

FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA

Charles Hunter Room, R. Haze Hunter Alumni Center

September 4th, 2025

4:00-5:30 pm

Approved

Attending: Chris Monson, Scott Knowles, Brandon Wiggins, Grant Shimer, Jacob Dean, Ryan Siemers, John Benedict, Xun Sun, Masoud Malekzadeh, Rick Brown, Chelsea Gambles, Kevan LaFrance, Michael Kroff, Elise Leahy, Jon Lee, John Meisner, Elijah Neilson, R. Alexander Nichols, Crystal Koenig, Rachel Parker, Shane Yardley, Nate Slaughter, Hayden Coombs, Jean Subjack, Lee Wood, Chris Younkin, Jon Karpel, Chris Graves, Qian Zhang

Not Attending:

Proxies:

Guests: Shauna Mendini, James Sage, Camille Thomas, Jake Johnson, Ashley Zimmerman, Tom Herb, Brandon Walton (SUUSA)

1. Call to order (4:03)
2. Recognition of Presenters and Guests (4:03)
 - a. President Mindy Benson
 - b. Interim Provost Shauna Mendini
 - c. Associate Provost James Sage
 - d. Assistant Provost Camille Thomas
 - e. Assistant Provost Jake Johnson
 - f. Executive Director, Belonging and Engagement and Staff Association
President Ashleigh Zimmerman
 - g. SUUSA Vice President for Academics, Brandon
 - h. Assistant Director, Health and Wellness, Madison McBride
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: (4:05)
 - a. [April 17 meeting minutes](#)
The minutes were unanimously approved.
4. Events and Announcements: (4:06)
 - a. The admissions office has asked to remind faculty that, if they see students on tours, be friendly, say “hi” and welcome them to SUU. Tours are a vital recruiting tool and when faculty are friendly students get a good impression of SUU.
 - b. First Six Weeks events – SUUSA is sponsoring events for the first six weeks of class (Big Six flyer)
 - c. QPR Promotional Message (Madison McBride)

Mental health training information was shared and an info flyer was passed around

5. Information Items (4:10)

- a. [Student complaints policy](#) – substantial revision, faculty concerns with original text. We are grateful for the administration working with faculty regarding these concerns.
- b. [Abusive coaching policy](#) – new policy, mandated by state law
- c. [University travel policy](#) - updated
- d. Programs possibly being discontinued: Construction Management BA and Software Development Mobile App Certificate (just entered 30 day comment period, Faculty Senate and Deans' Council will vote at the end of this period)

Please be aware that this is coming up and will be handled by academic affairs.

6. Action Items (4:11)

- a. University Benefits Committee – faculty senate gets to appoint two representatives + the faculty senate president or designee, these were Cody Bremner (Senate President Representative), Bill Kershnik, and Brock Landrum, all are willing to continue if we are in support.

A motion was made for the above to continue on the University Benefits Committee. All were in favor.

- b. GE Committee (Faculty Senate Approval and Ryan Siemers needs to be replaced) BUS Roderick He, HSS Matthew Newsom, CSTEM Whitney Hoff, COEHD Lauren Roberts (renewal), PVA Drew Liedtke

David Hatch volunteered and all were in support of Hatch serving on the GE Committee.

The rest of the committee, as above, were approved unanimously.

- c. Faculty Leaves Committee – need one member per college, so far have Scott Knowles, chair, Tyler Stillman BUS, Nichole Wangsgard COEHD, Julie Taylor CoHS, Kholoud Al-Qubbaj HSS, Scott Lanning LIB, PVA Lisa Quoresimo, STEM Derek Heins

All were approved unanimously.

- d. WaFSEC Committee (Faculty Senate Approval) - HSS Gretchen Ellefson, BUS Howard Hu, CoHS Cody Bremner, CSTEM Matthew Rowley, PVA Brock Landrum, COEHD Doug Stump (2nd term), Lib Scott Lanning (2nd term)

All were approved unanimously.

- e. University P&T Committee (Faculty Senate Approval) - COEHD John Meisner, BUS Tyler Stillman, LIB Scott Lanning.
All were approved unanimously.

7. Discussion Items (4:24)

- a. Syllabi upload date concerns ~15 minutes, please limit comments to around 1 minute.

Shauna Mendini: The State Legislature has asked us to upload syllabi. We hope this is a one time request.

Chris Younkin: There are syllabi on many forums, which will be considered the most up to date/official? How do we obey the law?

