Faculty Senate Minutes

October 6th, 2026: KB 306 & Teams, 2:30-4:30 PM

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

[session start time 2:30]

PRESENT (54): 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, Steven Clark, Aaron Stewart, Abdennour 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, Jerell Rosales, Jeremy Boden, Jim Oldham, John Cornell, Kevin Smith, Laura Ricaldi, Machiel Van Frankenhuijsen, Maria Blevins, Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer, Nicolas Clark, Nyree-Dawn Nichols, Patrick Mallory, Paul Morrey, Richard Cho, Ryan Baker, Ryan Rushton, Shelton Weech, Timothy Stout, Tom Smith, Tyler Schnese, Vince Rossi
EXCUSED (3): Noelle Taylor, Sally Rocks, Ronald Miller
ABSENT (3): Carolyn Howard, Gordon MacKay, Matthew Duffin, Wiktor Mogilski
PROXY (0): none

Welcome & Updates, Evelyn Porter, *Faculty Senate President* [2:33-2:35]

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

- Minutes stand approved

Presidential Updates, President Jon Anderson, *UVU President* [2:35-3:06]

- **University Leadership Update**
  - New Chief Strategy Officer role was established to align institutional research, assessment, communications, and strategic planning functions under a single office
  - Restructuring intended to improve transparency, coordination, data-informed decision making, and campus communication
- **Provost Search**
  - Search committee for the new Provost was discussed, and faculty input was emphasized
  - Committee membership will include representatives from faculty, staff, students, and administration
  - University will conduct an open search without the use of an external search firm
  - Key attributes for future candidates include leadership in academic affairs, healthcare education awareness, AI-related challenges, student success, and collaborative governance

Divisional Reports [3:07-3:23]

- **Office of General Counsel,** *Cathy Jordan*
  - Office of General Counsel (OGC) provides legal guidance, problem-solving support, risk management, policy oversight, contracts review, and compliance assistance
  - Attorneys' areas of specialization include employment matters, student affairs, contracts, intellectual property, and public records requests
  - OGC's role in helping university stakeholders make informed decisions while protecting institutional interests

Faculty Work Session

- **Faculty Workload *(Anne Arendt & Craig Thulin)*** [3:23-3:58]
  - Task force was created to provide recommendations regarding instructional workload calculations
    - The proposal would retain the current workload framework while introducing additional flexibility through effort multipliers

        - Effort multipliers could recognize courses requiring substantially greater or lesser instructional effort
        - Colleges and schools would have flexibility to determine their own workload adjustments based on local needs & faculty input
        - Large-class calculations and science-lab workload measurements were highlighted as areas needing refinement
        - Any workload modifications must remain budget-neutral and operate within existing institutional resources
- **Faculty Senate Priorities**
    - Reviewed feedback gathered from faculty and convocation discussions [3:58-4:28]
        - Major themes included faculty voice, shared governance, workload sustainability, academic freedom, research expectations, AI impacts, student success, and campus culture
            - Motion to establish **Strengthening Faculty Voice & Shared Governance** as the Senate's primary priority: *Craig Thulin*
            - Seconded: *Colleen Hough*
            - Vote: 31 agree, 10 opposed, 0 abstain
        - The remaining priority categories will be ranked through a future rank-choice voting process
        - Discussion emphasized collaboration with university leadership and increasing faculty participation institutional decision making

Good of the Order [4:28-4:30]

- Faculty encouraged to complete the provost search survey and submit recommendations for committee membership
- Upcoming Jester & Fools event on Thursday in the doTERRA auditorium; opportunity for faculty engagement

Adjourn [session end time 4:30]

- Meeting ended at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 20th

Announcements

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

Office of the Provost: Thursday, October 8th @ 11:30am in the doTERRA Auditorium (SB 134) "Can We Laugh About This? Using Humor to Bridge Differences"

Provost Search Survey: Please submit your responses *no later than Sunday, October 11th*. To nominate yourself or someone else to be on the search committee, email Evelyn Porter directly.

Faculty Forum: Thursday, October 22nd @ 4:00-5:00pm in Center Stage

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

Questions: If you have questions for President Anderson or Interim Provost Clark to address at the next Senate meeting, please email facultysenate@uvu.edu or you can email Evelyn Porter

OTL: *Wed, Oct 28 - Fri, Oct 30 | MS Teams*
Annual Teaching Technology Tune-Up (T3)
T3 is a free virtual event hosted by the Office of Teaching and Learning that will provide you with opportunities to learn and share best practices with teaching technologies at Utah Valley University.
REGISTER HERE
Keynote Speaker | Lew Ludwig

Teaching in the Age of AI:
What the Evidence Says, What We Can Do

The national conversation about AI in higher education often sounds like two camps shouting: embrace it or ban it, transform everything or protect everything. But the national data tell a more complicated — and more interesting — story than either camp suggests.

We'll start with what faculty across the country are actually doing and worrying about, then take up the harder question: how do we help students learn in the age of AI? We'll look at several recent studies on student learning and AI — and at how I saw some of those findings play out in my own classroom.

Then we'll turn to one practical way to make AI useful for your own teaching. This isn't another session on prompting skills. Instead, you'll see how to build an AI project designed around one of your courses that you can use across the semester. You'll leave with everything you need to try it on a course you're teaching now.

No AI experience needed. Skepticism welcome.

Open Office Hours with Honorlock - Monday, Oct 12th @12:00 noon
Join us for an open Q&A session with the Honorlock team. This is an opportunity to get answers to your questions, learn best practices, and discuss common workflows. Topics will include:

- Setting up 3rd-party exams
- Configuring accessibility accommodations
- Reviewing proctored session recordings and reports

Bring your questions about these topics or any other Honorlock-related features and processes. We look forward to helping you make the most of Honorlock in your courses.

Register Here

Additional Open Office Hours coming on November 5th & December 2nd

OTL Guidance for Fall Break

Canvas Tip: When extending time for an assignment or quiz, update the **Due Date** rather than the **Available Until** date.

Students only see **Due Dates** in their Canvas **Calendar** and **To Do List**. Changes to the **Available Until** date are not reflected there and may cause confusion.

Best Practice:
✅ Extend the **Due Date** when providing additional time.
⚠️ Extending only the **Available Until** date will not update the student's Calendar or To Do List.

Using the Due Date helps ensure students receive accurate deadline information and are aware of the extended timeframe for completing their work.