

Great Basin College
FACULTY SENATE 2023-2024
Friday, February 16, 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, Robert Cowan, Steven Scilacci, Norm Whittaker, Christopher Salute, Madison Arbillaga, Jamie Carlson, Jessica Lynch, Tami Potter, Ping Wang, Vice-Chair Dan Bergey (Proxy for Rita Pujari), Laurie Walsh, Jason Brick, Brenda Gonzales, Kimberly Noah, Tim Beasley.

Voting Representatives Absent: Eleanor O'Donnell

Other Members Present: Dave Sexton (Chair), Carrie Meisner, James Kendall, Nick Cooley, Erica Salazar, Sheila Staszak, Sarah Massie, Cassie Allen, Michelle Husbands, Ethan Hawkley, John Rice, Jen Stieger, Dodi Callander, Laura Debenham, Oscar Sida, Steven Hrdlicka, Xunming Du, Mardell Dorsa, Amy Smith, Krishna Subedi, Daniel Murphree, Mary Swetich

Others Present: Kimberly Myers

2. **Call to Order: 9:06**

3. **Senate Chair Report – Verbal Report** – Safety is a hot topic right now, because of what happened in Las Vegas. The Chancellor has pulled together an ad hoc Safety Committee that meets regularly. It has many people all over NSHE, including Chair Sexton and Jeff Winrod. If anyone has any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out to Chair Sexton. The committee is trying to put together a comprehensive action report and what we should be doing in the future.

Director Salute is concerned about funding. He would really like to make Pahrump a safe campus, especially considering their close proximity to Las Vegas.

Chair Sexton will definitely bring up funding in the next NSHE Safety Committee meeting.

Lots of meetings this month. BOR is meeting all day today. GBC Chapter NFA meeting through zoom. GBC is more than 20% in NFA. President's Leadership Council is scheduled to meet next Tuesday. All the Chairs are getting together to meet with the Chancellor next Wednesday. The Chairs have a meeting with the Board of Regents next Friday.

There's a forum on Question 1 that's coming up. It's the Regent staffing question, which invokes real interest to revise who is or isn't on the Regents – appointed vs elected officials. There's going to be a forum on that via zoom, so if you're interested, Chair Sexton can give the link.

Board of Regents meets in Vegas in two weeks, so Chair Sexton will be in there for four days. The biggest thing of interest to us is the awarding of tenure, so that will be a good thing!

One more announcement: Unfortunately, we are losing our Vice-Chair, Dan Bergey, next year, and according to our Bylaws, the Vice-Chair is supposed to be our incoming Chair. So now we are needing both the Vice-Chair and Chair for the next year. Chair Sexton suggests that we have nominations at the March meeting, announce and vote on them in April, and bring them on in May. He would like to bring in the new Chair for more than only a couple weeks to get them ready, as there is a BOR meeting in the two weeks after they are appointed.

A motion to have nominations in March for Chair and Vice-Chair, vote for them in April, so they can be in place by May was by Dean Straight, seconded by Laurie Walsh. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Updates from President Helens – Absent**

Updates from Vice President of AA/SA, Jake Hinton-Rivera – Absent

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

A motion to approve the December 15, 2023 minutes was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Jamie Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Academic Standards & Assessment..... **Written Report**

i. Report – Information with Possible Action Items in March

Academic Standards Chair Daniel Murphree – The committee is trying to clarify to students what does and what does not apply for a grade appeal. If you have any suggestions, please reach out. The revised Grade Appeal Policy will be for possible action in March.

b. Bylaws..... **No Report**

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

i. Items for Review for Action in March

Comp and Benefits Chair John Rice – The committee submitted revisions to the application for Professional Development. None of the revisions are a substantial change. Chair Rice said that some applications that were received last semester were incomplete because the instructions weren't clear, so they've fixed it. Another revision is about substitutions. There was a circumstance where a faculty member was teaching two whole cohorts and the compensation for that was inadequate. Our sister institutions who engage in collective bargaining have binding methods for this sort of compensation, which are more attractive than what GBC has currently. We are by no means endorsing collective bargaining as a committee; however, we do believe that there are certain items on contracts of other institutions that are worth looking at and could be helpful to us. We as a faculty need to gather as much information as we can about all these different alternatives.

A member brought up that there was a clause or language put in a couple years ago about pay being commensurate with workload. It was supposed to open a meeting space with the necessary people. Chair Rice said that although that option is still available, it wasn't helpful in this particular case.

Please reach out if you have any suggestions to what the committee has brought forth for the revisions to the Professional Development application or procedure.

