

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA

September 7, 2023

4:00-5:30pm

Via Zoom

*Approved*

Attending: Kelly Goonan, Abigail Larson, Scott Knowles, Daniel Eves, Gary Wallace, Chris Younkin, John Benedict, Christian Bohnenstengel, Cody Bremner, Chris Graves, Mitch Greer, Scott Hansen, David Hatch, Steven Hawkins, Maren Hirschi, Jon Karpel, Bryan Koenig, Elise Leahy, John Meisner, Andrew Misseldine, Michelle Orihel, Rachel Parker, Joshua Price, Grant Shimer, Ryan Siemers, Kyle Thompson, Joel Vallett, Qian Zhang

Not Attending: Amanda Roundy

Proxies: n/a

Guests: Mindy Benson, Jon Anderson, James Sage, Jake Johnson, Camille Thomas, Alexis McIff, John Lisonbee, Brandon Street, Mackenzie Jenkins, Mike Humes, Matt McKenzie

1. Call to order (4:01)
2. Recognition of Presenters and Guests (4:01)
  - a. Mackenzie Jenkins, Internship Coordinator, Career & Professional Development
  - b. Brandon Street, Director, Career & Professional Development Center
  - c. John Lisonbee, Staff Association President
  - d. Alexis McIff, SUUSA VP of Academics
  - e. Camille Thomas, Asst. Provost of Faculty Engagement
  - f. Jake Johnson, Asst. Provost of Leadership Development and Compliance
  - g. James Sage, Associate Provost
  - h. Jon Anderson, Provost
  - i. Mindy Benson, President

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: [April 13, 2023 meeting minutes](#) (4:04)  
Daniel Eves motioned; Mitch Greer seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Events and Announcements (4:05)

Kelly Goonan: We are making a slight modification to our agenda this year to try to hopefully streamline the meetings and use our time efficiently. You'll see here that point 4 is for events and announcements. Please share these with your faculty. We're not going to get a detailed account of these in the meeting. But whenever there are links, please follow for additional information.

- a. Save the date for the CTI & Academic Partnerships Online Teaching Seminar Series on October 3 in the SUU Ballroom; a survey of potential topics will be coming out soon
- b. CTI has added two additional review dates for [FDSF applications](#)

## 5. Information Items: (4:06)

### a. Recognize new Senators:

- i. David Hatch – Interdisciplinary Studies
- ii. Michelle Orihel – History, Sociology & Anthropology
- iii. Jon Karpel – Biology
- iv. John Benedict – Aviation
- v. Qian (Victoria) Zhang – Management and Hotel, Resort, & Hospitality Management
- vi. Josh Price - Economics
- vii. Steven Hawkins - Accounting
- viii.

### b. Updates to [Faculty Senate Webpage](#)

Please refer your colleagues to the webpage for information and questions.

We've added upcoming events on the main page that are relevant to faculty.

There is also a news section highlighting faculty accomplishments. There is also a

questions and comments form for all faculty to submit -- anonymously, if desired

-- that will be routed to the faculty senate email address

([facultysenate@suu.edu](mailto:facultysenate@suu.edu)).

## 6. Action Items: (4:11)

### a. Vacancies on WaFSEC: HSS, PVA, COHS

#### i. HSS selected representative: Dr. Gretchen Ellefson

Per policy the senators from each college nominate one faculty member and one alternate, and submit to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee makes a recommendation on who should be placed. We currently have vacancies in HSS (one more) PVA and College of Health Sciences.

Motion to approve Dr. Gretchen Ellefson by Ryan Seimers and Elise Leahy to second. Motion was approved.

#### ii. PVA selected representative: Dr. Ben Soward

Motion to approve from Chris Graves, second from Elise Leahy. Dr. Soward was elected to serve on WaFSEC.

COHS was asked to nominate two faculty who would be willing to serve on the WaFSEC committee -- one primary nominee, and then one alternate. We would like to vote on them at our September 21st meeting and get them caught up with Lynn and the rest of the committee. We are looking for people who can serve a three-year term so we can limit turn over.

The Workload and Faculty Salary committee (WaFEC) will be working to help develop guidelines for faculty salary compensation. The employee salary and wages policy was recently updated at SUU over the summer, and staff guidelines have been approved. This committee is responsible for drafting faculty guidelines that will help guide administrative level decisions about salaries and salary increases.

7. Discussion Items: (4:16)
- a. Updates to Policy 6.3 – Internships (Mackenzie Jenkins & Brandon Street)
    - i. [Current Policy](#)
    - ii. [Draft Revised Policy](#)

Brandon Street

I also want to recognize Mike Humes, Risk Management, who's on the call. He's been working closely with us on this policy update. Why are we making a change? It's been perhaps 11 years since this policy has seen an update and we think it's time to assess and streamline processes and minimize risk for all those who participate in internships. We have also been working with the Legal and Provost's offices as well as a group of faculty to help guide us. We need a better understanding of how to classify internships. We have discussed the following three internship types: (1) SUU sponsored internships, which will be third-party/off-campus, (2) University Operated that are on-campus internships, and (3) Independent Internships, which we don't sponsor and students go and do/make their own arrangements.

