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Academic Senate Minutes

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Fall 10-27-2023

## 2023-10-27 Minutes of the Academic Senate

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**ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**Meeting:** Friday, October 27, 2023

**Time/Location:** 3:30pm - 5:30pm – KU Ballroom

**Presiding:** Erin O’Mara Kunz, President of the Academic Senate

**Present:** Vijay Asari, Art Busch, Ali Carr-Chellman, Trevor Collier, Jason Combs, Garrett Conti, Jacob Cress, Jennifer Dalton, Weibke Diestelkamp, Greg Elvers, Jon Fulkerson, Tim Gabrielli, Colleen Gallagher, Greer Glover, Kayla Harris, Nancy Haskell, Precious Henderson, Melanie Hendrick, Allison Kinney, Erin O’Mara Kunz, Suki Kwon, Addison Masek, Harold Merriman, Vincent Miller, Mitchell O’Brien, Rebecca Potter, Todd Smith, Andy Strauss, Jaina Utrup, David Watkins, Darlene Weaver, Kathleen Webb, Meredith Wronowski, Hamed Zolbanin

**Absent:** Darden Bradshaw, Lissa Cupp, Lexie Kemble, Gül Kremer, Lou Persiani, Danielle Poe, Joel Puce, Jusuf Salih, Garrett Sargent, Andrea Seielstad, Todd Uhlman, Caroline Waldron

**Parliamentarian:** Greer Glover

**Guests:** Laura Bistrek, Darden Bradshaw, Elizabeth Long, Lis Regula, Jamie Small, Leah Ward, David Ashley, Carissa Krane, Corinne Daprano, Paul Geis, Ben Kunz, Austin Cheney, Carolyn Phelps, Diane Sullivan, Meghan Henning, Lee Dixon, Aidan Curian, Jane Koester, Dorian Borbonus, Shuang-Ye Wu

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Material</b>
Call to Order 3:31 (E. Kunz)		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Harold Merriman led us in prayer, including a violin solo.	
<b>Attendance</b>	A sign-in sheet was distributed.	
<b>Minutes—September 22, 2023</b>	Approved by unanimous consent.	<a href="#">Draft of September 22, 2023 minutes</a>
<b>Announcements</b>	Please respond to the campus climate surveys and encourage others to do so, too.	

