

**MINUTES  
FACULTY SENATE  
December 1, 2014**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair of the Faculty Michael Brewer at 3:00 p.m. in the Old Main Silver and Sage Room.

Present: Senators Aleamoni, Armstrong, Ayoun, Bourget, Brewer, Brooks, Colina, Comrie, Conway, Cuillier, Dahlgran, Dai, Duran, Fountain, Galilee-Belfer, Ghosh, Guertin, Hamilton, Hart, Hildebrand, Labate, Leafgren, Lee, Lega, Martin, McKean, Moreno, Nadel, Ortega, Padias, Pau, Polakowski, Ray, Richardson, Ritter, Sager, Secomb (Interim Graduate Council Chair for K. Visscher), Silverman, Simmons, Smith, Snyder, Story, A. Vaillancourt, R. Vaillancourt, Valerdi, M. Witte, and R. Witte.

Absent: Senators Cuello, Finnegan, Fregosi, Harris, Higgins, Johnson, Jones, Joseph, Kohler, Kraut, Miller, Najafi, Neumann, Nfonsam, Spece, Trump, Vercruyssen and Yeager.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

Senators Nadel and Colina had amendments to the minutes. The minutes were approved as amended with one abstention.

**3. REPORT FROM CHAIR OF THE FACULTY LYNN NADEL**

Nadel announced that an Academic Freedom working group has been meeting weekly to define what Academic Freedom means to a variety of faculty members. Two faculty forums have been scheduled for January 21, 2015 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and January 22, 2015 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Student Union Kiva Room. The structured open forums will be moderated with open discussion. The ABOR breakfast meeting, to be held on February 5, 2015, will be focused on perceived controversial topics that can arise in the classroom. The Arizona Faculties Council and Faculty Officers will be in attendance, and specifics to others' involvement is still being worked out. The Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics' annual meeting is scheduled for February 20-22, 2015 in San Diego, California. National concern has been geared toward the interface of academics and athletics. The upcoming January 2015 Senate meeting will have its structured discussion on academics and athletics. After much delay and anticipation, the new Faculty Center website will be going live soon.

**4. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOR ASUA, GPSC AND APAC REPORTS**

1) Senator Ghosh asked Senator Brooks how students distinguish between expenses of the fees versus tuition. Ortega responded that instead of negative connotations associated with fees, students experience benefits from fees like student involvement, engagement and mentoring. Brooks responded that on average a graduate assistant's fees are only 1/16<sup>th</sup> of their total tuition. A lack of transparency of some of the University's fees committees is a bigger issue. Although distinguishing between fees and tuition is not most students' concern, how the University fees committees allocate monies dispensed as program and course fees is under scrutiny. Ortega said that eight students make up the Student Services Fee Advisory Board. The Board makes recommendations to Senior Vice President Melissa Vito about money allocation, and to ensure that best practices are followed. 2) Senator Silverman asked Ortega about ASUA's sexual assault awareness campaign. Ortega responded that the UA's sexual assault awareness campaign is part of a nation-wide educational effort, and the fraternity council donated \$3,000 to print T-shirts for the campaign which has been highly successful in thrusting the topic into campus community's conversations. 3) Senator Bourget asked Brooks more specifically about transparency with the University's fees committees. Brooks responded that not all of the University fees committees are under scrutiny, but some of the committees have not been forthcoming on how the money is being used.

**5. REPORT BY PROVOST COMRIE**

Provost Comrie reported that Academic and Student Affairs enterprise metrics were reviewed at the last ABOR meeting, and the UA's are strong, placing it on track or exceeding goals for Bachelor's and Master's degrees in high-demand fields. Student survey results on teaching satisfaction and overall effectiveness continue to increase. Graduate Medical Education refers to residency and fellowship positions that graduates must complete after medical school. Each available position is an important part of clinical training as well as playing a critical role in retaining doctors in the state of Arizona. The trend is that those who do their residency in a given state, remain to practice in that state. The federal funds that support many of these positions were last apportioned to the state of Arizona's population twenty years ago, and as a growing state, Arizona now has a deficit of Graduate Medical Education positions. The UA's Office of Federal Relations team and experts from Arizona Health Sciences Center are working with Arizona's federal delegation to help support legislation that will address the shortage.

