

Faculty Senate Business Meeting

Minutes September 14, 2026

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

Present: M. Allen (Board of Trustees Representative), A. Alouani, M. Atkinson, J. Baier, D. Bell, C. Brown, S. Browning, C. Carlton, W. Carroll, H. Cathey, R. Chitiyo, M. Comer, K. Craven, A. Donadio, R. Dunn, J. Gannod, W. Gichuhi, J. Gray, K. Grimes, R. Hall, S. Hasan, C. Hill, A. Hill, M. Hu, J. Jenkins, A. Kalyanapu, T. Kyaw, A. Manginelli, K. McCallister, M. Nattrass, L. Null, B. O'Connor, J. Ojo, M. Olsen, E. Park, Y. Peng, T. Smith, D. Tennant, T. Timmerman, K. Trent, P. Fidan (for S. Wendt), K. Winkle (Academic Council Representative), and K. Xu

Absent: B. Carver, M. Holben, C. Killman, D. Mann, H. Park, M. Rahnema, M. Rajabali, R. Sanders, and A. Spears

Guests: Dr. Sharon Huo, Dr. Jeremy Wendt, Dr. Mohan Rao

Call to Order: 3:30 p.m.

Presiding: Atkinson (Senate President)

1. Policy 204 Presentation (Dr. Huo / Dr. Rao/ Dr. Wendt/Dr. Turner)

- Proposed addition of a new nontenure-track faculty classification, **Professor of Practice**, focusing on professional and industry experience
- Discussion focused on faculty qualifications, SACSCOC requirements, eligibility for Faculty Senate and graduate faculty status, compensation concerns, and the ability to attract industry professionals.

2. Approval Items

- Agenda approved – Donadio/Browning
- Minutes from April 4, 2026, meeting approved – Donadio/Browning

3. Reports and Announcements

- Faculty were encouraged to attend the Board meeting.
- iLearn materials will be removed in December.
- Smart glasses and academic integrity concerns were discussed. Faculty were encouraged to specify permitted technology use in their syllabi.
- Questions for the upcoming meeting with the President are due by Thursday.

4. Faculty Affairs Committee Appointment

- O'Connor was elected by acclamation to the Faculty Affairs Committee position responsible for tenure appeals.

5. Expectations for Senate and Councils

- Atkinson reviewed the Senate's role in shared governance, representing faculty concerns, and communicating with colleges.
- Members were encouraged to actively participate in councils and ad hoc committees and make use of the Senate Teams site.

6. Parking Resolution

- O'Connor presented concerns regarding parking availability, reserved spaces, shuttle capacity, and adherence to existing parking policies.
- O'Connor/Browning motion to open the floor for discussion.
- Faculty made suggestions for lessening the parking burden, including the use of the Ag Center. A friendly amendment was added to include shuttle bus data.
- The Faculty Senate parking statement was approved.
- O'Connor/Smith motion to send the resolution to Cabinet. It PASSED.

7. Future Agenda Items and Committee Work

- Topics identified for future discussion include:
 - Canvas Transition
 - Benefits for Retirees
 - Merit/COLA Pay (2026-2027)
 - Policy Reviews
 - Ombudsperson (Null agreed to chair)
 - Summer Pay (Craven initiated this last year)

It was decided that Atkinson and Gannod would reach out to those who submitted these agenda items as the chair of an ad hoc committee to report on these issues back to the Faculty Senate.

8. Such Other Matters

- Allen discussed concerns related to Talon. Atkinson asked Allen to chair an ad hoc committee to investigate the issue.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m. Donadio/Gannod.