will take place next Senate meeting
- As part of a broader review of shared governance, vice presidents are scheduled to present information to Senate so senators & campus leadership can work from a common set of facts
- Review the announcements & links in the agenda/minutes
- The Equity Assessment Committee is still looking for someone to join

Adjourn

[session end time 4:30]

- Meeting ended at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: September 22nd, KB 306 & Teams @ 2:30-4:30pm

Announcements

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

President & Provost Questions: If you would like to submit questions for President Anderson or Provost Vaught to address at the next Senate meeting, please email facultysenate@uvu.edu.

From Dx: [AI Data Guidelines](#)

Department Chairs (Past & Present):

A few department chairs from UVU are conducting research on the "Lived Experience of Department Chair Service".

[Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)

Please feel free to share this survey with colleagues who currently serve or have previously served as department chairs. We welcome perspectives from a wide range of academic leaders. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Thank you for your time and support. Your input is invaluable.

Dr. Merilee Larsen

IRB-2026-126

Call for Proposals: Teaching Technology Tune-Up (T3)

OTL is calling for proposals to present at T3 2026. We encourage proposals that demonstrate and reflect our mission to advance effective teaching practices and improve student learning outcomes. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- **AI & Emerging Technologies in Education** - Explore how artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other cutting-edge technologies are transforming teaching and learning.
- **Bridging the Digital opportunity gap** - Focus on strategies and tools that ensure all learners have access to technology and resources.
- **Instructional Innovation & Pedagogy** - Highlight creative approaches to teaching with technology that improve engagement and outcomes.
- **Creativity, Media & Student Voice** - Showcase tools and strategies that amplify creativity and empower students to express themselves.

Presentations should be 30 minutes long with 15 minutes for questions and conversation. All presentations will be given through Microsoft Teams.

To submit your proposal, please fill out our form. The deadline for submission is **September 25**.

[SUBMIT PROPOSAL](#)

[SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER](#)

FULTON LIBRARY: We're excited to introduce our Fall Speaker Series lineup and celebrate ten years of *Roots of Knowledge* at UVU. This series provides an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and community members to gather, learn, and reflect on the many ways knowledge shapes our world.

This semester's Speaker Series represents a range of disciplines and perspectives. Topics include translating engineering and technology into visual stories, exploring the science and beauty of color, examining the relationship between science,

art, and music, and considering how education can strengthen empathy and human connection. Each presentation offers a different way to look at the ideas and discoveries represented throughout *Roots of Knowledge*.

All presentations are in the Bingham Gallery and are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [Roots of Knowledge](#).

September 17 at 1:00 pm

Dr. Anne Arendt, Nick Lawyer & Dallin Orr

Translating Engineering and Technology into a Visual Story Using the Power of Symbolization

September 24 at 1:00 pm

Dr. Craig Thulin

A Window on Color: Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder

October 8 at 1:00 pm

Dr. Daniel Fairbanks & Dr. Donna Fairbanks

The Intersection of Science, Art, and Music

October 22 at 1:00 pm

Dr. Kyle A. Reyes

Lenses of Humanity: Reframing the Power of Education

November 12 at 1:00 pm

Tom & Gayle Holdman

Making of a Miracle: The Extraordinary Journey of Creating a Stained-Glass Testament to the Worth of Each Human Soul