**6. REPORT FROM PRESIDENT HART**

President Hart complimented Senator Brewer on his presentation to the Arizona Board of Regents as the Chair of the Arizona Faculties Council. The UA is the only University in the country that has simultaneous, top-ten ranked men's basketball and football programs. The February 2015 ABOR meeting will be held at the UA. Hart encouraged all faculty to attend. The next ABOR meeting will be the first of the ABOR meetings under a new system, by which the Regents will perform a "deep dive" once a year at each of the three in-state

institutions. Meetings will be set up to discuss updates to *Never Settle*, UA's business and finance plans, the role that athletics plays at the UA and how the quality of UA's mission is central to the well-being of the State of Arizona. In alignment with the legislative initiative aimed at giving Arizona Universities the authority to be more entrepreneurial, the Regents approved an initiative to provide Arizona Universities the authority to be more entrepreneurial in higher education. The Arizona Public University Regulatory Reform Initiatives contains thirteen items and will be presented by the Regents and voted on at the Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting on November 21, 2015.

**7. QUESTION AND ANSWER FOR THE CHAIR, PROVOST AND PRESIDENT**

1) Senator Silverman asked Senator Nadel if the two different dates of the faculty forums were the same format. Nadel said yes. Silverman asked President Hart how the thirteen items that the Regents will be presenting to the legislature were chosen. Hart said they evolved over years of conversations starting with self-insured healthcare. The list is a result of all three in-state Universities' legislative affairs and planning groups, as well as ABOR staff's input. A number of the involved parties had been at institutions that were not dependent on a state healthcare system. By becoming self-insured, the UA could save of \$12-14M per year, but because UA employees are in better health than state employees, insurance premiums may increase for the state. 2) Senator Martin asked Hart if there was going to be a rescission on the horizon with regard to the \$500M shortfall in the State of Arizona's budget. Hart replied that with the rainy day fund and some other interventions, a rescission is not likely. On the current political environment, many are opposed to tapping into the rainy day fund. The K-12 settlement is still in the courts and not resolved yet, and because of this, has created many problems for the UA. The tax cuts that Arizona has implemented over the last half decade, has not generated the increased activity designed to increase revenues. The UA's recovery rate has been lower than in other states. The outlook is bleak, but most of the thirteen items on the list propose fiscal implications for making the UA more efficient and effective. 3) Senator Ghosh asked President Hart if other Universities have been allowed by their states to employ the thirteen regulatory reform initiatives. Hart replied yes. A number of the proposed initiatives have demonstrated success at a number of other institutions.

**8. ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE SCHEDULE FOR 2015/2016**

Brewer explained that according to the Constitution, all Faculty Senate meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month during the academic year. The Chair of the Faculty has requested that the September 2015 Faculty Senate meeting be moved to August 31, 2015 to accommodate out-of-town travel. [Motion 2014/15-08] passed unanimously.

**9. REVISIONS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR REORGANIZATION AND MERGERS OF ACADEMIC UNITS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA – CHAIR OF THE FACULTY, LYNN NADEL**

Nadel explained that the three substantive changes outlined on the accompanying summary include the consideration of students and staff in who is affected in a unit, make clear that the Guidelines apply to situations where faculty are moved out of an existing unit in order to populate a new unit, and the establishment (by Chair of the Faculty with the Senate Executive Committee) a team of neutral observers to 1) ensure that the proposers follow the process and adhere to the Guidelines, and 2) to ensure that the affected units and faculty, as well as other interested parties, are given adequate opportunity to have their concerns heard and their questions addressed. Nadel assured Senators that the team of neutral observers' role is one of overseer of process and is not one of a decision-maker.

Questions and comments included: 1) Senator M. Witte commented that the document is well thought out and addresses issues that have been problematic in the past. 2) Senator Ayoun expressed concern that the definition of affected units as, "the academic departments that would be reorganized, merged or transferred from one college to another" does not fully represent the unit that the faculty are leaving or the unit the faculty are moving to. Nadel said that the definition was approved last year, and the document is not be rewritten at this time. The issues being vetted are the three changes mentioned earlier. 3) Senator Bourget stated that she was not a Senator last year and did not get to vote on the document, and voiced her objection to the definition of "affected faculty." Bourget would like an addition to the document that specifically addresses the faculty left behind and the faculty being joined in Section 1 of the Process. Nadel concurred that the addition was reasonable and conveyed what the edits were trying to accomplish with inclusion of all affected faculty members. 4) Senator M. Witte raised a point of order, and asked Senators to consider a friendly amendment "including faculty left behind" outlined in Section 1 of the Process. 5) Senator Silverman suggested a friendly amendment to Item 8, Page 3 to read, "Once the proposal has been approved pursuant to Item 7 above, it will then be widely distributed to the University community and presented to the Faculty Senate within thirty (30) days of receipt. Faculty Senate may support, oppose or suggest modification of the proposal." Nadel confirmed that the aforementioned friendly amendments embrace the spirit of the document. Brewer called for a vote [Motion 2014/15-09] to approve the changes to the *Guidelines for Reorganization and Mergers at the University of Arizona*. [Motion 2014/15-09] was seconded and passed, and is detailed at the end of these minutes.

