

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: 08/21/25; 12:30-2 pm, Location: Library 3D and Teams

Roster									
<b>Guests: None</b>									
CAES		CBSS		CHS		COP		Library	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anderson, Jeff*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ashby, Jason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hardy, Tyesha	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comeau, Jill	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilcher, Heather
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boldin, James (VAPA-filling Sciences seat)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Broadway, Megan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hawsey, Leah	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackson, Keith		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carey, Nancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bruce, Paul Robert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jones, Ashanti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tice, Hilary		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Couvillon, Ross	<input type="checkbox"/>	Johnson, Mark*-excused	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Perry, Holley				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Koers, Gregory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McDaniel, Janelle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robinson-Jones, Paula				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McGuire, Pat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tolleson, Josh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Showers, Jo Ellen				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Murru, Siva	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traweek, Adam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traxler, Karen				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rowley, Brendan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walker, Bruce						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tresner, Clifford-excused								

X=Present; \*Indicates member at large

## Agenda

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senate group picture</li> <li>Select individuals for available senate seats and president-elect &amp; secretary-elect positions</li> <li>Proposed changes to senate's constitution &amp; bylaws (CBL) - Provost McEacharn</li> <li>Evaluation of need to continue 2024-25 senate projects</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee Assignments</li> <li>Policy review: Emeritus: should re-nominations be allowed for emeritus candidates?</li> <li>Senate president communications title survey</li> <li>CANVAS and ULM senate website changes</li> <li>Open forum</li> </ul> |
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<b>Call to order</b>	Time: 12:30 pm (began with a picture) Presiding: Dr. Hilary Tice Recording: Dr. Hilary Tice		
<b>Announcements</b>	Not verbally addressed during meeting but agenda posted to CANVAS contained pertinent items		
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	NA	NA	NA
<b>Unfinished Business</b>	Items slated for discussion were not able to be addressed. Review and discussion will be postponed to a subsequent meeting.		
<b>New Business</b>			
<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Action</b>		<b>Follow Up Plan</b>
<b>Senate group picture</b>	Twenty-one senators met near Warhawk circle for a group picture. A ULM photographer captured the group in four different pictures.  Upon entry into the library meeting location, senator Tice began with an icebreaker. This also allowed senators opting out of the in-person meeting to make it back to their offices from the picture location to connect to the meeting via Teams. Senator Tice indicated that if the majority of senators guessed the appropriate senate officer represented by the playlist, she would bring snacks, funded by her own personal budget, to the next meeting. After the playlist concluded, a vote was called. Teams attendees were unable to hear the playlist playing, so they opted out of the vote; however, a majority of in-person senators guessed that the playlist represented Senator Anderson correctly.		Proofs will be sent to Senator Tice for posting.  Senator Tice to bring snacks for in-person attendees to the Sep. meeting.
<b>Fill available senate seats and officer positions</b>	Nominees for the available senate seats and open officer positions were shared with senators before the meeting. Four nominees for open senate seats were presented for approval. Senator Tice mentioned that school Senators, Directors and Deans were involved in communications to locate replacements. Nominee Leah Hawsey clarified that she does not hold a ‘doctor’ title. Dr. Bruce Walker requested to introduce himself and he was given the floor to do so. There were no other requests for self-introductions by the nominees and voting commenced. Nominees for the senate seats were approved by a majority vote with one abstention. Senator Tice then opted to appoint Senator Josh Tolleson as the parliamentarian for the 2025-26 year, as he had agreed to the position through previous email communications and voting was not necessary per the CBL.  The discussion then changed to voting for the available officer positions. Senator Traweek asked how the candidates were selected, with Senator Tice responding that some were		

	<p>self-nominations or recommended by the executive officers and that two email communications had been sent to senators to obtain nominees but no submissions were received. The floor was opened to allow for additional nominations but none were voiced. Therefore, the current candidates for the president-elect position were obtained from the senate's executive officers while the secretary-elect position was a self-nomination. Senator Tice commented that the secretary-elect is a colleague in the College of Pharmacy and that she felt they would be a good individual for the role. Senator Walker motioned to accept the nominees for the positions with Senator Anderson clarifying that the vote would be for the secretary-elect and parliamentary positions. Voting commenced; however, Senator Walker questioned the sequence of voting and whether deliberation should be allowed before a vote. Senator Tice responded, indicating she was following the procedure carried out in the college of pharmacy as it relates to Robert's rule of order revised. Due to time constraints, Senator Tice appointed senator Josh Tolleson as the official parliamentary, which is allowed by the CBL. Voting for the secretary-elect position resumed. A vote was called and the candidate was approved unanimously, with senator Comeau abstaining. Candidates for the president-elect position were then given the floor to introduce themselves. Senator Jones introduced herself and highlighted her strengths and background that makes her a good candidate for the role. She needed to leave after her statement to attend to a previously scheduled appointment. Senator Rowley then introduced himself and also shared what makes him a good candidate. Senator Tice asked if there was any deliberation, with no one voicing a need. Voting commenced, votes were called for both Senator Rowley and Jones. Senator Rowley was selected by a majority vote, with eight votes, while Senator Jones received seven. A few senators abstained from the vote.</p>	
<p><b>Proposed changes to senate's constitution and bylaws: Provost McEacharn</b></p>	<p>Provost McEacharn entered the room shortly after the voting on the playlist concluded. She introduced herself. The Provost reiterated President Castille's vision of providing enhanced communication, transparency and data-driven decisions with the senators. She highlighted that VP Graves and herself have been involved in the creation and review of the Friday messages that the President has been sending out. Provost McEacharn shared that the University Council (UC) was formed based on feedback from President Castille's listening sessions and other things, so she can increase involvement of other entities in her decisions. The UC will serve as an advisory body to inform her decisions. She highlighted some of the members included in the UC, including two members being from the faculty senate, one from the executive officers and another from the senate body.</p> <p>During the course of her presentation, eight items were identified that should be considered for incorporation into updates made to the CBL. These include:</p>	<p>Senator Tice to share with the senators a path forward to obtain and CBL change vote for the 9/18 meeting.</p>

