

**Great Basin College**  
**FACULTY SENATE 2023-2024**  
**Friday, April 19th, 2024**  
**9:00 am**

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

**DRAFT MINUTES**

*When speaking or making a motion, please identify yourself.*

1. **Roll Call: Sam Lackey, Dean Straight, Robert Cowan, Steven Scilacci, Norm Whittaker, Madison Arbillaga, Jamie Carlson, Jessica Lynch, Ping Wang, Laurie Walsh, Jason Brick, Eric Walsh, Kimberly Noah, Time Beasley**

**Voting Representatives Absent: Christopher Salute, Eleanor O'Donnell, Tami Potter, Rita Pujari**

**Other Members Present: Dave Sexton (Chair), Dan Bergey (Vice-Chair), Donald Jones (Parliamentarian) Yvonne Naungayan, Sheila Staszak, Erica Salazar, Jen Stieger, Ethan Hawkley, Steven Hrdlicka, Sarah Massie, Michelle Husbands, Tami Mette, Gina Johnson, Xunming Du, Laur Debenham, Glen Tenney, Reme Huttman, Deanna Hamilton, James Kendall, Michelle Beecher, Krishna Subedi, Becky Coleman, David Antonini, Jonathan Foster, Arysta Sweat, Staci Warnert, Oscar Sida, Dodi Callander, Rebecca Hawkley**

**Others Present: Vice President Rivera, Elizabeth Stanley, Shay West, Sharon Butterfield, Kimberly Myers**

2. **Call to Order: 9:04am**
3. **Senate Chair Report – Verbal Report –**

There are quite a few events coming up. One of Chair Sexton's favorite times of the year is the Classified Council's annual Chili/ Soup Cook-off for the Tony Salvatierra Scholarship fund. It will be on April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Solarium. Sampling is free and a bowl is \$5. Graduation is nearing, of course. Chair Sexton would like to bring attention to all the banners for each department all over campus. They are gorgeous!

Chair Sexton brings to the Senate an email thread involving an issue of accessibility to the Faculty Senate meetings, which no one has mentioned in any previous meetings. Last year, members of the Senate agreed that meetings were better when more people were face-to-face, so the Senate made the decision to pull the zoom link from the emails. However, the link has always been readily available to those who ask. No one has been denied access. Chair Sexton is hesitant to change how we supply the zoom link without the Senate's discussion on the matter.

A member asks if there is someone who might always be available to give out the link once the meeting starts. Chair Sexton answers that unfortunately the only people who would have the link are at the meeting already and are not always able to check their emails once the meeting begins.

A member then asks that the zoom link be more accessible – perhaps on the agenda – for this instance and also so they all can access the link when they are in the field.

Another member mentions that before Covid, these meetings were only IAV, so you did not have the option of zoom.

Chair Sexton would like to push this discussion later in the meeting and give the floor to Vice President Rivera.

**4. Updates from Vice President of AA/SA, Jake Hinton-Rivera –**

Vice President Rivera wants to focus on appreciation. He thanks the CTE faculty and staff who put on a CTE showcase at the beginning of the month. He attended and was impressed. He hopes to continue that tradition regularly, as it involves our community and industry representatives. Thanks to Trevor Rikalo and James Kendall who represented student recruiting and housing options. He also wants to thank the faculty and staff who participated in the Career Fair on Wednesday. Everyone needs to continue to work on getting more students and community members to attend.

VP Rivera thanks our graduation committee members, who think of every detail to ensure graduation runs smoothly. Madison Price keeps us on track. This is her second year, and she is doing a wonderful job! He thanks the Awards Committee and staff involved in tonight's Award Ceremony. He's really looking forward to attending. A big shout out goes to the Communications team for all of the advertising and marketing they've produced, especially in the little time that Sarah Massie has been here at GBC. Sarah is still new, and her small team have accomplished so much already.

VP Rivera would like to thank all of those involved with the deeply tragic incident involving an active shooter not far from Elko campus. Every time an incident nearby the college occurs, there are teams to ensure that GBC has certain processes in place. There will be some follow-up conversations as per usual whenever any major incidents arise.

VP Rivera wants to thank those on the Elko Student Experience group. He started this group last semester, and the first project was the banners that are now displayed. He saw banners at UNR and grew excited, because he knew that GBC could make something similar. He wants to again thank Communications and all those involved for their efforts, and to thank Building and Grounds team for hanging them. He appreciates everyone who took something that may seem small but represents what everyone at GBC are all here for – the success of the students.

Finally, VP Rivera would like to end with the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. He knows that people are hearing various things around the country and states that are moving away from whether it's diversity training or changing diversity initiatives within colleges and universities, but everyone at GBC needs to stay focused and keep moving forward to ensure that diversity at the forefront. He says this, because this institution is growing to 26% Latino. GBC is close to applying for an HSI (Hispanic Service Institution) grant. GBC has one of the highest graduation rates of Latinos in Nevada. There will be a diversity training for staff, faculty, and students in the fall.

A member asks if there will be a link provided to attend the Awards Ceremony tonight.

The Awards Committee was told that Executive Leadership decided not to have a zoom link because there would be technical issues.

VP Rivera would like to clarify that no executive to his knowledge, which would be him, has ever said anything about no zoom link. He is an advocate for student success, and he would try to do whatever it takes to see as many students involved. Next time, please reach out to him personally.