**10. ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL'S NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEM APPROVAL TO AMEND THE SPECIAL EXAMINATION FOR CREDIT OR GRADE POLICY – UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL CHAIR, DENNIS RAY**

Brewer reminded Senators that the Undergraduate Council's Non-consent Agenda item comes to Faculty Senate as a seconded motion. Brewer asked if there were any questions on the proposal. The proposal outlines that the limitations on Special Examinations for Credit or Grade should be the same as the limitations for College Level Examination Program (CLEP) with respect to language course exams. Senator Conway asked specifically why the seventh week was chosen. Senator Ray responded that it was simply changed to reflect the same time frame as the CLEP. Conway asked if it would be prudent to remove the time frame on both policies. Ray said that it reflects a request from the language departments in the College of Humanities for an identical time frame. Senior Vice Provost Gail Burd stated that the change to the policy is to unify the non-traditional language requirements with the traditional language requirements. The Council did not discuss a different time frame other than seven weeks. [Motion 2014/15-10] passed and is detailed at the end of these minutes.

11. **OPEN SESSION**

Senator Martin addressed the Senate about the increase in fees for volunteers with the Cooperative Extension. Background checks will see an increase from \$55 to \$76 and Motor Vehicle checks will increase from \$12.50 to \$51.00. The Cooperative Extension in the State of Arizona relies on volunteers who work with children in the 4H segment, and fingerprint checks through motor vehicle records are required as a precautionary safety issue. The Cooperative Extension does not have funds for these required services, and advance notice would have been appreciated in order to arrange for fundraising options. The other alternative is to ask volunteers to pay out-of-pocket for their volunteer services.

12. **DISCUSSION ITEM: PRESENTATION ON 100% STUDENT ENGAGEMENT – VICE PROVOST FOR DIGITAL LEARNING AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, VINCENT DEL CASINO**

Del Casino discussed the 100% Engagement Initiative, which emerged out of the conversations surrounding the UA's commitment to enhancing students' educational opportunities and experiences. To formalize the process and produce a definitive result, a Task Force was initiated last spring by Senior Vice President for Student Affairs Melissa Vito and Senior Vice Provost Gail Burd. Task Force meetings were held over the summer with engaged participants who felt the experience was educational as well as enlightening. What evolved was a larger conversation about how the initiative could gel with the broader goals of the strategic plan, but also the vision of the University. The Task Force set out to put together a plan for engagement, but the challenges of making the plan work were tied to the activities students engage in that do not generate any transcription credit. Thus the Task Force proposed a secondary set of learning options for a zero-credit learning experience. The Task Force made a call to the colleges to find out how each wanted to define the 100% engaged learning experience. Academic proposal vetting was done through Undergraduate Council.

