

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

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

**DRAFT 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, Rita Pujari, Laurie Walsh, Jason Brick, Eric Walsh (Proxy Brenda Gonzales), Kimberly Noah, Tim Beasley**

**Other members present: Dave Sexton (Chair), Dan Bergey (Vice-Chair), George Kleebe, John Rice, Jonathan Foster, Donald Jones, Matt Nichols, Deanna Hamilton, Leslie Maple, Erica Salazar, Sheila Staszak, Jeffrey Winrod, Jen Stieger, Ethan Hawkley, John Mittleman, Karl Stevens, Eleanor O'Donnell, Carrie Meisner, Mardell Dorsa, Xunming Du, Krishna Subedi, Hilary Baker, Daniel Murphree, Dodi Callander, Mary Swetich, James Kendall**

**Others present: President Helens, Vice President Rivera, Kimberly Myers**

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

**3. Senate Chair Report – Verbal Report** – Chair Sexton sent out a copy of a letter written by the chairs to get NSHE's attention regarding some major system-wide issues on all the campuses, which were revealed after the Las Vegas incident. They had some great feedback from the regents, and they are going to investigate those issues.

Chair Sexton tried to have a January Senate Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>; however, it was later canceled. There was a Board of Regents meeting on the same day, and Chair Sexton realized he should attend.

**4. Updates from President Helens** – December 16<sup>th</sup> was the last day of the semester, and President Helens wished everyone a good break. She also wanted to acknowledge the staff who stay throughout the break to carry the next semester on.

President Helens mentioned the horrendous events that happened in Las Vegas. She stressed the importance of taking care of yourself and others, and to be aware of your surroundings.

She concluded that no matter where you're going or where you are, be safe and have a good break. Happy Holidays!

**Updates from Vice President of AA/SA, Jake Hinton-Rivera** – The academic course fees were all approved at the Board of Regents. We eliminated the \$10 application fee effective Fall 2024. VP Rivera said that other institutions have also eliminated the application fee, so the access to education for students is not a variant.

**5. Approval of November 17, 2023 minutes - For Possible Action**

**A motion to approve the November Minutes was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Jamie Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Sexton would like to acknowledge and appreciate the committees and their diligence in finding and correcting the issues brought forth within their committee.

**6. Standing Committee Reports:**

a. Academic Standards & Assessment..... **No Report**

b. Bylaws..... **Action Items**

**i. Proposed Changes to Bylaws – For Possible Action**

**ii. Report – with Action Items for Review**

**Action Item 1**

**A motion to approve Action Item 1 of the Proposed Changes to the Bylaws was by Jaime Carlson, seconded by Dean Straight. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Action Item 2**

**A motion to approve Action Item 2 of the Proposed Changes to the Bylaws was by Jamie Carlson, seconded by Norm Whittaker. Motion approved unanimously.**

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

**i. Finalize Professional Development Disbursements – For Possible Action**

**ii. Report – with Action Items for Review**

**A motion to approve the Finalized Professional Development Disbursements was by Dean Straight, seconded by Laurie Walsh. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Sexton mentioned that money disbursement was discussed in Leadership Council that week, as well, so hopefully there will be more money to disburse.

Compensation and Benefits Chair John Rice encouraged all professional and administrative faculty to apply for these professional development reimbursements. We were awarded \$15,000 this academic year, which was a substantial amount, considering that in past years it has only been less than \$5000.

The application deadline is March 31st for the spring. These funds are reimbursements. The person would have to pay for it up front but most if not all will be reimbursed.

As a clarification for conferences, if you can justify on the application how it's going to improve your teaching and benefit our students, there shouldn't be any reason for denial.

All of the funds have to be distributed and paid out by June 30th.

C&B Chair Rice encouraged everyone to please review the Independent Study compensation. The committee would appreciate input if anyone had any ideas.

