Faculty Senate Minutes

October 20th, 2026: KB 306 & Teams, 2:30-4:30 PM

Call to Order; Silent Roll Call (0 min.) [session start time 2:30]

PRESENT (52): Alfredo Medrano-Fernandez, David Connelly, Erin Peeples, Evelyn Porter, Howard Fullmer, Jennifer Shubert, 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, 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 (5): Karen Arteaga, Carolyn Howard, Gordon MacKay, Kevin Smith, Matthew Duffin, Wiktor Mogilski
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* [2:35-2:55]

- **Provost Search**
  - Website and position description are available
  - Process is moving forward as planned
- **Institutional Planning & Direction**
  - During the spring semester, there will be broader campus conversations about long-term planning and simplifying and aligning the university's various mission, vision, values, and strategic statements
  - Faculty Senate is expected to participate in discussions regarding institutional priorities, student populations, and academic offerings
- **Student Enrollment, Retention & Progression**
  - Spring registration has opened with strong initial student participation
  - Student retention and progression remain key institutional priorities
  - Academic leaders have been given expanded access to institutional student and course data
  - Encouraged to work with department leadership to use data for decision-making and student success efforts
- **Regional Partnership (Wasatch South Region Summit)**
  - Discussions focused on improving transfer pathways and student transitions
  - Additional work is expected regarding academic partnerships and student mobility
- **Campus Climate & Expression**
  - Continued dialogue encouraged regarding civil discourse and campus engagement

Academic Affairs, Steven Clark, *Interim Provost* [2:55-3:10]

- **Faculty Line Allocation Review**
  - Reviewed faculty staffing needs across colleges
  - Additional faculty positions are being directed to the business school to address enrollment growth, instructional demand and accreditation-related pressures
- **Budget & Carryforward Funding**

- Revised approach to carryforward allocations presented
- New model considers historical expenditures and base funding levels rather than relying solely on uniform percentages
- Additional funds remain available to address specific college needs

Divisional Report, Jim Mortensen, *Finance & Auxiliary Services* [3:10-3:30]

- **Overview of Division Responsibilities**
  - Responsibilities include payroll, budgeting, purchasing, internal audit, mail services, and financial operations
  - Supports university operations and ensures financial accountability

Faculty Work Session [3:30-4:25]

- **Ratifying Vote for UCC Chair, Sally Rocks**

Results: 41 Yes; 0 No

- **Student Survey Results**
  - Collected responses regarding faculty practices and student experiences; approximately 267 responses were gathered
  - Key student priorities identified flexibility and understanding from faculty, career preparation and research opportunities, effective communication, academic support resources, and faculty accessibility and engagement
  - Trends by academic progression include early-year students emphasized faculty connections and guidance; mid-program students emphasized academic support; upper-division and graduate students emphasized career preparation and professional development
- **PDF Accessibility Compliance**
  - Clarification provided regarding accessibility requirements
  - Current efforts are focused on PDF accessibility within course environments
  - Institutional compliance deadline remains in 2027
  - Encouraged to seek assistance when accessibility problems cannot be resolved independently
- **Regional Collaboration Discussion**
  - Faculty involvement was emphasized as essential to future collaboration efforts
  - Priorities include advising alignment, transfer pathways, and program-level coordination
- **Constitution & Bylaws Review**
  - Plans to revise governing documents
  - Constitution and bylaws are being reviewed for consistency and clarity
  - Faculty participation in drafting and review processes encouraged
  - Goal is to prepare revisions for future review and approval

Good of the Order [4:25-4:30]

- **Faculty Forum**: Thursday, 22nd in Center Stage at 4:00-5:00pm
  - Event is intended as an open venue for faculty discussion, concerns, and feedback
  - Participation is open to faculty across the institution
  - Discussion format is intended to encourage candid conversation
- **This Week is Science Week**: outreach activities and community events

Adjourn [session end time 4:30]

- Meeting ended at 4:30pm

Next Meeting: November 3rd @ 2:30-4:30pm in KB 306

Announcements

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

Faculty Forum: THIS THURSDAY, October 22nd 4:00-5:00pm in Center Stage

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

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. Sessions will be recorded and available in the T3 Teams space after the completion of the event.
REGISTER

Keynote Speaker | Lew Ludwig
Teaching in the Age of AI:
What the Evidence Says, What We Can Do
VIEW KEYNOTE DESCRIPTION AND SPEAKER BIO

The **Fulton Library's** equipment collection gives faculty easy access to technology that can enhance classroom instruction, support student projects, and help create engaging course content. Available equipment includes cameras, microphones, audio recorders, projectors, presentation tools, laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots, and a variety of accessories. Materials come with linked instruction videos, making it simple to incorporate multimedia, recording, and presentation technology into your teaching.

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