

Great Basin College
FACULTY SENATE 2021-2022
Friday, May 20, 2022
9:00 am

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present Voting Representatives: Madison Arbillaga; Alex Kiehn; Jessica Lynch; Eleanor O'Donnell (Proxy-Tami Potter); Justine Stout; Eric Walsh; Jinho Jung; Daniel Bergey; Dave Sexton; Jason Brick; Ryan Hathaway; Jennifer Stieger; Emily Bailey; Lynette Macfarlan; Tim Beasley; Nicholas Cooley; Brandy Nielsen; Norm Whittaker

Absent Voting Representatives: Diane Wrightman; Michael Whitehead

Other Members Present: Kevin Seipp (Chair); Donald Jones (Secretary); John Rice; Malia Keep; Dean Straight; Brian Danowski; Di Li; Laurie Walsh; Deanna Hamilton; Karl Stevens; Ethan Hawkley; Arysta Brick; Pete Bagley; Daniel Murphree; Jennifer Brown; Xu Duming; Glen Tenney; Becky Coleman; Susanne Bentley

Others Present: President Helens, Vice President Rivera, Mary Doucette, Kelli Baker

2. Call to Order: 9:02 a.m.

3. Updates from President Helens – Verbal Report

President Helens thanked Chair Seipp for serving as chair this past year and thanked the faculty for the past two difficult years. President Helens reported that the graduations are being held at each center. Pahrump and Ely's graduations were wonderful.

President Helens said the changes system-wide are very promising.

4. Update from Vice President of BA, Sonja Sibert – No Report

5. Updates from Vice President of AA/SA, Jake Hinton-Rivera – Verbal Report

Vice President Rivera thanked the faculty and staff for the great graduations, pinning ceremonies, and the successful semester.

6. Senate Chair Report – Verbal Report

Chair Seipp reported this is the last meeting for the semester. Chair Seipp stated the commencements for Winnemucca and Elko are tomorrow and if you have a chance come and celebrate the students' accomplishments.

Chair Seipp reported that the Board of Regent's special meeting is Wednesday, May 24th and the regular meeting is on June 9th and 10th. He also reported there are quite a few key vacancies at the system level. We need to make sure that NSHE is represented at the Legislative session next year, so that faculty and students are represented as well.

Chair Seipp also thanked the faculty for allowing him to be chair. Chair Seipp stressed the importance of the senate moving forward and not having an incoming chair. Shared governance is paramount to the success of our institution, and we need to make sure the faculty is represented. Chair Seipp stated if anyone is interested he would help out.

7. Approval of April 15, 2022, Minutes - For Possible Action

Jinho Jung brought up that Krishna Subedi was his proxy at that meeting (No proxy was received). Jinho Jung also stated that Daniel Murphree was present at the meeting. Chair Seipp asked to have changes emailed to him.

A Motion to approve the April 15, 2022, minutes with the changes was made by Dave Sexton, seconded by Justine Stout, motion passed unanimously.

8. Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Academic Standards & Assessment.....**Written Report**
 - i. Report – Information Only**
- b. Bylaws..... **No Report**
- c. Compensation & Benefits.....**Written Report**
 - i. Report – Information Only**
- d. Curriculum Review..... **Written Report**
 - i. Report – Information Only**
- e. Instructional Technology..... **No Report**
- f. Gen Ed Committee..... **No Report**
- g. Personnel.....**Written/Verbal Report**

i. Sabbatical Policy Revisions – For Possible Action

Changes to the Sabbatical Policy include clarifying things, fixing grammatical errors, and having the written report after the sabbatical is due the next semester so faculty, this is so faculty do not have to work over the summer or feel rushed. Another change is applications are due the last Friday in October. The committee also added the dean’s name where appropriate. There was also an opportunity to be denied a sabbatical, so that was changed. The last change was the response from the President for approval or disapproval of sabbatical to be more specific.

It was suggested that this item should be tabled with all the changes and not wanting to be rushed.

