

ALVSCE Faculty Council
February 6, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Related materials:

- Strategy Working Group motion (<https://arizona.app.box.com/file/1791284060749>)
- DRAC Memo: Impact of Financial Constraints on Research in CALES (<https://arizona.app.box.com/file/1791285325562>)
- Faculty Council Recommendations template (Google doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m3hQ5qTLf64ZqzCHF-AQHimf5mNcD7WNa3-G8TPtkyw/edit?usp=sharing>)

Meeting Agenda

1. Faculty Senate update
2. Dean's update
3. Subcommittee updates or questions
4. Academic Policies and Practices, Jim Hunt will be attending this meeting
 - Q&A session

Faculty have raised questions and concerns about:

- Instructional Work Reporting/workload equity
 - Academic Freedom
 - Instructor's IP rights/students recording classroom activities
 - Questions regarding ICE activities on campus/classrooms
5. New business

Meeting Minutes

1. Faculty Senate update: Katharine Zeiders

Meeting discussed free speech. President Garimella attended the meeting. Plan to form advisory group for VPR Tomás Díaz de la Rubia.

2. Dean's update: Shane Burgess

Discussed funding requests at the State legislature and the Arizona Board of Regents request for money to deal with deferred maintenance, specifically for the Shantz building for College of Science and ALVSCE. SPEED bonds will be issued to cover the cost.

Shane discussed the University's financial situation, stating a \$63 million structural deficit and the need to prepare for a 2.5% pay increase and a 3% rescission on current spending authority. The goal is to start FY2026 with zero structural deficit. Have 90 days – end of March to end of June to achieve this. If involuntary staff reductions are required, it will be difficult to implement them due to contract requirements and the slow HR system. It is not clear if multi-year contracts some PoPs have are binding and will protect them from losing jobs. In current submitted budget ALVSCE requested \$10M increase in spending. It will be discussed during the meeting on March 17th. Currently ALVSCE is underspending under current spending authority and

purchasing is slowed by low staffing. However, it will spend money by the end of the year to avoid losing it.

3. Protecting Academic Freedom on Campus: Kathleen

The issue of academic freedom has become a major concern due to federal government actions and the potential for doxing and bullying. Kathleen highlighted that academic freedom is guaranteed in their university policy and is essential for a quality university education. She also mentioned that the issue is widespread across multiple programs in ALVSCE. Shane agreed with the importance of academic freedom and suggested that the university should set up a non-binding process to independently review materials taken out of context. However, he could not promise legal response to support faculty if needed. Katie mentioned that she is working on this issue and plans to send a letter describing different ways to protect academic freedom. The team also discussed the need for support among faculty members and the importance of adhering to facts within their disciplines when teaching. University does not allow filming in class, instructors can contact UAPD if students are in violation.

4. Intellectual Property Rights: Kathleen

Kathleen expressed concerns about the unclear intellectual property rights of instructors regarding course materials they create. She suggested the need for clarification on what instructors own and what the university's rights are. Jim clarified that the university owns a copy of everything an instructor does but grants unlimited rights to use to the instructor.

5. ICE: Kathleen

Directions are needed on what instructors need to do if ICE comes to a classroom. While ICE can enter campus freely, they need a warrant to enter the classrooms. Shane emphasized the importance of protecting student privacy under FERPA and advised faculty to call 911 if they encounter any issues with ICE officers.

6. Academic Policies and Practices: Jim Hunt

Need tracking and reporting of faculty workload, particularly in relation to informal teaching and independent studies. Jim clarified that these activities are tracked in the UAC access system and are included in promotion portfolios and annual reviews but are not considered part of the formal teaching workload. Kathleen raised concerns about inconsistencies in how these activities are reported and interpreted across different units. Jean mentioned that she would be working on updating the guidelines for research professors and would share them with the Faculty Council for review. Kevin suggested that faculty mentoring undergraduate research should also be considered as part of their workload. Kathleen agreed and suggested that they should work on improving faculty participation in reporting these activities. The team also discussed the need for better tracking and reporting of these activities at the college level.

7. Subcommittee updates or questions: Kathleen

Subcommittees discussed their progress and plans. The workload subcommittee, chaired by Maria Plant, is still in the early stages of organizing their thoughts and prioritizing issues. Cory Quailes and Anne LeSenne, focusing on work-life balance, contacted Jeff Ratje and plan to compile and analyze feedback on childcare and transportation. The budget subcommittee, led

by Kerry Cooper, has not yet met to discuss priorities. The Promotion and APR subcommittee is considering the impact of budget constraints on promotion processes. Chi Zhou shared that Duarte Diaz will circulate the updated APR document from ACBS to the Promotion and APR subcommittee members.

8. New business: Jean McClain

Jean announced a transition of the Compass site to a new platform and requesting a volunteer to download and archive old faculty council meeting agendas. Katerina volunteered for this task.

Attendance

Faculty Representative	Unit	Present
Tauhidur Rahman	Agricultural & Resource Economics	
Bobby Torres	Agricultural Education, Tech & Innovation	
Kerry Cooper	Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences	
Chi Zhou	Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences	X
Armando Barreto Munoz	Biosystems Engineering	X
Todd Schlenke	Entomology	X
Katerina Dontsova	Environmental Science	X
Kathleen J. Kennedy	Human Ecology	X
Cory Quailles	Human Ecology	X
Rachel Mitchell	Natural Resources & Environment	
Kevin Bonine	Natural Resources & Environment	X
Jennifer Teske	Nutritional Sciences and Wellness	X
Maria Plant	Nutritional Sciences and Wellness	X
Ramin Yadegari	Plant Sciences	X
TBD	Plant Sciences	
Anne LeSenne	Pinal County Cooperative Extension	X
Rosie Stewart	Santa Cruz & Cochise Counties Cooperative Extension	X
Faculty Senators	Unit	
Duarte Diaz*	Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences	
Melanie Hingle*	Nutritional Sciences and Wellness	
Bobby Torres*	Agricultural Education, Tech & Innovation	
Katharine Zeiders **	Human Ecology	X
Administration		
Shane Burgess	ALVSCE Administration	X
Jean McClain	ALVSCE Administration	X