

**Great Basin College
FACULTY SENATE 2023-2024
Friday, March 15th, 2024
9:00 am**

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

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call: Sam Lackey, Dean Straight, Thomas Bruns (Norm Whittaker Proxy), Steven Scilacci, Becky Coleman (Christopher Salute Proxy), Madison Arbillaga, Jamie Carlson, Jessica Lynch, Eleanor O'Donnell, Tami Potter, Ping Wang, Rita Pujari, Laurie Walsh, Jason Brick, Brenda Gonzales, Kimberly Noah, Tim Beasley**

Voting Representatives Absent: Robert Cowan

Other Members Present: Dave Sexton (Chair), Dan Bergey (Vice-Chair), Daniel Murphree, Shemayne Pitts, Jonathan Foster, Dodi Callander, Erica Salazar, Yvonne Naungayan, Kristin Heath, Ethan Hawkley, Michelle Husbands, Cassie Allen, James Kendall, Steven Hrdlicka, Rebecca Hawkley, Karl Stevens, Donald Jones, Leslie Maple, Eric Walsh, Arysta Sweat, Oscar Sida, Nick Cooley, Xunming Du, Mardell Dorsa, Laura Debenham, Michelle Beecher, David Antonini, Krishna Subedi

Others Present: Amber Donnelly, Gail Rappa, Elizabeth Stanley, Sharon Butterfield, Kimberly Myers

2. **Call to Order: 9:01AM**

3. **Senate Chair Report – Verbal Report** – He sent everyone a copy of a statement written by the Senate Chairs on behalf of faculty regarding the issue with a member of Regents.

Other than that, it has been an amazingly quiet March. He doesn't have anything more to report.

4. **Updates from Associate Vice President for Faculty Success, Amber Donnelly** – AVP Donnelly wanted to mention a few things that she and her committees are working on. Budgets are a priority right now. They are securing the financial ability to cover the COLA in October. AVP Donnelly is appreciative of everyone who served on the Search Committees as they are diligently filling open positions. Carrie Meisner and her team with the Curricular Review Committee did a great job, and those findings will be shared with everyone. The Policy Committee will give an update later in the meeting, and AVP Donnelly spoke of adding another ad hoc committee with it. Her committee for graduation has preparation underway along with some changes.

Grants that have been rewarded include \$500,000 in grants for the students' tuition. The grant is tied with certificate programs rather than the full degrees. There is an additional \$400,000 that will assist in outfitting all of our centers with new furniture and updating the tutor area in the library. The other grants they are looking at are federal, so they're tying new programs to those, such as Daily Analytics and the new Dispatcher program. Another one is the GOTECH program that Carrie Meisner is leading. They are hoping to implement the GEOTECH program into the high school setting throughout Nevada. Business department is working on researching kits.

AVP Donnelly was given the opportunity to present with Gail and Oscar regarding mental health. She's excited that Gail will be presenting it later in the meeting so everyone can see GBC's commitment in building a culture that focuses on mental health needs for the students in a holistic approach.

5. **Approval of February 16, 2024 minutes - For Possible Action**

A motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2024 was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Jamie Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Academic Standards & Assessment..... **Action Items**

i. Grade Appeal Policy Draft – For Possible Action

Academic Standards Chair Daniel Murphree – He stresses that this is not a change to the policy; it’s a clarification for students. The verbiage tries to add some stress on what does constitute a great appeal reason and what does not, so the students could better understand the process. They also made an attempt to direct students to other types of grievances to the correct location.

A motion to approve the Grade Appeal Policy was by Dean Straight, seconded by Laurie Walsh. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Bylaws..... **Written Report**

i. Report with Possible Action Items in April

a. Faculty Senate Potential Action Spreadsheet

Bylaws Chair Laurie Walsh – Bylaws created a spreadsheet to better track action items. It will be posted on the webpage and in the packet.

Committees will not be responsible for updating the spreadsheet. Updates fall to the Faculty Senate Executive Secretary.

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

i. Professional Development Application Revision – For Possible Action

ii. Professional Development Procedure Draft – For Possible Action

A motion to approve the Professional Development documents was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Jamie Carlson. Motion passed.

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

i. Changes to the Curriculum – For Possible Action

Curriculum Review Chair Dodi Callander – The committee recommends for approval to change to the General Education Certificate to align with the current associated requirements for General Ed.

A motion to approve the Changes to the Curriculum was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Steven Scilacci. Motion passed unanimously.