A Motion to table the Sabbatical Policy Revisions was made by Dave Sexton, seconded by Brandy Nielsen, motion passed unanimously.

ii. Tenure Policy Revisions – Information Only

The committee cleaned up grammatical errors and changes to the makeup of the Tenure Committee. The committee thought that the department should be more involved. This is the direction we are looking at. Revisions are more in line with the NSHE policy. A question was asked if this would affect those who are on the tenure track now. It would not.

- h. Strategic Planning, ad hoc..... **Written/Verbal Report**

i. Strategic Plan – For Possible Action

Mary Doucette presented the plan and did the duplicate under 4.1.2 was deleted. This was presented to the advisory board and there were no comments. A member brought up a few areas in the document where the wording needed changing. It was also brought up that there needs to be a measuring of the strategic plan for accreditation. Dean Doucette responded they could be measured through the development of the programs.

A member asked if the term “convergence” is related to UNR. Dean Doucette stated it could be.

The member said they are in support of the plan, but other concerns are 2.2.3 and 3.1.1. A member stated this is a 3-year plan and that being vague may be necessary for the 3.1.1 section.

The member asked where the collaboration is leading; was hoping to plan would have guidance for that in it.

President Helens responded that this is a 3-year plan, and we are a community college embracing 2- and 4-year missions. The strategic plan has measurable outcomes. We have been and will continue to collaborate with UNR, so the plan is not vague, we just don't know what the future holds. Dean Doucette stated the last plan was a seven-year plan and we had many changes, and we know with after the pandemic and financial issues we will have more changes, this is a living document. There were focus groups, surveys, etc.

A member brought up the wording of 5.5.1. not being clear and asked if the background of the document will be shared. Dean Doucette replied yes. It was asked if we are not seeing the entire document how we can vote. Dean Doucette stated we need to work on the key performance indicators still, but we need to have a document to move forward closing the loop in the accreditation document. Mary sends comments. Chair Seipp stated we need to have the approval of this document to go forward with the other documents.

A member asked if there will be another vote on the completed document. Chair Seipp replied yes, this is just one piece of it.

President Helens stated faculty can be part of this and not just wait until the end, there is still an opportunity for faculty to be involved in this. Dean Doucette agreed, there was a large group, and smaller groups were formed, again surveys, etc. This is just a working document, but we need to move forward so the committee has something to work with. Dean Doucette replied to faculty can join at any time. keying yes this is just a working document just gives the committee something to move forward with.

President Helens stated we need to have a living meaningful document that changes as we change, and the only reason we change is to better serve our community. President Helens thanked the faculty who was involved.

Chair Seipp asked if anyone would like to make a motion to move forward with this document.

No action was taken.

9. Unfinished Business: None.

10. New Business:

a. Policy 5.25 PTI Performance Review Revisions - **For Possible Action**

Chair Seipp reported that there are language change questions. Chair Seipp mentioned if there is a discussion about changes, it can be postponed.

A member brought up that with the mean of mean, which can be askew, a weighted mean would make more sense. Another member mentioned that a weighted mean is a different calculation and if you get to have a very small class and receive two bad reviews then your mean is low because of the smaller number of students. This is not just a language change; it is a drastic calculation change. Chair Seipp stated he will pull the item and send it back to the committee.

No action was taken.

b. Senate Chair Elect – **For Possible Action**

Chair Seipp asked if anyone would like to come forward. No response. Chair Seipp stated this is important to our senate and he is not sure what will happen.

No action was taken.

11. Information Items:

None.

12. Announcements:

None.

Good of the Order: A member asked what if there is no chair and do we move forward? Chair Seipp stated he does not have an answer and he has reached out to other institutions, and they have not had this happen. He will speak with Joyce or Jake to see how this will work. A member asked about the professional staff who are willing to step up – they are an integral part of this, and it needs to be addressed in the Bylaws. Chair Seipp stated it is not in the Bylaws it has to do with the 40-hour workload, they would have to take time off and have someone take over their duties.

A member questioned if Chair Seipp was allowed step down as chair. Chair Seipp answered that tenure was for one year. Vice President Rivera stated we need to look at he has no comment at this time regarding what will happen. Vice President Rivera stated he is willing to look to see what options we have with professional staff.

13. **Adjournment.....Action**
Motion to adjourn by Daniel Bergey at 9:58 am.