

Academic Faculty Senate (2025-2026) Meeting MINUTES 04/17/26; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Academic Senate	Call to order at 1:35 pm	ZOOM																								
Members Present	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Eric York (Chair)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Jessica Rowe (Vice Chair)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Jaspreet Gill (Senator Carson)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Brigitte Dillet (Senator Fallon/Douglas)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Vacant (NAH Senator)</td><td>Absent</td></tr> <tr><td>Curtis Kupferschmid (Senator LA 1)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Christian Copley Salem (Senator LA 2)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Mary Gillespie (Senator LA 3)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Patrick Bell (Senator WCTE/Recorder)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Jacob Council (Senator Adjunct Carson)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Kelsey Penrose (Senator Adjunct Fallon/Douglas)</td><td>Present</td></tr> <tr><td>Martin Schmidt (Past Chair)</td><td>Present</td></tr> </table>	Eric York (Chair)	Present	Jessica Rowe (Vice Chair)	Present	Jaspreet Gill (Senator Carson)	Present	Brigitte Dillet (Senator Fallon/Douglas)	Present	Vacant (NAH Senator)	Absent	Curtis Kupferschmid (Senator LA 1)	Present	Christian Copley Salem (Senator LA 2)	Present	Mary Gillespie (Senator LA 3)	Present	Patrick Bell (Senator WCTE/Recorder)	Present	Jacob Council (Senator Adjunct Carson)	Present	Kelsey Penrose (Senator Adjunct Fallon/Douglas)	Present	Martin Schmidt (Past Chair)	Present	
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Members Absent																										
Guests	<p>R. Belbin, M. Duley, J. Downs, R. Bassen, R. Belbin, R. Bevens, K. Strain, M. Williams, A. Price, A Oleson, M. Williams, M. Gillespi, S. Priest, M. Duley, J. Coverston, W. Kortemieir, Rachelle B., K. Strain, E. Tattersall</p> <p>Rachelle Bassen, Margaret Craig, Rebecca Bevens, Elizabeth Tattersall, JW Lazzari, Chelsie Hamtak, Victor Navarro, Jeff Downs, Winnie Kortemeier, Coral Lopez, Jolene C., Kim D.</p>																									

Agenda Topic	1. Call to Order
Action Taken	Time: 1:35 pm

Agenda Topic	2. Roll Call
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Agenda Topic	3. Executive Updates (M. Duley)
Action Taken	Info
	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on planning for next year and strategic planning. Call out to faculty to participate (April 24th 10 - noon reviewing draft plan in Carson Nugget Hall) Launching a marketing campaign targeted for adult population. Field trip process have been sent out. Employee/Teaching/Nurse Week celebrations in

	planning the first full week of May
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Agenda Topic	4. Faculty consultation group with L&I (R. Belbin)
Action Taken	Discussion:
Summary of Discussion	<p>Discussion: This group is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate open, two-way communication • Provide faculty perspectives on L & I services, systems, and student support initiatives • Share information about divisional priorities, changes, and innovations • Identify opportunities to improve student success • Increase faculty awareness of available services and resources • Improve the usability and effectiveness of divisional offerings • Build trust and collaboration between faculty and L & I support units • Highlight issues early before they become systemic challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing a consultation group where Learning and Innovation meet with faculty to discuss ongoing projects and support. • Support for OER use • Goal is to strengthen collaboration, communication, and mutual understanding. • Fully discussed in the Division of Learning and Innovation outline provided by Ron B. • Question on processes for communication. Immediate concerns with faculty are addressed right away as needed. • Eric Y. request to move to approve the Learning and Innovation of consultation group • Would be a shared role with faculty, Ron B. can run meeting discussion (not a decision making body). • In terms of Bi Law what are the procedures? J. Downs there is no president. • Ron B. will solicit membership with support of FS (Eric Y.) with messaging. <p>Motion: Approval to support the formation of the Learning and Innovation consultation group to promote communication and collaboration with faculty and learning and innovation.</p> <p>Motion to Approve: Curtis K.</p> <p>Second: B. Dillet</p> <p>Approval: Unanimously</p> <p>Abstained: None</p>