Questions and comments included: 1) Senator M. Witte commented on the College of Medicine's student initiatives program entitled Distinction Track, which built its requirements while at the same time, individualizing the program to its students. Witte pointed out that student disengagement should be considered as much as student engagement. Del Casino said that defining engagement, experiential learning, or other ways of learning, does not necessarily presume its opposite. After defining what engagement is, the meaning is articulated and operationalized on the UA campus. The goal is developing a system of naming that makes sense and distinguishes the program. The Task Force has put the definition to work to delineate what will count in each category. 2) Senator Nadel asked if governance was being considered to standardize and mandate what colleges determine important. Possibly the term "engagement" by itself needs modification to soften its radical implications. Del Casino said that the policies in the proposals submitted by the colleges clearly outlined principles, but the Task Force is recommending an advisory committee at the University level that randomly samples and assesses on an annual basis. Opportunities are offered and not mandated. The term "engagement" is a conversation that can move toward the government process in Faculty Senate or Undergraduate Council. Does a degree offer content or skills for when a student leaves the University? How does engagement or experiential learning translate into an internship? The 100% engagement experience is not an individual student experience, but a co-curricular experience and leadership experience. 3) Senator Martin asked if these experiences would go on the student's transcripts and who would approve the learning experience or internship. Del Casino said yes, the student would fill out a form when s/he applies for an internship outlining student learning outcomes. It will be up to the department's and/or college's curriculum committee to determine the validity. Ascertaining courses that already engage in a zero-credit learning experience is the easiest way to accomplish this. 4) Senator Brewer asked who was going to pay for the reflective, individualized sentiment aspect of this type of learning experience. Del Casino said that courses that already encompass this type of experience contain the credit aspect, it's the workload that sometimes is undefined. The college decides. 5) Senator Smith commented that internships should be geared toward contributing to the community, rather than depleting from the community. The reflection aspect can include the contribution factor. Del Casino concurred and said that conversations with civic partners are essential to enforce this aspect of a community partnership. 6) Senator Ghosh asked if consideration and credit is given to the hands-on skills that the student learns. Del Casino said that ultimately, the student should be able to reflect on and apply all aspects of the learning experience to many different applications after graduation. 7) Senator Silverman asked why the proposals were vetted by the Undergraduate Council and how that affects professional and graduate programs/schools. Del Casino said that the preliminary outline for the 100% Student Engagement Proposal refers to graduation with engagement as an undergraduate, and the expanded picture will include a more robust conversation in the area of professional and graduate school programs. Comrie added that specialized training is easier on a smaller scale and is more critical at the undergraduate level. 8) Senator Galilee-Belfer asked about students that work part-time as student workers and how those experiences intersect with learning engagement and how to help students move away from survival jobs after graduation. Del Casino said that the UA needs to prioritize non-disenfranchising the students who go to college while working forty-hours a week. There is a national conversation about internships, and there is a development opportunity at the UA to try to provide space and time for students who want to do internships but can't afford to give up the minimum-wage job. There are students on the UA campus who have high-ranking positions, and the UA currently will match work-study and career advancement to an engaged learning experience. 9) Senator M. Witte said that getting beyond competencies and skills is evolving the question state-of-mind. Witte said she teaches a course on ignorance and the course focuses on what isn't known. Once all the answers are known, the goal is get students to a questioning state-of-mind and the evolution of the questions after what is known. Del Casino said a long-term goal would be to have enrollment based on what the UA offers its students. 10) Senator Ayoun asked for Senator Ortega's input. 11) Ortega asked if engaged learning is better suited to the research environment track or another discipline and how do you incentivize students. Del Casino gave the example of the nationally recognized Blue Chip program. Out of 300 students who enroll, forty are expected to graduate from the program. The key is making messages simple and clear with pathways that are broad enough to fit into the student's life plan.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Senator Nadel informed Senators that at the last ABOR meeting, the Regents approved the UA's request for a University Club and a permanent location should be on the horizon around the fall 2016. On December 10, 2014 is the Regents' Professors/Distinguished Professors induction ceremony. Nadel recommends that everyone attend.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Barbara McKean, Secretary of the Faculty  
Jane Cherry, Recording Secretary

**Appendix\***

*\*Copies of material listed in the Appendix are attached to the original minutes and are on file in the Faculty Center.*

1. Minutes of November 3, 2014
2. Report from the Chair of the Faculty
3. Report from ASUA
4. Report from GPSC
5. Report from APAC
6. Report from the Provost
7. Report from the President
8. Senate Schedule for 2015-2016
9. Revisions to the Guidelines for Reorganization and Mergers of Academic Units at the University of Arizona
10. Undergraduate Council's Non-consent agenda Approval to amend the Special Examination for Credit or Grade Policy

**Motions of the Meeting of December 1, 2014**

**Motion 2014/15-08** Motion to approve the 2015-2016 Senate schedule. Motion was seconded and passed.

**Motion 2014/15-09** Motion to approve the changes to the *Guidelines for Reorganization and Mergers of Academic Units at the University of Arizona*. Motion was seconded and passed.

**Motion 2014/15-10** Seconded motion from the Undergraduate Council for the approval to amend the Special Examination for Credit or Grade Policy. Motion passed.

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