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

i. Report – Information Only

f. Instructional Technology..... **No Report**

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

i. Report with Possible Action Items in April

a. Proposed GBC Tenure Policy

h. AI Committee, ad hoc..... **No Report**

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

Chair Sexton wanted to acknowledge two of the incoming officers for the new revitalized Nevada Faculty Alliance chapter. He mentions that GBC might be the largest per capita chapter now at 20%.

7. Unfinished Business:

i. Faculty Senate Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations

Chair Sexton – Last month it was discussed that the senate have nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for next year. His plan was to introduce the nominations this month, so there is a month for consideration of

the nominees, then vote in April. Senate Chair and Vice Chair would then be sworn in during May Senate Meeting.

Oscar Sida sent out an email for self-nomination. He wanted to reiterate some of the experience he has had with NSHE and GBC. This will give him another opportunity to serve this college. He looks forward to work with everyone.

Chair Sexton then asks if there are any other nominations for either chair or vice-chair.

Academic Standards Chair Daniel Murphree states that in accordance with the Senate Bylaws 5.4b, this is an unusual circumstance, so he would like to re-nominate Dave Sexton to serve another year as chair. According to the bylaws, this can be done with a 2/3rds majority approval of the Senate. The reason he wants to make this nomination is for a continuance, so that the new person coming in could be the Vice Chair instead and acquire the experience that being Vice Chair is supposed to give them. He thinks it would be a good idea to have that continuance and give the new person coming in some training, so the Senate can have a fully functional chair, as opposed to someone learning the job from scratch again.

A member asks a question for Oscar Sida – Would he be interested or take the Vice-Chair, even though he put in as Chair?

Sida wasn't aware of this process, but if that's how the bylaws are written, then yes, his interest is to serve. He doesn't have to be the Chair. He could serve as the Vice Chair, if that is the process.

Chair Sexton asks the Bylaws Chair, Laurie Walsh about this bylaw. She said that when they did that clarification, the whole idea was to have continuity so that new people could observe and better understand how things operate for their own benefit.

Murphree wanted to include that there is nothing in the bylaws saying that this is what we have to do; however, this is different than the nomination process. It states, "in the event circumstances warrant" and in his opinion, this circumstance does. He feels like the way it's worded; this is a different vote than voting for chair – it's a motion for the Senate.

Point of Order – This discussion was not listed as an "action item", so it can be discussed this meeting, but it can't be an action item until next meeting. There may have been people who aren't in attendance this meeting that will want to be in attendance for elections next month.

A member wanted to clarify that the way it's supposed to work is that the Vice Chair is supposed to become the Chair. However, the Vice Chair is retiring, so now the senate is in this bind, because they don't have a Vice Chair. This happened last year (2022-2023) when the Chair had to serve two years because they again didn't have a Vice Chair. It might need to be reconsidered by the Bylaws Committee to include something like this situation, since it seems to happen more often than expected.

Chair Sexton asks the senate if the 2/3rds vote is instead of the regular nomination vote? Yes, it is.

Murphree adds that obviously there isn't a bylaw written for guidance when the Vice Chair cannot fulfill the duties for next year, which would be a really good bylaw to add, but a possible idea is to keep the 2/3rds vote continuance for Chair Sexton, and also leave the nominations open for the regular vote for Chair. That way if Chair Sexton doesn't receive the 2/3rds vote, the senate isn't wasting more time gathering nominations for the regular vote; they could proceed with the nominations for Chair. He says that the Bylaw 5.4b, regarding the special circumstance, is clearly worded as more of an action item as opposed to a general Chair vote.

Chair Sexton says that he did mention nominations for both Chair and Vice Chair, so he doesn't feel comfortable "changing horses in the middle of the race".

A member states that the senate has two people nominated for Chair, so there isn't an extenuating circumstance to need the 2/3rds vote. The senate can vote for the two nominees.

There was discussion between members that there are extenuating circumstances because the bylaws states that the Chair's term is one year, so the question is, would it be appropriate to regularly nominate Chair Sexton to serve another year as Chair?

A member points out that the Bylaws does not restrict the Chair to only one year; it states that the term for the Chair and Vice Chair is one year, but it does not say that the Chair could not be voted into another year. The senate has two people who are nominated, so there should be a general vote for Chair.

Nominations for Chair are re-established: Dave Sexton and Oscar Sida.

Tim Beasley then nominated Jamie Carlson for Vice-Chair. Jamie Carlson accepted.

There was discussion about the duration of the nomination period and when the senate will vote. It was decided that the nominations for Chair begin now, and the vote will take place the week of Faculty Senate in April. Results will be announced in April Faculty Senate. Nominations for Vice Chair will begin after that week with the vote to take place the week after that.

