

**Great Basin College**  
**FACULTY SENATE 2023-2024**  
**Friday, October 20, 2023**  
**9:00 am**

***Elko –GTA 130; Ely – GBC 118; Pahrump- PVC 122; Winnemucca – GBC 123/124.***

**MINUTES**

1. **Roll Call:**  
**Sam Lackey, Dean Straight, Robert Cowan, Steven Scilacci, Norm Whittaker, Christopher Salute, Madison Arbillaga, Jamie Carlson, Eleanor O'Donnell, Tami Potter, Eric Walsh, Ping Wang, Rita Pujari, Laurie Walsh, Jason Brick, Brenda Gonzales, Michelle Beecher (Proxy Kimberly Noah), Tim Beasley**  
  
**Absent Voting Representative:**  
**Jessica Lynch**  
  
**Other members present:**  
**Dave Sexton (Chair), Daniel Bergey (Vice-Chair), Nick Cooley, Konstantinos Travlos, John Rice, Sheila Staszak, Kristin Heath, Ethan Hawkley, Erica Salazar, Laura Debenham, Xunming Du, Krishna Subedi, Mardell Dorsa**  
  
**Others present: President Helens, Vice President Rivera, Kimberly Myers**
2. **Call to Order: 9:11**
3. **Updates from President Helens –** President Helens would like to acknowledge the world events happening right now. She would like to encourage speaking about them in the classroom. World events, especially in isolated areas, are important.  
  
Another item she wants to discuss is misinformation. Someone was talking about a proposal for us to merge with UNR, and if anyone has attended the All-College meetings on campus, they will know that it isn't true. President Helens despises the word "merge" because it implies losing one's identity. She uses the merge of Newmont and Barrick into Nevada Gold Mines as an example.  
  
President Helens says she has a wonderful relationship with President Sandoval and both of their executive teams get along well. Right now, we are focusing on making sure the 17 MOUs are all working, and to make sure that the Mining Center of Excellence launches successfully.  
  
President Helens will be attending the special Board meeting that is coming up. She knows it's very controversial, but she will do her best to make sure her voice is heard and concerns are heard.  
  
President Helens is hosting her Halloween bash, but Mardell needs RSVPs. It's next Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
  
An invite for questions was offered, and a member brought up the letter sent from President Helens back in July. The confusion of the verbiage used to describe the consolidation of GBC and UNR was mentioned, and President Helens clarified that they *were* looking at a consolidation and all it entailed. It's a very dynamic and fluid concept, and they have always been transparent about it. She says we *are* under the umbrella of UNR in terms of outsourcing, which has enabled President Helens to take the money saved and distribute it back into faculty positions and programs.  
  
It is within the purview of the Board of Regents in terms of governance to assess system structure. No one can guarantee what they will do with what the system should look like to be sustainable in the future, and we can't control that. What we can do is make sure that our institution is sustainable, that we are viable, and that is the most important thing. If there is a movement for consolidation in future years, then what's most important is that we protect the legacy of having access to rural higher education. If anyone is ever confused about anything, please reach out to President Helens, Vice-President Rivera, or Chair Sexton.

Another member voices his concerns about the funding for the Mining School of Excellence. He was under the impression that there wasn't any funding, as the building has an asbestos issue and fuel tanks in the ground.

President Helens states that the asbestos abatement was completed, and this is not an issue. The National Guard kept the building well maintained. The fuel tanks mentioned were taken care of years ago. Right now, the process is working with UNR Mackey School of Mines to see what equipment is appropriate. We are also looking into more ideas with UNR for other fundraising, so there is funding. There is a plan; the next thing to do would be to have architectural drawings, but the footprint is good, so we will move forward. We also own that parking lot next door, and we would like to have that paved. She says it's all good news.

**Updates from Vice President of AA/SA, Jake Hinton-Rivera – No report**

**4. Senate Chair Report – Verbal Report**

Board of Regents meeting today. They're meeting twice – there's a meeting and then a workshop. The biggest topic is the COLA. They will be discussing that today, and there may be some action on the discussion in their meeting in December.

Chair Sexton and the other NSHE Faculty Senate Chairs composed a letter expressing their concern for the workshop consultant NSHE chose, as the company she represents is believed to be anti-faculty and anti-shared governance. Chair Sexton sent out this letter to everyone in the faculty. There is time for public comment available at the meeting.

Chair Sexton wants to touch on what President Helens stated earlier. He says that President Sandoval did mention at UNR's faculty senate meeting that the consolidation between the two colleges isn't moving any further than where it stands right now. One thing President Sandoval did emphasize was the 17 MOUs that we have in place are going to stay in place. They aren't changing. They're all business processes for efficiency; they're not academic.

President Helens voices that consolidations will continue, as we have academic faculties that work well together. For example, she met with the State Head of Veteran's Affairs, and he mentioned that UNR had put in a request for funding to do a study, and he was going to deny it until he remembered that GBC has an association with the university. He decided to fund it with the caveat that UNR must include the Veteran Services at GBC. For other funding agencies, however, we do have to be clear that we are a separate entity from UNR.

A member asks for Chair Sexton to read the letter to the senate. The letter in its entirety is attached to these Minutes.

A member asks if the Chair is going to mention to table that item at the Boards of Regents. Chair Sexton says yes, but he isn't sure if the Chair will ask again at the meeting.

A member asks if the letter was discussed at the UNR faculty senate, but Chair Sexton says they were still writing it, so no.