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

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

**ii. Report – with Action Items for Review**

**A motion to approve the Proposed Changes to the Curriculum was by Laure Walsh, seconded by Norm Whittaker. Motion passed unanimously.**

e. Instructional Technology..... **No Report**

f. Gen Ed Committee..... **Action Items**

**i. Proposed Changes to General Education Courses – For Possible Action**

**ii. Report – with Action Items for Review and a Proposal to Replace the INTs**

**A motion to approve the Proposed Changes to Gen Ed Courses was by Norm Whittaker, seconded by Laurie Walsh. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion to Approve the Replacement of the INTs to the Gen Ed Curriculum was by Dean Straight, seconded by Laurie Walsh. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**i. Report – Information Only**

h. AI Committee, ad hoc..... **Action Items**

**i. Proposed Changes to the Catalog to Include AI in the Plagiarism and Cheating Policy – For Possible Action**

**ii. Report – with Action Items for Review**

A discussion took place regarding the wording in the new policy to include a definition of generative AI and to clarify that AI stands for “Artificial intelligence”.

**A motion to approve the Proposed Changes to the Catalog to Include AI in the Plagiarism and Cheating Policy with provisions as discussed and the clarification of “Artificial Intelligence (AI)” was by Laurie Walsh, seconded by Jamie Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.**

- i. Emeritas Recognition, ad hoc ..... **Written Report**
  - i. **Report – Information Only**

**7. Unfinished Business: None.**

**8. New Business:**

- i. Biennial Curricular Review Committee for 2023 – Professor Carrie Meisner

This committee – separate from the Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee – meets every two years to make the recommendations to improve student success and completion. The committee reviews program completion and figures out where and how they can make things more efficient and helpful to faculty, staff, and students.

Prof. Meisner presented a power point presentation which could be available if asked. She was tasked with finding the trends for DWFIs – letter grade “D”, “W” Withdrawal/Drop, “F” Fail, “I” Incomplete. The Curricular Review Committee investigated reducing the DWFIs rates, and some recommendations are listed in the power point. Meisner expressed that this was a campus wide effort. It will require support from everyone.

One of the committee’s recommendations with the new CRM software suggests adding a dropdown for the student to give a reason for their withdrawal.

Vice President Rivera would like to add that in the last Board of Regents meeting, they approved a \$15 student success fee to fund a first-year seminar program. Director Christopher Salute is currently creating the curriculum for this program, but it’s still new.

Prof. Meisner mentioned that the Curricular Committee was already formulating some ideas about what to incorporate and suggested that Director Salute and the committee meet to discuss it together. Director Salute agrees.

Prof. Meisner will continue to update the Faculty Senate in future meetings.

- ii. GBC Policy Review Committee – Professor George Kleeb

The Policy Review Committee has been working diligently on updating policies. Prof. Kleeb doesn’t want to put a Band-Aid on these policies. He intends to find a solution. He would like to have one page on the website where all the policies are located. He intends to create a writing process with the same format in which all policies will follow, and he intends to have it in place before they start updating the current policies. Basically, there will be a policy for creating policies.

The key thing Prof. Kleeb would like everyone to know is that with their Policy Review Committee *all means all*. Their policies will be created with diversity inclusion and will only be good policies if all stakeholders have input. There might be disagreements, but the committee welcomes good discussions. If everyone merges their ideas together, we will discover good plans for GBC. Expect these policies to go through Faculty Senate, Classified Council, and Student Government.

Prof. Kleeb would like to have everyone look at their policies and contact the Committee with any suggestions of changes.

**9. Information Items: None.**

**10. Announcements:**

The Native American exhibit displayed in the Elko GTA building will be continued throughout the Elko Annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Thanks to the work of President Helens, we now have a live broadcast on 91.5FM KNCC/KUNR from our campus every morning. Comp and Benefits Chair John Rice encourages everyone - if you aren't already a member of KUNR/KNCC - to please support it financially, because it will help to sustain that service coming from our campus. It isn't about the amount of money, it's the participation of the community that gets everyone's attention.

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

**12. Adjournment: 10:12**