Another change is that students can count their current employment as internships. We want to update this to bring more clarity. The actual class and the internship needs to occur within one semester. Also, students may not obtain internship credit if they're working under the supervision of a family member, another student, or a self-run business. What we hope with these changes is to get your feedback on any concerns you might have and suggestions for change.

Family or self-run business taking a look at these as well.

Be aware there will be changes to processes as well – we have been working with Parker Grimes for an internship application that will go university wide and accessible no matter where they are. They can apply and then know who they need to contact. Mackenzie Jenkins is the internship coordinator in the Career Center.

There will be two agreements – Master Internship Agreement, for the internship providers or companies, which will be good for 5 years and then an Internship Learning Agreement, which the Student Internship Coordinator, Academic Internship Coordinator, and the company will sign together.

Maren Hirschi

You say that the internship has to be completed within one semester. Do departments have any leeway for that? For example, could my department require that it is completed in the same semester?

Brandon Street

Absolutely. Yeah, it just states that it has to be done within one. So you could definitely require that it's done in the same semester. If that's up to your department.

Maren Hirschi

Yup, okay, excellent. And then my next question is, I'm assuming, but just want to clarify

with the university wide application system. Does this still allow room for programs such as I'm guessing. Nursing is probably in this league as well. But Teacher Education, and Social Work where we are placing students that still allows for us to dictate that process.

Mitch Greer

On that policy where it relates to within one semester, let's say I have a student that does the work over the summer. and then they have a full schedule in the fall, would they not be able to take the internship credits in the spring. Then, since it's beyond that one semester

Brandon Street

According to what we have now. Yes, that would be the case. You'd want to take it either prior, if that's something your department allows, or during the summer. The fall after is the way policy is reading right now and after talking with the Provost's office, we want to ensure that these are happening as close to that class as possible, because academically, we want to be supporting that student through that experience.

Scott Knowles

I'm curious, my department runs internships for theater students - acting students very specifically - where they can go to any kind of regional theater and work there for a summer, and it counts as an internship credit. So this could fall under, in my end reading of the policy, either a university sponsored internship or it could be an independent internship. I'm curious what level of university involvement in the facilitation and other aspects of the program is required to get it counted for that, because our goal is to count it for credit, which means we need it to be a university sponsored internship right?

Brandon Street

And so the independent internship typically is not for credit. That's the clarity of the independent internship, they're doing it on their own. They're not doing it with our support or for credit and so it would fall under a university sponsored internship at that point.

Daniel Eves

Yes, I was looking through the policy, and I had a couple of questions on the policy itself. The first of that is under definition B, the Faculty Advisory Committee is the purpose of that committee to advise the faculty who's involved in the internship? If so, it's aptly named. If it's supposed to be composed of faculty to advise the internee, I don't think it has the correct name.

Brandon Street

That's a good point. It is correctly named. It's intended for Mackenzie to get with faculty for them to collaborate on things going on and to give updated Federal State laws in

regards to what's going on, make sure we're following those things right? So really, I think it is aptly named.

David Hatch

Are there different applications for grad and undergrads? What about separate department rules?

Brandon

We want departments to have autonomy so we want to provide a minimum of guidance.

Maren

Is the new internship agreement form effective immediately?

Brandon

Not until it is approved.

Kelly: Please share with your faculty. A document will be set up to share the feedback you get from faculty. Our goal is to have them back at the Sept 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to answer additional questions and then vote.

8. Standing Committee Updates (4:30):

a. Faculty Review Board (Daniel Eves)

b. Parking Ticket Arbitration Committee (Daniel Eves)

Parking tickets are being issued this week and we'll meet next week for arbitration.

I'm really excited to see that they painted the south side of campus so that people don't park in the bike lane anymore.

c. Staff Association (John Lisonbee)

In general, we appreciate the faculty engagement with our Superstar Station. We always appreciate faculty interactions and we will be doing it again in the spring semester. We are working with the faculty senate to kick off an employee giving campaign. We created a t-shirt to help bolster our student funds. We would like to do this again for our campaign starting the end of this month through October. We have walking groups organizing with CTI and faculty are welcome to join --more info coming. Mary Jo Anderson has been asked to chair the University Benefits Committee. We are seeking to improve contributions.

d. General Education Committee (Ryan Siemers)

Will be meeting next week.

e. University Equity and Inclusion Committee

Waiting to see if the committee is still active.

f. University Curriculum Committee (Rachel Parker)

We will meet on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

g. Student Association (Alexis McIlff)

Heard from a lot of students that have connected with their professors. My role is a liaison if you need student input or to be on committees. Our goal is to increase

opportunities for student belonging. We want them to feel connected to their colleges. We were at Paint the Town Red and got college specific flags. Each of our academic senators is creating a counsel within their colleges for student feedback. If you want to connect with your student senator that would be great. We served as team captains for Thunder U. We passed a bill to get recycling on campus for move-in week. We collected 1 ton of cardboard and had it recycled. We're having a town hall with the executive counsel for student input. We have other initiatives like a parking resolution and getting feedback on what students are experiencing on campus and how we can make it a better experience. I am happy to help the faculty senate with anything you may need.