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

i. Proposed Changes to Curriculum – For Possible Action

A motion to approve the Proposed Changes to the Curriculum was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Madison Arbillaga. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Gen Ed Committee..... **Action Items**

i. Proposed Changes to the Upper-Division General Education Mastery

Courses – For Possible Action

ii. Proposed Changes to the General Education Certificate – For Possible Action

General Education Chair Ethan Hawkley – The first action item is approving the courses that have already been approved by the departments to fulfill those INT classes. The second action item is the revision of the General Education Certificate to match our own General Education grid.

A motion to approve Changes to the Upper-Division General Education Mastery Courses and Proposed Changes to the General Education Certificate was approved by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Jamie Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

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

i. Report – Information Only

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

i. Report – Information Only

There was a concern from a member about the mention of a draft for a tenure policy in the Personnel report, and yet the draft was not attached. If the draft is ready, the Faculty Senate needs to review it.

Personnel Committee member Tim Beasley says that it is ready for review to be approved next Faculty Senate.

The Senate is then reminded by a member that according to the Bylaws, the policy needs to be reviewed before it can be voted on next Faculty Senate, especially something this important.

Chair Sexton summarizes that there was a tenure problem recently that has been resolved, which resulted in the tenure policy needing be revised to meet NSHE standards. The concern he has is if the Personnel Committee is working with the new Policy Committee led by George Kleeb, because there must be only one policy.

The Senate is assured that the two committees have been working together on the tenure policy. It will be submitted for review for the March Faculty Senate and for possible action in April.

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

i. Report – Information Only

i. Emeritus Recognition, ad hoc **Written Report**

i. Report – Information Only

7. Unfinished Business: None.

8. New Business:

- i. High School Admins – Karl Stevens – Unfortunately, Dean Stevens was not present for this discussion.
- ii. Proposed Changes to the Part-time Faculty Evaluation Policy and Procedures
Chair Sexton is going to pass this policy on to the Policy Committee.

9. Information Items:

- i. Curricular Review Report Update – Carrie Meisner

Professor Meisner gave a presentation for her update. It is available for review if asked.

The Curricular Review Report was finished and sent to Associate VP Amber Donnelly for review. She did have some minor edits, but nothing that changes the tone, so the report is now being reviewed by the President and the Vice-President.

Prof. Meisner begins her presentation with the purpose for the report. She reminds the Senate of her last presentation which focused mostly on DWFIs and a little about retention. For the first half of her report this time, her focus is on the low-yield programs. She then continues to delve into the concerns for her own low-yielding program – Associate of Science: Pattern of Study Geosciences. Prof. Meisner also mentions that these low-yielding programs have been discussed with the program supervisor and/ or the Deans, so everyone is aware. Also mentioned is the inability to investigate cost of programs, as GBC doesn't currently have an IR director. However, one of the recommendations in the report is to look for a cost benefit. The committee does believe that even if the programs were eliminated, there would be zero cost savings. The second half of the report focuses on students' self-efficacy and student sense of belonging. To help improve students' self-efficacy, Prof. Meisner asks everyone campus-wide to brainstorm ways to boost student confidence and encourage them to perform and overcome academic challenges.

For the focus on students' sense of belonging, Campus Climate is a huge factor. Prof. Meisner believes that all of us can work together to make GBC an awesome collegiate experience for our students and even our faculty and staff.

Prof. Meisner will keep the Senate updated on the status of the Curricular Review Report. Once the committee receives the report back from the President and Vice-President, they will distribute it among faculty, staff, and anyone else interested, so we can all work together to help with student success and success of our programs.

Vice-Chair Dan Bergey would like to comment and agree with Prof. Meisner that with the emphasis of online, it's important for faculty to reach out and connect with our students. He says that he definitely notices a difference in his online class when he tries to interact with his students more. It does take some time, but the students are more interactive and there is more of a sense that they have an investment in the class.

Chair Sexton mentions that VP Rivera has a committee that is working on a campaign on campus atmosphere.

10. Announcements:

Little Shop of Horrors is underway. The production is partnered with Elko Overland Stage Company, and everyone is doing a great job. It opens on the 12th of March, closes on the 16th, and tickets are \$20 each.

Sarah Massie is our new Communications Director. She is excited to be a part of the GBC family. Director Massie has experience in brand identity, marketing, communications, web designs, and strategy. She is very excited to elevate the GBC brand and is looking forward to meeting with everyone to elevate their programs. She and her team plan to lift the brand and bring it into 2024.

11. Good of the Order: None.

12. Adjournment: 10:00am