Agenda Topic	5. Approval of Minutes (March)
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Action Taken	Action
Summary of Discussion	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Motion: Approval of March 2026 meeting minutes</p> <p>Motion to Approve: Curtis K.</p> <p>Second: J. Gill</p> <p>Approval: Unanimously</p> <p>Abstained: None</p>

Agenda Topic	6. Elections (J. Downs)
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Downs shared results of senate election. The elected Vice Chair is Patrick Bell. All senate seats ran unopposed. • Jeff D. will senate results to Patrick B. to update minutes and agenda for next academic year.

Agenda Topic	7. Policies – First Reading
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	<p>a. 3-3-2 CTE College Credit: Proposed to retire, content rolled into 3-3-5</p> <p>Discussion: Proposed policy to be retired as contents will be rolled over into policy 3-3-5. No significant changes, just titles and contact information.</p> <p>b. 3-3-5 Credit for Prior Learning: Technical changes only</p> <p>Discussion: No significant changes, just titles and contact information.</p> <p>K. Penrose: Can we postpone discussion of the policy would like to discuss with administration on certain aspects of the policy. Would like clarification on how students will be counseled on what they may potential miss by gaining credit for prior learning. I.e. Not all high school course work applies applicable to college level learning (specific examples applied to academic writing in college level English courses). Allow for students to make informed decisions. Concerns with having to teach foundational skills to students who may be underprepared even when given credit for prior learning. B. Dillet: Exams for credit for prior learning are system level with departments. Eric Y: Current conversation is beyond</p>

the scope of policy review under faculty senate. Decisions for credit for prior learning is held at the NSHE level. K. Penrose: Would like an addition of information that students receive advisement and/or option to not take credit for prior learning and take the regular college course. J. Rowe: Support for clear advising, but there are a good deal of mechanism in place to ensure students are prepared. Patrick B: Do students still take placement exams? Jessica R: The Accuplacer is no longer required, but student coursework is evaluated for student placement. K. Penrose: Seeking clarity on which policy or policies specifically discuss how student placement is determined for credit for prior learning. Eric Y: This specific policy does determine student placement as placement is determined through multiple methods (grade, coursework, standardized tests, as well as student counseling). This discussion is about placement, not these specific policies. Is more of a systemwide discussions. Eric Y. can take suggestions to College Council. B. Dillet: Would like Chelsey to discuss more details on why certain removals in policy were undertaken. Eric Y. clarified was discussed in College Council. K. Penrose: Would like a statement in policy that students are adequately prepared for the courses they are enrolled in. And clarification to reference which policy or policies address student placement. Request to make an agenda item in future FS.

c. 3-4-1 Admission Registration Grades and Examinations: Alignment with Board Policy

Discussion: Edits to align with NSHE board policy.

d. 11-3-18: Hazard Communication Program (K. Strain)

Discussion: (K. Strain, Amelia O.): Policy discusses how hazardous chemicals are handle on campus. New staff are assigned training. OSHA regulations, safety data sheets. A chemist has been hired (A. Olsen) updating labeling, binders, meeting with staff. Indexing safety data sheets, assisting with inventory, reduction of unnecessary materials. What the policy affirms is that supervisors and directors are responsible for staff to understand area hazards, chemical labeling is correct, safety data sheets are updated, and employees receive regular and