- h. Benefits Committee (Cody Bremner)
 

Third year under the contract so our medical benefits will be up for review – we are waiting for more information on changes, etc. Need two at-large faculty members.
- i. Faculty Awards Committees:
  - i. Distinguished Faculty Lecturer and Grace A. Tanner Committee (Christopher Graves)
 

We had a number of fantastic submissions and it was very competitive. The committee would like to know how to solve problems with voting when it's super close. Any rubrics? Seeking suggestions/advice.
  - ii. Inclusion & Diversity Awards Committee (Kelly Goonan)
  - iii. Outstanding and Distinguished Educator Award Committee (Bryan Koenig)
 

The questionnaire for proposals wasn't vetted by the committee. Can the committee look over the questions, etc. before it's distributed? Jared Tippets would be the person to contact to make forms to fit our needs – allow for enough time to do this in the future.
  - iv. Distinguished Scholar/Creative Award Committee (Christian Bohnenstengel)
  - v. Distinguished Faculty Service Award Committee (Andrew Misseldine)
- j. Treasurer's Report (Daniel Eves)
- k. Past President's Report (Abigail Larson) - Academic Affairs Committee; University Faculty Leaves Committee – would like to have feedback on any problematic language, dashboard access, etc. in Policy 6.1. Please reach out and let Abby know any concerns.
- l. President Elect's Report (Scott Knowles) – UCFSL; Workload and Faculty Salary Equity Committee (WafSEC)
 

No news from WafSEC. Attended the UCFSL meeting this summer. Goal is to unite Faculty Senates across the state. The focus is shared governance and a push for a Board of Trustee seat for a faculty member. Update that the meeting for WafSEC was 9/6. Per Kelly's request, Scott will look into policies that determine who is on the Board of Trustees and how selections are made.
- m. President's Report (Kelly Goonan) - Policy/Procedure Arbitration

Committee; President's Council; Dean's Council. Thanks for attending the Open House. We will be holding our meetings through Zoom but we also want to provide a space for informal interaction. Spring Open House will be Tuesday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm in Charles Hunter room. Employee Giving Campaign a competition was proposed between faculty and staff to see who can raise the most. But have decided 50% will go to staff and 50% will go to faculty and 100% will go to scholarship funds. More information is coming. President Leadership Council – mostly about updates about the UT Board of Higher Education as they've been newly recreated. Still waiting to hear on the Board's priorities, which could be workforce alignment. Mindy met with them and we could hear more soon.

Dean's Council – a lot of emphasis is being placed at the college level on working to align our college strategic plans with the new SUU strategic plan. Provost Anderson also discussed that he would really like to see that group spend more of their time working through issues and having discussions, and a little bit less time in the weeds on policies. So, if there is anything from Dean's Council that I'll need your feedback on, I'll certainly reach out and keep you all updated.

Final update is several of us sat in on the University of Utah's meeting with Julie Hartley from USHE. She provided an overview of the reorganization of the Board of Education. She reminded us of the Board's resolution of Freedom of Expression, which arose through concerns about political intervention and state legislators passing bills that put limits on what faculty can and cannot do in their classrooms. The Board of Higher Education came out with a strong statement on the value of the marketplace of ideas in education. Link here:  
[https://ushe.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdf/agendas/2023/20230519/Resolution\\_Freedom\\_of\\_Expression\\_signed.pdf](https://ushe.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdf/agendas/2023/20230519/Resolution_Freedom_of_Expression_signed.pdf)

If you have questions about maybe your particular area, or I know some faculty from certain disciplines have expressed some concerns, this is a really good resource to share with them. My guess is this conversation is not over. We've just paused it, and it will resume with the next legislative session.

The best ways for faculty to be involved politically is as private citizens to engage with officials and be engaged in the civic process as private individuals and not representatives of our private institution.

Julie Hartley – spoke about the various bills (signaling bills) if you would like to see the notes from the meeting and her remarks email Chris Younkin for more info.

We can have Julie visit us if interested and answer questions about how the board functions and impacts faculty.

We are considering our twice monthly meetings. We will continue as is and if we do not have significant discussion items, etc. then we will cancel.

9. Call for Executive Session – no motion.

10. Adjourned (5:08) Motioned by Daniel Eves and seconded by John Benedict.