Shauna: Read the policy and follow the policy. Update as needed.

Camille: We are in the process of updating the policy to align with USHE guidance. The syllabi app will be the official updated place.

Crystal: Concerns about non-contract work. Teaching new classes. There are concerns about the deadline (12/24) as we are already working to get grades in before the holiday. Intellectual property ownership concerns.

Kevan: Also has concerns in his department about intellectual property and syllabi being publicly published.

Grant: Thoughts about the law requiring us to work when we are off contract. Is there concern about when we try to follow the law we are also breaking it?

Shauna: We don't disagree.

Grant: Who do we talk to in the legislature to communicate these things? It's likely that they just don't know.

Shauna: There is a gap in our communication.

Camille: USHE/the commissioners office established these things. We provided feedback on the date and in the end the guidelines stayed the same.

Elijah: 2nd session courses need to be submitted on the same timeline.

Chris: Federal labor laws are contradicting state laws as labor laws say you can't work off contract. The federal government should trump the state.

Scott: Can you send us the law?

Camille: USHE interpreted the law and made the decision that it should be 14days.

Scott: So it's not state law, it's how USHE is choosing to interpret it.

Kevan: The law says mandatory but we're being asked to have all courses submitted.

Camille: For efficiency we had asked for all courses.

Grant: Upper level classes and student research. It changes every semester.

Camille: Has spoken with Deans to assess which courses should be exempt for these purposes. If it's not a mandatory class, then they may not have a syllabus. Work with your Department Chair/Dean to double check this.

Ryan: Are there barriers to moving the contract days if USHE doesn't budge?

Camille: We would have to change payroll cycles and that isn't possible.

b. [Faculty Review Board Procedures and Guidelines](#)

Mike Kroff: Is the senate committee charged with hearing cases of grievances that involve faculty. For example, with policy 6.28 where termination is one of the options. The committee would hear the case and offer a recommendation.

We are meeting with Jake Johnson to put together procedures and guidelines to define how we proceed. It doesn't supersede policy just to help us with policy. We are anticipating a case very soon and we would like to get this approved so we have these procedures in place for the upcoming case we need to review.

Please review the link and comment and in two weeks we'd like to have a vote.

Question: Do you want comments from senators or all faculty members? The document is about 10-pages.

As this is a procedure document (not policy) take this back to your departments and collect any concerns and share those at the next meeting before the vote.

8. Standing Committee Updates (4:54)

- a. Faculty Review Board (Michael Kroff)
- b. Parking Ticket Arbitration Committee
- c. Staff Association Liaison
- d. General Education Committee
- e. Honors Council
- f. Graduate Council
- g. University Curriculum Committee
- h. Student Association Liaison
- i. Benefits Committee
- j. Faculty Awards Committees
 - i. Distinguished Faculty Lecturer (Christopher Graves)
 - ii. Employee Commitment for Access and Belonging
 - iii. Outstanding and Distinguished Educator Award Committee (Crystal Koenig)
 - iv. Distinguished Scholar/Creative Award Committee (Kevan LaFrance)
 - v. Distinguished Faculty Service Award Committee (Jon Lee)

9. Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report (Jacob Dean)
- b. Past President's Report (Scott Knowles) – Academic Affairs Committee, University Faculty Leaves Committee
Meetings will commence next week.
- c. President Elect's Report (Brandon Wiggins) – UCFSL, Workload and Faculty Salary Equity Committee (WaFSEC), Ad Hoc committee on policy outside of 6.0
Faculty Senate Leadership meeting. A state commissioner spoke about decision making at USHE. SUU was voted to be on the council (Wiggins). We shared thoughts about the changes happening across UT universities.

d. President's Report (Chris Monson) – Policy/Procedure Arbitration
Committee, President's Council, Dean's Council

Chris: HB261 SUU is providing reports on its compliance to the state. The state wants to look at all documents on any new hires, students, etc.

85% of the syllabi were turned in – pretty good response. We are being audited by the state (USHE) on this.

SUU is usually in compliance with USHE, 75-99% conforming.

Camille: State law review 1-2 years, 3 years after a program is proposed. Nothing will change there. There is a disciplinary review where quantitative info on our disciplines will be reviewed. There used to be a 7 year review with external reviewers looking at different departments. This is now a 5 year. This may change and we are awaiting guidance. We are in support.

Shauna: Every 5 years presented some complications and we often found we were out of sync – we want programs to be a success.

Executive Session: 5:09

Vote was passed to hold a session