8. **New Business:**

- i. There is a Marilee Kuhl Memorial Scholarship for Nursing. \$2,000 for upper-division students. This scholarship is a wonderful way GBC is honoring her memory. She was a very important person in our nursing department and a wonderful professor.

ii. **Mental Health Presentation – Gail Rappa**

Gail Rappa gave a presentation in partnership with Oscar Sida and Amber Donnelly about the mental health resources now available at GBC. There are 220 people throughout NSHE who are trained through Mental Health First Aid. They have 36 NSHE students, employees and alumni who are certified through Living Works Safe Talk. Another thing Rappa wanted everyone to know is that GBC has a Safety App where one can access many services.

Rappa is super excited to have telehealth through BetterMynd. It contracts with over 18,000 licensed therapists. They faced some challenges, and learned a few lessons, but what they need to succeed is sustainable funding and a designated coordinator.

What faculty can do is remind their students of BetterMynd. There are videos in WebCampus under the Health and Resources section that students could be directed to and in which faculty can include in their syllabi.

If anyone has any suggestions on how to reach out to the students, please contact Gail Rappa.

- iii. A member thinks it wise to task the Bylaws Committee with developing a solution to the Chair and Vice-Chair nomination problems.
Bylaws Chair Walsh assures the senate that she is already drafting.

9. **Information Items:**

i. **Brainfuse Usage Stats – Kristin Heath**

Brainfuse is GBC's online tutoring service. The biggest concern this platform addresses is students needing help and not having access to tutoring services. Students will be able to access Brainfuse in their course dashboard 24/7. ASC is of course available as well. Brainfuse also has a writing center, which is a great asset. Since Brainfuse has launched last semester, there have been 235 live helps and the writing lab has helped 165 students. Spread the word! Even just one student knowing about it and them sharing it with their class can make a difference.

Policy Review Committee is working on the policy on policies. They have met with legal and are on track and hope to have a draft in April. They realize that they are much slower in developing this policy, the committee believes that having a strong system in place before they begin on anything else will serve GBC well in the future. This process has brought up another issue that needs to be addressed - the GBC Institutional Bylaws have not been revised or reviewed since 2007 and are in great need of an update. The issue is how the GBC Bylaws are changed. From the existing Bylaws

“The **College Bylaws Committee** is formed by recommendations from the Faculty Senate, Classified Council, President's Council, and appointed by the president. The Committee deals with questions of GBC Bylaws interpretation, possible revisions, and amendments. This is an ad hoc committee. Any college person or group requesting interpretation, revision, or amendments should contact the president's assistant.

Amendments to the GBC Bylaws may be made in two ways:

- Any employee or college body may propose an amendment. Such proposed amendment shall be presented to the College Bylaws Committee for review and validation with federal and state laws as well as NSHE Code and Policies. Such

proposed amendment must be forwarded to the President's Council with appropriate notes from the College Bylaws Committee. If the proposed amendment is rejected by the president, then the president shall notify all parties, in writing, of the decision and the reason(s) for rejection within twenty (20) working days after receiving the proposed amendment.

- Any amendment must be reviewed and accepted by the President's Council. Final approval must be given by the president and Board of Regents."

The Policy Committee propose that Faculty Senate begin the process of starting an ad hoc committee to review and revise the GBC Institutional Bylaws.

The problem with the Bylaws for the Policy Committee is that the Institutional Bylaws are not updated, so it makes it difficult for the Policy Committee to move forward.

For the next Senate meeting, faculty need to consider identifying some representatives from faculty senate to be part of the new committee. It will also need some representatives from classified.

The committee should be formed by May before the faculty leave, and then the committee should begin working on the Institutional Bylaws in the Fall. These updates are essential in order for the institution to move forward and have processes that are seamless.

Chair Sexton will send out an email asking for volunteers for the new Institutional Bylaws Committee.

10. Announcements:

CTE is re-starting the Stan Popeck Memorial Scholarship and BBQ on May 2nd. They will have a silent auction for fundraising. For those of you who did not know Stan, he started the MTC Scholarship for the thousands of students who have been awarded that scholarship.

A member wanted to acknowledge and appreciate Gail Rappa for her dedication with Mental Health at GBC.

The Library with the Library Committee has added more resources for student and faculty success. Brainfuse is a great resource. They also included testing materials and study guides for LSATs, GRA, nursing exams, access exams for education endorsements or certifications, etc. It's a really robust resource.

New offerings – mental health and wellbeing, Education Research Complete database for education added 500 peer review journals, re-started their subscription to access world news, digital access to USA today, etc. Any questions, Eric has tutorials, and the library is linked with WebCampus.

11. Good of the Order: None.

12. Adjournment: 10:23AM