	<p>necessary training. Working with outside contractors to ensure safety is followed with chemicals on and off campus. Global Harmonization icons will be used with clear instructions on chemical use with safety data sheets. Eric Y. Are the binders printed or digital? K. Strain: Must be readily available to staff i.e. a bind is recommended as a digital copy would need a computer readily available to access by all who use (faculty and students). Request to spell out acronyms.</p> <p>K. Penrose: Question on ability to lock doors. Matt W. will work with facilities to ensure status of locking doors across campus. R. Bevan asked about doors that open out should auto lock but do not. Although ensured doors will lock in an emergency may not be enough time to notify of an intruder. Request for a secondary (manual) locking system to be put in place for outward opening doors. M. Williams: Will check on manual locking system in addition to magnetic locking doors. K. Penrose also discussed specific alarm systems that can be paid for with grants. M. Williams: Is familiar with alarm system mentioned, will speak with University police on options available.</p> <p>e. 11-2-1: Emergency Preparedness Operations and Recovery (M. Williams): Updates include hazardous materials labeling, contractor requirements, safety data sheets, PPE, and supervisory responsibilities.</p> <p>Discussion: (Matt Williams) Emergency management policy has been updated to clarify emergency response plan. Signed by K. Dalpe, discussed in College Council. Applicable to all departments and clarifies departmental responsibilities. Annual review of department plans.</p> <p>Motion: No action Motion to Approve: Second: Approval: Unanimously Abstained:</p>
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Agenda Topic	8. Special Course Fee Changes
Action Taken	Possible Action
Summary of Discussion	<i>All new Nursing course fees (\$90, 22 courses) except for NURS 129, 130: Implementation of these fees will provide comprehensive access to a study aid that reinforces educational content, provides skill</i>

practice and competency tracking, and assists students in preparing for the NCLEX. Implementing these fees will a) ensure students no longer have to make large lump sum payments to the vendor at the beginning of each semester; b) allow the fee to be attached to the college charges so that Financial Aid funding can be applied; provide students with access to the WNC payment plan options if funding is an issue; remove the need for individual students to navigate/coordinate with a 3rd party vendor; and ensure all students have access to the materials at the beginning of each semester with no delay in accessing critical course content. Multiple other courses have continuation of temporarily reduced fees.

Discussion:

- Previous approval by email vote for fees up to \$50 (inflation adjustments). This proposal is a specific increase in nursing fees (over \$50) to prepare students for taking nursing exams. Students previously paid out of pocket. This proposal is for WNC to purchase prep software for all campus access (ultimately reduces costs to students). Additional fee increases for inflationary adjustments. Some new fees will be \$90 per credit. R. Bassen: Some concerns with usefulness of software, i.e. not all faculty using to potential. Eric Y: Understanding software is used in every course. R. Bassen: Would like to hear feedback from students on usefulness of software. A. Price: Yes, in the past it wasn't used as much but is being much more used in current course work. Winnie K: If in more than one nursing class would students have to pay a fee for multiple coursework. Eric Y: Still less then out of pocket payments. J. Council: Will fee increase affect enrollment in WNC nursing? I.e. Students may go to other colleges. Eric Y: Students are already paying a higher course software on their own. One advantage is the cost can be covered by financial aid. R. Bassen: Students did not pay for it more recently, but was paid for with a grant. J. Rowe: How does cost compare across NSHE institutions. A. Price: Has been discussion for using different software in future, but goal is to reduce cost and collect relevant data for NV Board of Nursing.

Motion: Motion to Approve nursing fee increase

Motion to Approve: Curtis K.

Second: Patrick B.