**A motion to get a sense of the senate in support of the letter was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by John Rice. Motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Approval of September 15, 2023 minutes - For Possible Action**

**A motion to approve the September 15, 2023 minutes was by Laurie Walsh and was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Standing Committee Reports:**

- a. Academic Standards & Assessment..... **Written Report**
  - i. **Report – Information Only**
- b. Bylaws..... **Written Report**
  - i. **Report – With Items Suggesting Review for Later Action**

Bylaws has been tweaking things as they figure out where the holes may be. They have three items for review for later action.

First: adding a new charge to the Instructional Technology Committee. They also deem it necessary to add another ex-officio to said committee.

Second: change to the Gen Ed process to include courses with embedded general education components.

Third: Change to Bylaws chair to flex appointed chair to include a tenured faculty member if Vice-Chair is unavailable.

Bylaws will be coming up with more changes throughout the year.

c. Compensation & Benefits..... **Written Report**

**i. Report – Information Only**

Professionally Development funding is available. The deadline for Fall submissions is the end of October. Please submit the application if you have some professional development work that warrants funding. An additional deadline for Spring and Summer will be in March.

It is funded, but we don't know exactly how much yet. It's for professional faculty and teaching faculty.

d. Curriculum Review..... **Written Report**

**i. Report – Information Only**

e. Instructional Technology..... **Written Report**

**i. Report – Information Only**

f. Gen Ed Committee..... **Written/ Verbal Report**

**i. Report – With Items Requesting Review for Action in November**

Arts & Letters sent over some changes that need reviewed by the members of the Senate. To get the embedment, you must acquire the approval of your department, and the department course you're impacting. Gen Ed has drafted a form for review and approval for next Faculty Senate.

What the committee is trying to do with the embedments is to put the responsibility on the departments who are directly affected. The committee doesn't have the expertise on certain courses, so this process includes all the right people.

Another item we will be addressing is changes for the INTs. After speaking with Amber and Mary, the Gen Ed committee are mostly assessing how other institutions are structuring upper-division Gen Ed courses, so GBC courses can be transferrable throughout NSHE. INT courses are not. This is an issue continually brought up from students.

If anyone has any ideas about the embedment process, or how the procedure should be carried out within their programs, please contact Gen Ed.

If you are going to send the Gen Ed Committee an approval for a student substitution, it would be good if you reach out to the department as well. It falls under the same principle of embedments. This is about the Gen Ed objectives being met.

A member mentions BUS 110 – He says that in CTE, this course was embedded and approved, but now the administration isn't recognizing it and making the students take it multiple times when this shouldn't happen.

Gen Ed has confirmed that this is on their agenda for next week.

g. Personnel..... **Written Report**

**i. Report – Information Only**

Make sure you read this. They had some good changes.

h. AI Committee, ad hoc..... **Written Report**

**i. Report – Information Only**

**7. Unfinished Business:**

**i. Emeritas Professor Recognition**

Chair Sexton was tasked with checking on what happened to the portraits. He received an email that reads:

“Many years ago, we discontinued the complimentary photo we gave to people who received Emeritas. There were just too many photos on the wall of the Berg Hall conference room. It was also becoming an expense with the cost of custom framing. The Regents’ photos were originally in Berg Hall, as well, and were moved back to that location.”

A member has a suggestion. He is willing to chair an ad hoc committee to put names on plaques to continue recognizing these people.

One member suggests putting the names on the GBC website to eliminate cost.

Another member thinks that it would be nice to have something physical to recognize the Emeritas faculty.

**A motion to create an ad hoc committee to figure out options for the Emeritas recognition was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Eric Walsh. Motion passed unanimously.**

**8. New Business:**

A member wants to bring up the great opportunity for the senate to take on the responsibility in creating a job description for our next president with credentials and qualifications that we can present to the Board. They may or may not adopt our suggestions, but he thinks it’s important to try. He says that our representative after only 8 months in office has decided to run for State Senate, so their focus may not be solely on NSHE, but we do have other regents who represent our area, as well.

The same member came to GBC when shared governance was celebrated, and this institution grew amazingly. We have a responsibility to our students as faculty members to help our governing board understand their needs and their leadership needs.

The same member proposes that either the Personnel Committee takes on this job description, or we develop an ad hoc committee. It is very important for the faculty to represent our students’ needs in helping our governing board to choose our next leader.

A member in Pahrump agrees. NSHE seems to be jostling and juggling quite a bit and doesn’t seem to be concerned with the internal HR issues. He thinks that for us to proactively stand before NSHE, it will show leadership and gusto. It would give us a great understanding of what we would want in our next president.

**A motion to form an ad hoc committee to develop the leadership credentials and qualifications for the next president of Great Basin College was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Christopher Salute. Motion passed unanimously.**

A member states that the reason for making recommendations and going on the record, is so that if the governing board or administrator decides to override our recommendations we put forward, they would be knowingly overriding the wishes of an entire organization of people with a stake in the outcome.

It’s important for this body to put things on the record in order to hold our leaders accountable. It’s more important for this organization to take responsibility for itself and put things on the record and then own them.

**9. Information Items:**

Equipment Requests are due October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Overload has been entered. Please contact Eleanor O’Donnell if you have any questions.

**10. Announcements:**

Come see Macbeth at the Leonard Center Theatre!

**11. Good of the Order: None.**

**12. Adjournment: 10:14**