**5. Approval of March 15, 2024 minutes - For Possible Action**

**A motion to approve the minutes for March 15, 2024 was by Jamie Carlson. There was no second, but the motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Standing Committee Reports:**

- a. Academic Standards & Assessment..... **No Report**
- b. Bylaws..... **Action Item**

**i. Faculty Senate Potential Action Spreadsheet – For Possible Action**

**A motion to approve the Faculty Senate Potential Action Spreadsheet was by Jamie Carlson, seconded by Madison Arbillaga. Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Compensation & Benefits..... **Action Items**

**i. Professional Development Awards – For Possible Action**

**A motion to approve the Professional Development Awards was by Dean Straight. There was no second, but motion passed unanimously.**

d. Curriculum Review..... **Action Items**

**i. Changes to the Curriculum – For Possible Action**

The Curriculum Committee recommends the changes in the committee report for approval.

A member clarifies that NURS 256 is a typing error and should actually be NURS 456.

**A motion to approve the Changes to the Curriculum was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Jessica Lynch. Motion passed unanimously.**

e. Gen Ed Committee..... **Written Report**

**i. Report – Information Only**

f. Instructional Technology..... **Written Report**

**i. Report – Information Only**

g. Personnel..... **Action Item**

**i. Proposed GBC Tenure Policy – For Possible Action**

Personnel Chair Arysta Sweat – GBC’s tenure policy standards are not aligned with NSHE standards, so they must update it. They researched other school’s policies and decided to adopt TMCC’s with a few minor changes, which TMCC did give GBC permission to do so. Legal asked us to pause before submitting the policy through Faculty Senate, so it is on hold for the moment. Personnel wants to make sure the finished policy is solid and has been approved. The biggest thing is making sure GBC standards and people who are going through the tenure process matches NSHE’s, so right now Personnel is holding, but they will give you updates when they get them.

A member of Personnel wanted to let the Senate know that the reason Personnel adopted TMCC’s policy was because it was patterned from NSHE’s policies, only written in a more user-friendly way. Chair Sweat agrees by saying that TMCC’s is very clear and provides specific dates, so people know what to expect. Also, just a heads up, Personnel anticipates that because they are having to change the standards, they might also have to change evaluations, but Chair Sweat won’t know more until she hears back from legal.

A member has a question about the policy - There’s nothing in there from moving from mentoring to tenure, which is in our current policy. For the CTE department, that’s a huge issue. This will affect any hiring practices, as there are two mentors now who are being considered for tenure. This needs to be addressed.

Chair Sweat was not aware of this and will ask about it.

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

**i. Report – Information Only**

i. Emeritus Recognition, ad hoc ..... **No Report**

**7. Unfinished Business:**

**i. Results of Senate Chair Election –**

**The Faculty Senate has selected the next Faculty Senate Chair for 2024-2025 as Dave Sexton.**

**8. New Business:**

**i. Nominations for Vice Chair –**

Oscar Sida is nominated for Vice Chair. Oscar accepts the nomination.

There are no other nominations given at the meeting, but Chair Sexton informs the Senate that nominations will stay open for a week. He asks that emails for nominations be sent to the Executive Secretary, Kimberly Myers, and she will add the name to the ballot that will be sent out next Friday.

**9. Information Items: None.**

**10. Announcements:**

On Monday, April 22nd, there is a listening session hosted by Regent Michelle Cruz-Crawford and NSHE Interim Chancellor Patty Charlton discussing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access. There are two sessions – one at 12:00pm and one at 6:00pm – but you have to register before they will give out the link, and the spots are filling up fast.

**11. Good of the Order:**

The discussion about the zoom link from earlier in the meeting continues.

A member brings up that if one does attend by zoom that they write their first and last name and turn their cameras on when participating as courtesy for shared governance. Other members agree with this comment.

One member says that since this is a public meeting, it should be posted. Whether the camera is necessary is questionable. The whole point of these meetings is so that they are accessible. He appreciates the comment of bringing people together face-to-face, but at the same time, our school is online, so he doesn't think there is a problem with making the link available to everyone. More accessibility is better. The members of the Senate should be able to decide how they want to run the meetings and not be influenced by others outside the Senate.

Another member says that the Senate made this decision last year, because it was sparse in the meeting areas. Part of why he would support physically coming to meetings is because it helps members be more prepared for the meeting, it helps more participation in the meetings, it makes the meetings better, and the meeting is more productive. He has nothing against accessibility, if the Senate votes for the link, that's fine, but he thinks in person meetings are more beneficial.

A question of whether Faculty Senate is subject to open meeting laws arose.

Chair Sexton informs the Senate that in the Bylaws it states that the meetings are open to all members of the faculty and to visitors, which to him basically sounds like everyone. If you are a visitor, however, you are only allowed to watch, unless you are recognized by the Senate.

One member answers that the Senate is not subject to open meeting statutes. Those are followed by governing organizations that spend money. The only GBC institutional meetings that are subject to open meeting laws are those of the GBC Foundation. We have always been an open meeting forum, but because we are not making fiscal decisions, we are not subject to open meeting laws.

Another member mentions that even though the Senate are not subject to those laws, he thinks they are a good standard. The point of them is a transparent and open government, which he thinks the Senate wants to have the same attitude and values in their meetings.

A member tries to make a motion for the item but the Parliamentarian states that it cannot be an action item without it being on the agenda. Chair Sexton needs to ask for a sense of the Senate, and it needs to be on the agenda for next meeting, so whoever would like to voice their opinion on the matter can do so before the decision is final.

**A sense of the senate was made for the zoom link access to be added to the Faculty Senate Agenda with the caveat that first and last names need to be written.**

**12. Adjournment: 10:22**