**Summary notes from the Faculty Senate meeting**

held on Monday, February 3 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. Open Session. Keiron Bailey, Parliamentarian Mark Stegeman, Senator Joel Smith. Time limit is 2 minutes. Maximum number of speakers is four. No comments or votes will be taken. (8 minutes)

**Various speakers presented on issues of interest**, **including questions related to faculty rights, structural changes to the general education program.**
4. Report from the Chair of the Faculty – Leila Hudson (10 minutes)

**The Chair of the Faculty spoke about gen ed, and thanked all the people involved in this process. We will be hearing one last time from the ad hoc committee on Gen Ed, specifically, handling gen education in a Senate subcommittee whose members will be selected by Chair Leila Hudson and Vice Chair Mona Hymel. The UWGEC subcommittee will be invited to contribute. Specific date/time is TBD. The Chair read a statement regarding recent changes to the national political landscape and how this is impacting higher education.**

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

**No report was provided. However, Dr. Francisco Garcia, the President’s Chief of Staff, was present and introduced himself. Dr. Garcia is an alumni of UA as a student and tenured faculty in Public Health and Obstetrics/Gynecology. He led Pima County Health for 5 years, and then worked in Administration for Pima County for another 5 years. His role at UA as COS to the President is to listen and help issues rise to the level of the President.**

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

**Provost Marx provided brief remarks and focused them on the last few weeks in higher education, and at the University of Arizona in particular. The Provost and President and other senior leaders will avoid speculating and present only information that is known.**

1. Consent agenda – Co-chairs of the Undergraduate Council, Joost Van Haren and Lisa Rezende (5 minutes)
[*Policy revision-Bachelor’s Degree Requirements, Multiple Majors and Degrees*](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/BA-Degree-Reqs-Multiple-Majors-Degrees_policy-amendment-benchmarking.pdf)

**Approval via consent agenda.**

1. Old business
A. [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 provided a report by the Research Policy Committee detailing some of the concerns re: HR centralization’s effects on research. Several Senators followed up with questions and comments. Senator M Witte proposed a resolution to call an emergency Faculty Senate meeting with President Garimella to work on the major issues facing our university. There was a brief discussion which was cut off by the Vice Chair of the Faculty who began the voting process. The resolution passed.**

B. \*Addition to the Agenda under Old Business\* Resolution on Political Activity and Code of Conduct First Reading, Senator Ted Downing (10 minutes)

**Senator Downing reminded Senate members that the Academic Personnel Policy Committee Chair Keith Maggert presented on the interim policy UHAP 2.210 regarding political activity by the faculty at our last meeting. Senator Downing proposed a resolution to address concerns, which asks President Garimella to rescind UHAP 2.210 and develop a new policy developed in partnership with faculty representatives. The discussion included questions about the process, including about the fact that the existing policy was already vetted by the Office of General Counsel. A vote was taken, and the resolution passed.**

1. New Business
A. Resolution on Provost Search Committee – Chair of the Faculty, Leila Hudson (10 minutes)

**Chair Hudson gave back this time and did not propose a resolution.**

B. Update on Campus Connect Initiative – UITS Business Analyst Principal, Alexa Rohr (10 minutes)

**Joe Harting, Exec Director of IT in Business Affairs, presented to Faculty Senate to provide updates on changes to the Cat Card (e.g., you can add the virtual Cat Card to Apple and Google Wallet, updated RFID tech w/physical card, etc.) with the overall purpose of addressing campus safety, both cyber safety (prevention of fraud in the case of lost or stolen cards) and physical safety (access to buildings).**

C. [Update from Career Track Faculty Working Group](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/CT-Faculty-Needs-Report-Feb-2025.pdf) – Co-Chairs Romi Wittman and Kristin Little (15 minutes)

**Postponed until March meeting.**

D. [Constitution and Bylaws Update](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/FINAL-Memo-C-B-Feb-2025-revised.pdf) with [timeline of changes from 2020](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/Bylaws-and-Constitution-Timeline-of-changes-since-2020_FINAL.pdf) and [revised Bylaws](https://facultygovernance.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/Faculty-Bylaws-v-01.27.25.pdf) - Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Katie Zeiders (10 minutes)
Please

**Secretary Zeiders briefly described the timeline of changes from 2020 to present on activities led by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee including work of the past 2 Secretaries. Please see enclosed links for more information.**

E. Introduction of Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Impact, Tomás Díaz de la Rubia (10 minutes)

**SVPR Diaz de la Rubia described some of his priorities and issues that have been brought to his attention, including how to do more to recognize the excellence in scholarship and research that is occurring across our institution. He is considering how to enhance recognition and incentivization of research excellence. SVPR Diaz de la Rubia is also meeting with local / state legislators to understand the funding landscape and communicating the importance of our research. SVPR Diaz de la Rubia took questions.**

1. Written reports from the President, Provost, Faculty Officers, APPC, RPC, SAPC, UCRC, 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.