Approval: Unanimously

Abstained: None

Agenda Topic

9. Senate Bylaws (J. Downs, B. Dillet)

Action Taken	Discussion/Possible Action (J. Downs, B. Dillet)
Summary of Discussion	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Dillet: Needs to be a location for current placement of location of Bi Laws. Need to clarify who is responsible for enforcing the Bi Laws. Proposed changes in the number of FS senators. Where should we be archiving faculty senate documents? The senate recorder will maintain the faculty senate webpage and ensure agenda, minutes, and relevant documentation is uploaded to the website. The FS vice chair will serve as enforcing Bi Laws as the parliamentarian. A current updated document for FS Bi Laws needs to be established. Clarification on tenure and emergency hire processes. Bi Laws follow an approval process, first by senate, and then full faculty for approval. <p>Motion: No vote Motion to Approve: Second: Approval: Unanimously Abstained:</p>
Agenda Topic	10. Faculty Senate Climate Survey (E. York)
Action Taken	Discussion
Summary of Discussion	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick B: Appears faculty at WNC are committed to serving the students and the college, but there is a significant gap in top-down communication/decision making/shared governance between administration and faculty. J. Rowe: Results have been shared with senate and should be shared with all faculty. Erik Y: Wanted to review with FS first as a discussion prior to release to all faculty. Winnie K: Request to send results to new senators. J. Rowe: Feels faculty should be able to see the survey. Discussion: Concerns with sharing comments with all faculty may identify people inadvertently. Discussed running the survey through AI for a summary. Recommendation that a summary be sent out, but include a shared folder that only faculty has access to would be beneficial. But there are concerns with sharing with non-faculty inadvertently. Also, may be beneficial to review in comparison to the college wide survey for strategic planning. <p>Motion: Continue analysis of the survey to develop a summary document to be reviewed by faculty senate prior to the next</p>

	<p>faculty senate meeting. Motion to Approve: K. Penrose Second: C. Copely Salem Approval: Unanimously Abstained: None</p> <p>Next steps: Have executive council to work with AI to develop a summary of results for comparison (executive council: Chair, Vice Chair, Recorder, previous chair)</p>
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Agenda Topic	11. Proposed Faculty Senate 26-27 Meeting Calendar (E York)										
Action Taken	Possible Action										
Summary of Discussion	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>8/21/2026</td> <td>9/18/2026</td> <td>10/16/2026</td> <td>11/20/2026</td> <td>12/18/2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/29/2027</td> <td>2/19/2027</td> <td>3/19/2027</td> <td>4/16/2027</td> <td>5/21/2027</td> </tr> </table> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p>Motion: Motion to Approve: Second: Approval: Unanimously Abstained:</p>	8/21/2026	9/18/2026	10/16/2026	11/20/2026	12/18/2026	1/29/2027	2/19/2027	3/19/2027	4/16/2027	5/21/2027
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Agenda Topic	12. NFA Updates (H. Reardon)
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting for salary workload articles from leadership. • Bi Laws and PDC processes discussed in terms of emergency hires put into full time positions at the purview of the president which may inhibit the traditional faculty search process for permanent faculty. CVA covers these and PDC process but may not be necessary in the Bi Laws.

Agenda Topic	13. Chair Report (Eric York)
Action Taken	Info/Discussion
Summary of Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of creating 90 credit bachelor's (GBC) that

	<p>may conflict with WNC's project management (traditional) bachelor's degree. Eric will forward NSHE vice chancellor stance on creating a 90 credit bachelor's degree. Concerns with diluting the quality of a bachelor's degree. Important for institutions to have a voice in this.</p>
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Agenda Topic	14. Old Business
Action Taken	Discussion:
Summary of Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Agenda Topic	15. Faculty Open Discussion
Action Taken	Faculty are welcome to openly discuss issues involving the institution.
Summary of Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winnie K: Enrollment committee discussion of low cost / no cost materials for college courses messaging coming from NSHE. Strategy is to promote low-cost courses (i.e. OER). Concern is loss of academic freedom to choose textbooks. AB 345 is the legislative bill that is in effect. Requires institutions to make available information on courses that use OER. Concerns with punitive action for not providing textbook resources in a timely manner i.e. textbook deadlines. Discussion that these discussions should take place in FS.

Agenda Topic	16. New Business
Action Taken	Discussion
Summary of Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Agenda Topic	17. Public Comment
Action Taken	Info
Summary of Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

Agenda Topic	Adjournment
Action Taken	Motion: Adjourn meeting

	Motion to adjourn: Unanimous consent Second: Unanimously Adjourned at 4:44 pm
Comments/Information	Submitted by Patrick Bell, Recorder