**Summary notes from the Faculty Senate meeting**

held on Monday, January 27 2025, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm via

Zoom and in Old Main, Silver and Sage Room.

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of the Agenda: Vice Chair of the Faculty, Presiding Officer Mona Hymel (30 discretionary minutes will be allotted) *Time limits will be enforced.*
3. Approval of the [**minutes for the December 2, 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting**](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/SenMin-12.2.24.pdf). (2 minutes)
4. Open Session. Rob Jackson, Holly Andrews, Senator Lucy Ziurys, Senator Stacey Cochran. Time limit is 2 minutes. Maximum number of speakers is four. No comments or votes will be taken. (8 minutes)
5. Report from the Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson (10 minutes)

Chair Hudson reported on the optimism she feels about the future of the institution.

1. Report from the President – President Suresh Garimella (10 minutes)

President Garimella talked about his reflections and areas of focus since he arrived. (See recent video message from President Garimella). Raising and sustaining the **morale** of our staff, faculty, students, and community and starting the coming year with no deficit. Salary increases are planned for all in the coming fiscal year. Opportunities for direct engagement of administrative leaders by faculty and staff will increase, e.g., upcoming faculty breakfasts, and staff picnics. Improving **operations** by providing clear guidelines - IT, HR, etc. Building a **strong and experienced leadership team** (e.g., new Chief of Staff has just joined the President, Dr. Francisco Garcia). “A relentless focus on student success.” “Supporting our university’s significant research and scholarship strengths.” No tuition increases for in-state students this year. Reaffirmed dedication to **serving rural and underserved communities** through innovative educational opportunities and supporting Arizona's agriculture and broader community needs. Focused on the university's role as a Hispanic-serving institution. Serving the **state and the community** (affordability and historic land grant mission).

President Garimella took questions from the audience.

1. Report from the Provost – Interim Provost Ron Marx (10 minutes)

The Provost provided the following updates:

* Two dean searches are underway. Optical Sciences and Fine Arts. Jason Craig has been appointed as Interim Dean of Law. The search for the permanent replacement for the College of Law and College of Education will be launched in the fall or next fiscal year.
* We are not clear on the full consequences of the Los Angeles fires on our students; we are providing support as needed including temporary financial support.
* The Provost has moved offices to occupy Old Main. Enrollment Management will occupy the former Provost spaces in Admin Building. The SV for Native Advancement is also moving back into Old Main (1st Floor).
* P & T reviews are underway.
* The All Funds meetings are beginning soon. All Deans and unit heads have been asked to model 3% reductions. When new investments are needed, unit heads have been asked to submit new requests for investment.
* Arizona Online was just recognized as a leading program in the country by U.S. World News Report (based on retention, enrollments, full-time faculty members, etc.)!

Provost Marx took questions from the audience.

1. Action Item: Consent Agenda – (5 minutes) Co-chairs of the Undergraduate Council, Joost van Haren and Lisa Rezende

The following proposals were approved via consent agenda:  
[***Proposal UG Minor in Food Science and Fermentation***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Proposal_UG-Minor-in-Food-Science-and-Fermentation.pdf)[***Request to Establish Minor in Food Science and Fermentation (Information only)***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Request-to-Establish-UG-Minor-in-Food-Science-and-Fermentation_UA.pdf)[***Proposal Minor in English Applied Linguistics***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Proposal_Minor-in-English-Applied-Linguistics.pdf)[***Request to Establish UG Minor English Applied Linguistics (Information only)***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Request-to-Establish-UG-Minor-English-Applied-Lingustics_UA.pdf)[***Proposal BS in Integrated Business Engineering***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Proposal_BS-in-Integrated-Business-and-Engineering.pdf)[***Request to Establish BS in Integrated Business Engineering (Information only)***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Request-to-Establish_BS-in-Integrated-Business-Engineering.pdf)[***Proposal BS in Medical Pharmacology and Toxicology***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Proposal_BS-in-Medical-Pharmacology-and-Toxicology.pdf)[***Request to Establish BS in Medical Pharmacology and Toxicology (Information only)***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Request-to-Establish-BS-in-Medical-Pharmacology-and-Toxicology.pdf)[***Proposal BA in Public Relations***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Proposal_BA-in-Public-Relations.pdf)[***Request to Establish New Academic Program BA in Public Relations (Information only)***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Request-to-Establish-BA-in-Public-Relations-University-of-Arizona.pdf)[***Proposal UG Minor in Insights into Healthy Aging***](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/Proposal_UG-Minor-Insights-Healthy-Aging.pdf)

