Faculty Senate Business Meeting Minutes October 5, 2026

Location: Bell Hall, Room 232, and online via Teams

Present In Person:
Allen, Alouani, Atkinson, Bell, Browning, Carlton, Carroll, Cathey, Chitiyo, Craven, Donadio, Dunn, Gannod, Gichuhi, Gray, A. Hill, Hu, Jenkins, Kalyanapu, Killman, Nattrass, Null, O'Connor, Olsen, E. Park, Sanders, Smith, Spears, Tennant, Timmerman, Trent, Wendt, Xu

Absent: Baier, Brown, Carver, Comer, Grimes, Hasan, C. Hill, Holben, Kyaw, Manginelli, Mann, Ojo, H. Park, Peng, Rahnama, Rajabali, Winkle

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Call to Order: 3:33 p.m.

Presiding: Atkinson (Senate President)

1. Approval Items

- Agenda approved (Donadio/Allen).
- Minutes from Sept. 14, 2026, approved with a note that Donadio's name was misspelled, but it has been corrected (Donadio/Allen). One abstained from the minutes vote because she had not reviewed them.

2. Reports and Announcements

- Atkinson reported that a designer has begun preliminary work on the planned parking garage.
- Budget Committee scheduled to meet the following day.
- Brief discussion regarding parking garage planning and campus parking needs.

3. Unfinished Business: Ad Hoc Committee Progress

- Senate discussed the importance of completing committee work and establishing deadlines for reports.

- Committees were asked to work toward recommendations by the beginning of the spring semester, with the goal of resolving issues by the end of the semester.
  - **Ombudsperson Committee**
    1. Null agreed to chair the committee with Atkinson.
    2. Discussion focused on creating a faculty resource to provide guidance on workplace, employment, and procedural concerns before issues escalate to formal grievance processes.
    3. Members emphasized that an ombudsperson should serve as an advisor and resource rather than an advocate.
    4. **Goal: Develop a proposal outlining the need, role, and structure of an ombudsperson position.**
  - **Summer Pay Committee**
    1. Sanders agreed to chair the committee, with Carroll also volunteering to serve.
    2. Previous survey efforts under Craven's leadership were discussed.
    3. **Goal: Examine whether a policy is needed to address expectations regarding faculty work performed during the summer months.**
  - **Policy Review Requests Committee**
    1. Discussion centered on improving Senate understanding of policy review processes and how Senate actions move through university governance channels.
    2. O'Connor and Gannod discussed the loss of institutional knowledge regarding policy review procedures. This committee was combined with the Faculty Senate procedures review work.
    3. **Goal: Better understand policy timelines, review responsibilities, and procedures for handling Senate resolutions.**
  - **Canvas Transition Committee**
    1. A. Hill and Craven volunteered to serve, with A. Hill as the chair.
    2. **Goal: Assess faculty experiences with the Canvas transition and identify needs for improving implementation and support.**
  - **Benefits for Retirees Committee**
    1. Hu agreed to chair the committee, with Alouani and Timmerman volunteering to assist.
    2. **Goal: Review emeritus faculty policies and evaluate benefits and privileges available to retired faculty.**
  - **Faculty Senate Procedures Review Committee**
    1. Gannod agreed to chair, with Carroll, Craven, Atkinson, and Browning volunteering to participate.
    2. Members noted that the procedures were last updated in 2018.
    3. Discussion included:
       - Guidance for online attendance.
       - Clarification of committee responsibilities.
       - Procedures for handling Senate resolutions after passage.
       - Policy review schedules and responsibilities.
    4. **Goal: Recommend updates to Senate operating procedures.**
  - **Talon Transition Committee**
    1. Allen agreed to chair.

2. Jennifer Chavez (ITS), Smith, and Olsen volunteered to assist.
3. **Goal: Identify concerns related to Talon and develop recommendations for improvement.**

4. Other Matters

- Carroll raised the question of whether the Administrative Council should receive a report regarding the Senate's parking recommendations.
- Null asked whether parking formally falls within the Administrative Council's responsibilities and whether it should if it does not already.
- O'Connor suggested allowing the Administrative Council to determine its own level of involvement.
- Allen expressed concerns regarding university finances, enrollment trends, recruitment efforts, and institutional competitiveness.
- A motion by Carroll, seconded by O'Connor, to send the Senate's parking resolution to the Administrative Council passed.

5. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m. (Donadio/Browning).