

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 22nd, 2026: KB 306 & Teams, 2:30-4:30 PM

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

[session start time 2:30]

PRESENT (51): Alfredo Medrano-Fernandez, David Connelly, Erin Peeples, Evelyn Porter, Howard Fullmer, Jennifer Shubert, Karen Arteaga, Paul Morrey, Raiden Gaul, Rich Paustenbaugh, Roxanne Brinkerhoff, Shelton Weech, Wayne Vaught, Aaron Stewart, Abdennour Seibi, Alma Laney, Amin Zollanvari, Brett Breton, Carolyn Howard, 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, James Cox, Jerrell Rosales, Jim Oldham, John Cornell, Kevin Smith, Laura Ricaldi, Maria Blevins, 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 (1): Noelle Taylor

ABSENT (8): Sally Rocks, Gordon MacKay, Jeremy Boden, Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen, Matt Flint, Matthew Duffin, Ronald Miller, Timothy Stout

PROXY (1): Isaac Hurtado

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, *Faculty Senate President*

[2:30]

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

- Minutes stand approved

Policy

• Voting

- [101: Policy Governing Policies](#) (*Cara O'Sullivan*) [2:30]
- [133: GRAMA](#) – limited scope (*Kedric Black*) [2:35]
- [611: Credit for Prior Learning](#) (*Kat Brown*) [2:35-2:40]
- [637: Faculty Tenure](#) – limited scope (*Kat Brown*) [2:40-2:45]
- [659: Endowed Chairs & Professorships](#) (*Kat Brown & Melanie Lafranca*) [2:45-2:50]

VOTING RESULTS

Policy 101: 37 agree, 0 disagree, 0 abstain
Policy 133: 37 agree, 0 disagree, 0 abstain
Policy 611: 36 agree, 1 disagree, 0 abstain
Policy 637: 37 agree, 1 disagree, 0 abstain
Policy 659: 34 agree, 1 disagree, 0 abstain

Faculty Work Session

[2:50-3:05]

• Senate 101

- Reviewed Senate's role in policy as advisory rather than authoring or approving policy
- Discussed policy categories
- Policy lifecycle was explained
- Reminder of the importance of gathering feedback from departments, asking questions during review meetings, identifying unintended consequences & considering impacts on faculty & students
- Guidance on effective policy comments was provided

Presidential Updates, President Jon Anderson, *UVU President*

[3:05-3:20]

- Institutional Metrics & Strategic Priorities

- **Key Indicators of Institutional Success:**
 - Enrollment
 - Retention
 - Graduation rates
- **Engineering Accreditation Reviews were reported as Highly Positive**
- **Faculty Hiring & Resource Allocation**
- **No Major Changes to the Tenure & Promotion Framework are Planned**

Academic Affairs, Wayne Vaught, Provost

[3:20-3:40]

- **Factors Under Consideration for Faculty Position Allocation & Planning**
 - Student credit hour production
 - Faculty workload
 - Number of majors
 - Course fill rates
 - Overload teaching
 - Accreditation requirements
 - Program growth trends
 - Completion metrics

Faculty Work Session

[3:40-4:25]

- **Senate 101** (*continued*)
 - The discussion continued regarding practical approaches to policy review and comments
- **Senate Priorities**
 - A discussion was initiated on identifying priorities for the coming year
 - Review the role of Senate in representing faculty perspectives
 - Discussion centered on moving beyond a solely policy-focused role toward broader faculty engagement
 - Strengthening faculty voice
 - Faculty representation in institutional decisions
 - Curriculum & academic quality
 - Faculty welfare & support
 - Committee processes & governance
 - Faculty asked to consider:
 - The most important issues facing faculty
 - Areas where faculty input is needed most
 - Opportunities for proactive Senate involvement
 - Issues where Senate can make a meaningful impact

Good of the Order

[4:25-4:30]

- **Recognition given to Erin for extensive service & support to Faculty Senate**
- **Financial planning & retirement event sponsored in partnership with Fidelity was announced** (*see Faculty Senate Teams channel for details*)
- **Future faculty forums (fall & spring) are intended to provide opportunities for faculty feedback & open dialogue**
- **Continue to contribute ideas regarding Senate priorities & institutional concerns**

Adjourn

[session end time 4:30]

- Meeting ended at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 6th @ 2:30-4:30pm

Announcements

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

Fall Faculty Forum: Stay tuned for exact date & location. Will be held on a Wednesday @ 2:30-4:00pm

See Something, Say Something: Non-emergency #: (801) 863-**5555** (UVU Police)

Questions: If you have questions for President Anderson or Provost Vaught to address at the next Senate meeting, please email facultysenate@uvu.edu or you can email [Evelyn Porter](#)

Final 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](#)

Communities of Practice

OTL's Communities of Practice kick off this semester, and there's a place for every faculty member to join a conversation that matters to you. This year brings new communities alongside our returning groups, so whether you've been part of a CoP before or are looking to join your first one, now's the time to jump in. Each community meets regularly throughout the year.

- [American Culture: A Pedagogical Perspective](#)
- [Global Intercultural Pedagogy](#)
- [Project-Based Learning](#)
- [SCULPT](#)
- [Teaching with AI](#)
- NEW: [Teaching Large Classes](#)
- NEW: [Teaching Online](#)
- NEW: [Teaching in Your First Year](#)
- [Writing Enriched](#)

Visit the [OTL Pedagogical Workshops, Certifications, and Events page](#) to read full descriptions. Clicking the titles above will add you to the MS Teams spaces.