1. Old Business  
   A. Multi-year contracts – Interim Provost, Ron Marx, and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Andrea Romero (10 minutes)

Provost Marx and Vice Provost Romero announced they are moving toward **increasing multi-year (MY) contracts** **for career-track faculty**. In 2021, ABOR increased the cap on MY contracts for career-track faculty from 15% to 30% of the number of tenure, tenure-track faculty. There have been increases in the number of MY in recent years, but we are nowhere near our 30% cap, leaving room for as many as 290 additional contracts. The Provost has asked all Deans to do a systematic review of who is eligible in their colleges to move more toward MY contracts (with an emphasis on all faculty who are AT FULL RANK). This is in line with ASU and NAU. Deans and unit heads will have discretion to also allot MY contracts for faculty at other ranks.

Provost Marx and Vice Provost Romero took questions from the audience.

New Business  
A. Update on considering alternative voting software for University Elections – Chair of the Committee on Elections, Senator Lee Medovoi (5 minutes)

We conduct our elections using Qualtrics, a survey software not designed for elections. The Elections Committee has explored 4 different software options which will be tested by Jane Cherry and the Elections Committee. Whatever software we choose will cost us - it is estimated between $500-$1000 per year - which seems very reasonable but still an expense that requires permission from exec leadership. The Elections Committee suggests that the FS makes a formal request (perhaps in the form of a motion by FS) of uni leadership once we have made a decision about which one we want to recommend. We will not be able to implement any new system before the next academic year.

B. Update on the Shared Governance Review Committee – Senator Russell Witte (5 minutes)

Senate R. Witte made a report on the Shared Governance Committee, a faculty constitution-mandated committee that he is co-Chair of (with Mona Hymel) and briefed FS on the committee charge. Objectives of SGRC include: role/responsibility of the committee; survey climate of SG at UA; areas of strength/weakness at UA, among other areas. Senate R. Witte will share the slides.

C. Student Basic Needs and Services – SAPC Co-chairs, Kristin Little and Tim Ottusch, and Assistant Director, Basic Needs and Services, Bridgette Riebe (5 minutes)

A report by Bridgette Riebe described the Basic Needs and Services Center, and the needs that campus has at the moment.

D. Code of Conduct and Political Activity Policies – Chair of APPC, Keith Maggert (10 minutes)

Keith Maggert reported on updates that need to be made regarding an interim policy related to political activity by faculty that has been in place for 4-5 years (and should no longer be considered interim). Senator Maggert elaborated on some of his concerns.

E. UA Staff Council Report – Staff Council Chair, Melanie Madden (5 minutes)

There is a [staff survey report](https://staffcouncil.arizona.edu/resources/staff-surveys?_gl=1*1ozauaq*_gcl_aw*R0NMLjE3MzMzNDAxOTAuQ2p3S0NBaUFtTUM2QmhBNkVpd0FkTjVpTGRWckVYUTYydjhkQUpudTN6Ymt1VWZ3OGx6Q2VVanU2M1F4d3huX1RyOVRycl9YTFFxbHpob0NLeUlRQXZEX0J3RQ..*_gcl_au*MTU2MTI2NDAxMS4xNzMzMzQwMTgz*_ga*MTAwMDYzNzA1My4xNzA4MzYxMDY2*_ga_7PV3540XS3*MTczODA4NjM4Mi4xNDMuMS4xNzM4MDg2NDg1LjAuMC4yMDY0NTAwMjQz) (21% response rate out of 12,000) available to Senators if they wish to read more - please visit the Staff Council website to find and read the report.

F. [**Effects of HR and Business Centralization**](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/Centralizatiom_Senate.pdf) – Senator Lucy Ziurys (5-minute presentation, 10-minute discussion)

Senator Ziurys shared concerns about the impact of centralization on research activities at University of Arizona, and proposed a resolution to halt centralization until a full evaluation (by whom, it was unclear) could be made. There was not enough time to discuss this so we may revisit at a future date.

1. Written reports from the [**President**](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/President-s-Report-to-Faculty-Senate-January-2025.pdf), [**Provost**](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/Faculty-Senate-Report-1.27.25.pdf), Faculty Officers, APPC, RPC, [**SAPC**](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/SAPC-report-1-27-25.pdf), DEI, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, SGRC, Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, SPBAC, ASUA, GPSC, UArizona Staff Council, Gen Ed Office with UWGEC, C11 (2 minutes)
2. Adjournment at precisely 5:00 p.m.