	<p>1) add Provost/VPAA as ex-officio (to streamline communication between senate as faculty representation and University Administration &amp; increase direct access to leadership);</p> <p>2) change to fully open meetings for internal constituents of the University (to help with transparency and communication on campus);</p> <p>3) attendance;</p> <p>4) remove fiscal affairs committee (now addressed with University Council);</p> <p>5) move the faculty handbook committee to the faculty senate (in hopes that it will result in an annual update); may need to add more specific dates on when processes are due;</p> <p>6) incorporate how the University Council faculty senate members will be selected (one leadership representative and a member representative);</p> <p>7) incorporate how senate decisions are addressed with the University council (may need to define purposes more in the bylaws); and</p> <p>8) how to more effectively collect information about issues, needs and concerns and how the senate can more effectively communicate what is learned back with the faculty community to guide the senate's decisions and projects.</p> <p>Provost McEacharn concluded her presentation by opening up the floor to questions. Below is a synopsis of the questions posed and resulting responses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Senator Rowley asked how the faculty handbook revision process would proceed if placed under the senate's purview. Answer: that depends on what gets adopted in the CBL; may go to the Provost but it would most likely go to UC. The Provost would continue to be involved in its development.</li> <li>2) Senator Walker asked if the fiscal affairs committee would have to be eliminated or if it could remain unfilled on an ongoing basis in case it is needed in the future. Answer: if the committee remains then it can be utilized to bring forward proposals or suggestions that need to go to UC but the UC will be primarily handling fiscal affairs.</li> <li>3) A senator asked a clarifying question related to the open meetings. Answer: the senate will need to define whether it is for internal, external or both types of guests; the Provost suggested for internal guests.</li> <li>4) Senator Showers asked if parts of the meeting could be closed if issues were specific to senate issues. Answer: the senate can go into executive session if closed deliberation is needed. No votes can be taken in executive session.</li> <li>5) Senator Traweek asked if the UC and staff senate meetings would be open. Answer: yes.</li> </ol>	
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|  | <p>6) Senator Walker asked for clarification on whether the current structure for guests to speak could be maintained. Answer: yes, the current structure can be maintained.</p> <p>7) Senator McGuire asked if there are going to be issues that both the UC and Faculty Senate address as opposed to any strict guidelines for one and the other? Answer: no, the UC is going to represent that body from which recommendations, suggestions, or whatever is provided from Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association, so on and so forth bring to that table and then that table will include people from all over campus. Senator McGuire then asked the following clarifying question: so, who would have the final say if there's an issue that has to be voted on? Would it be the Faculty Senate or would it be the University Council voted on? Answer: if it's university policy or something along those lines, it's University Council. It's a recommending body to the president, just as Faculty Senate is a recommending body to the president. So basically, that council is going to start representing a lot broader group and that's because things that happen here may also impact things we are not aware of.</p> <p>8) Senator Rowley asked if the UC would be involved in the tenure and termination procedure as well. Answer: this would need to be fleshed out better but since the issues are more administrative in nature, vs policy, and affects only certain groups, it may have a different path.</p> <p>9) Senator Comeau asked if the senate would need to vote on the items today. Answer: the general faculty need to be given 10 days' notice of any voting to change to the bylaws would occur, so for the 9/18 meeting, the deadline is 9/8 to inform the general faculty.</p> <p>10) Senator Showers asked for additional clarification on the request for increased communication between the senate and faculty. Answer: the communication has improved but there is always room for improvement and requested that the senate come up with new, innovative, and effective ways for communication between faculty and senate in both directions.</p> <p>11) Senator Ashby asked a clarifying question related to adding the Provost as ex-officio and whether there were other reasons to do this outside of streamlining communication, since holding open meetings would potentially address that. Answer: the executive officers currently meet with the Provost before meetings to gather information and finalize an agenda; adding the Provost could help streamline any needed follow-up (e.g. make a policy vs. contact an administrator), and the direct line of communication with the President.</p> <p>12) Senator Tice asked if the ex-officio would be a non-voting member. Answer: yes, they would not vote.</p> |  |
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	<p>13) Senator McGuire commented that having the Provost in the meetings would be valuable.</p> <p>14) Senator Rowley and Walker again questioned how senator's engagement in the discussion may change if the Provost and other administrators were present. Response: the Provost gave examples of other meetings where open discussion has occurred and the benefits of allowing those interactions. Senator Jones highlighted that there are ways to get around the fear of retaliation and shared some examples. She voiced that the benefits of having the Provost at the meetings would potentially outweigh the risks of potential recourse especially if options were provided to allow for anonymous interactions. Having the provost involved can help build relationships between the senate, faculty and upper administration.</p> <p>Senator Walker asked how President Castille wants to be addressed. Response: it is mainly situational.</p> <p>There was a lighthearted discussion about the video created with the President, Provost, and Deans that has been posted to social media.</p>		
<b>2025-26 Committee Reports</b> -Academic Standards (AS) -Constitution and By-Laws (CBL) -Elections (E) -Faculty Welfare (FW) -Fiscal Affairs (FA) -Ad Hoc Committees: **Faculty Handbook (FH) **P&T (PT)	NA		
<b>Open Forum</b>	NA		
<b>Adjourn</b>	Time: ~1353	Meeting was called to end by Senator Tice secondary to individuals from another scheduled event needing access to the room. No official motion was made.	