<p><b>Gender Equity Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laura Bistrek, Women's Advisory Council for UD Men for Gender Equity</li> <li>● Darden Bradshaw, QDayton</li> <li>● Elizabeth Long, The Brook Center</li> <li>● Lis Regula, UD Men for Gender Equity</li> <li>● Jamie Small, Women and Gender Studies - Leah Ward, The Women's Center; President's</li> <li>● Commission on the Status of Women</li> </ul>	<p>Panel was asked to come to speak about their initiatives on campus and goals for the upcoming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Immediately opened floor for questions</li> <li>● Q: Please tell us about the overarching mission of the groups you are representing today? A: General discussion.</li> <li>● Q: What is the status on the Green Dot program? A: This program is planned to return soon.</li> <li>● Q: Please tell us about your initiatives on campus right now. A: General discussion.</li> <li>● Q: Can you discuss salary equity and UD, and particularly progress on gender equity? A: Lack of transparency makes this difficult work. Individuals are allowed to provide information to others if they want to. Work is being done in this area to get more data.</li> <li>● Q: What steps are there to include students in each organization's process? A: Some issues with coordinating across entities, but working on building to support these items. Connections have been made to PATH/AVIATE. Student outreach is a common consideration in discussions.</li> <li>● Q: Please share your priorities for the next year (and beyond). A: General discussion.</li> <li>● The Academic Senate thanks the panel for attending our meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Materials linked here</a></p>
<p><b>Academic Research</b> - David Ashley, Vice President for Faculty Research</p>	<p>Update on creation of new Office of Academic Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Broad goals for the office: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish separate academic unit from UDRI</li> <li>○ Grow sponsored research by 5 to ten times current levels in ten years.</li> <li>○ More involvement from more units with more recognition.</li> <li>○ New research management information system.</li> <li>○ Support student research as part of Blue Sky initiatives around experiential learning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Activities for this academic year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create new Office of Academic Research.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Materials linked here</a></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Support current, active research, particularly around policies and pre/post award processes.</li><li>○ Expand breadth, type, and amounts of research.</li><li>● Q: Does “pre award” include development of applications?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A: Yes. Grant writing needs support and mentoring at UD, and there is a need on campus that must be addressed particularly for new faculty.</li></ul></li><li>● Q: Is 5-10 times funding levels realistic?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A: Ambitious goal, but feedback suggests that we can drastically increase our research funding if we improve processes and support.</li></ul></li><li>● Q: When will the new office actually be in place?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A: It starts now, but it will be a progressive process. Ongoing work with UDRI to make everything more supportive for academics and to smooth the transition to the new office. Capabilities are building now, particularly around pre-award support.</li></ul></li><li>● Q: Regarding barriers in applying to grants, do we expect any change on indirect costs?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A: Ongoing discussion on this topic. UD’s rate is negotiated with federal agencies right now, but we can have a different rate with provost approval. Recognize need for flexibility in this area. Want it to not be a barrier in the future.</li></ul></li><li>● Q: Regarding UD research seed grants for this year, there has been a recent change in the stipend policy that changed the amounts and the uses, and that has had a large impact on several faculty. Can you please discuss these recent changes?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A: Because of financial situation, pool of seed grant money has been reduced by 40-50%. Focus for this year will be prioritizing start-up funding for new projects. Timing of announcement of process was delayed and there was a change in the guidelines relative to prior years. Hopeful we will be able to announce additional funding opportunities that fit strategic directions for the university.</li></ul></li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comment from Provost Weaver: There have been multiple transitions this summer in the provost’s office including the provost, the head of UDRI, a new position in VP of Academic Research, and other staff. Regrets any downstream effects on clarity and timing, but acknowledge that has been a challenge resulting from the multiple transitions and the evolving budgetary challenge.</li> <li>● Q: What compromises to mission and investment is UD willing to do to support an initiative of increasing research funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A: This is part of what we are trying to establish and want Academic Senate input. Do not want a top-down approach, and want units to be a part of this.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Q: Any plans to fully separate UDRI? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A: This new office is about supporting the faculty. UDRI’s specialization around defense contracting makes it both important to the university, but less important to be located on campus. Focused on this new office building a structure to support the faculty that is separate from UDRI.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Guest Comment: The seed grant has been a key recruiting point in our department. The recent policy change that shifts student pay to stipend portion has a big impact on faculty and faculty incentives. Would like future seed grants to keep student support in “grant-in-aid” rather than stipend. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Response: Appreciate feedback around recruitment of faculty.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Guest Comment: Agrees with prior guest. Noted impact on recruitment of faculty.</li> <li>● The Academic Senate thanks David for coming to our meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Committee Reports</b>  APC–Nancy Haskell  FAC–Art Busch  SAPC–Tim Gabrielli  ECAS–Erin O’Mara  Kunz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>APC:</b> Still working on current charge related to CAP and making good progress.</li> <li>● <b>FAC:</b> Working on two charges. Making progress on workload policy.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>SAPC:</b> Consulted across campus around publicizing student policies. Also completed second charge related to UHP.</li> <li>● <b>ECAS:</b> Gave SAPC second charge, met with UPCC about consultation on policy changes, met with Enrollment Management about complexities in higher education enrollment, met with Student Development regarding recent changes to AVIATE, and met with Eric Spina, Darlene Weaver, and Andy Horner to get an update on BlueSky and other initiatives.</li> </ul>	
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Motion to adjourn (J. Fulkerson), seconded (W. Diestelkamp).

*Vote: Unanimous agreement.*

Meeting ended 5:09.

Respectfully submitted by Jon Fulkerson, Secretary to the Academic Senate.