



Academic Senate & Educational Administrators Joint Meeting

MINUTES

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Denis Honeychurch Boardroom, Room 626

Guests are welcome to attend in person or via [Zoom](#)

1:00 – 2:50pm

1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement

AS President Scott called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

VP Williams read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

2. Roll Call

Academic Senate Officers:

President

Josh Scott (2022-2024)

Vice President

Rebecca LaCount (2022-2024)

Secretary/Treasurer

Erin Duane (2021-2023)

Academic Senate

Mathematics & Sciences

Randy Robertson (2022-2024)

Liberal Arts

Michael Reilly (2021-2023)

Jose Cortes (2022-2024)

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Lauren Taylor-Hill (2021-2023)

Anthony Ayala (2022-2024)

Counseling

Kelvin Cheah (2022-2024)

Health Sciences

Robin Sytsma (2022-2024)

Full-Time Senator At-Large

Erin Duane (2021-2023)

Cristina Young (2022-2024)

Adjunct Senator At-Large

Rhuenette Alums (2021-2023)

Ex Officio:

Curriculum/Tech Review Chair

Sarah Barsness (2020-2023)

Assessment Chair

Andrew Wesley (2022-2025)

Student Equity & Success Chair

Michael Silva (2021-2024)

Distance Education Chair

John Perez (2020-2023)

Christina Taliaferro (Administrative Assistant)

	<p>Guests: David Williams (Vice President of Academic Affairs) Lisa Neeley (Vice President of Student Services) Susan Wheet (VP of Finance & Administration) Dean Shirley Lewis (Academic Support Services) Interim Dean Kevin Anderson (Applied Business & Technology) Dean Kristin Conner (Counseling) Dean Tony Zitko (External Programs) Dean Sheila Hudson (Health Sciences) Dean Neil Glines (Liberal Arts) Dean Joe Ryan (Math & Science) Dean Sandy Lamba (Social & Behavioral Sciences) Rischa Slade (Student Affairs Specialist) Christian Bermudez (Student Senator representing Applied Technology and Business) Karissa Brown (Student Senator representing Liberal Arts)</p> <p>Absent: LaNae Jaimez (Past President/Ex-Officio & Academic Program Review Chair) Kristina Ferreebee (Mathematics & Sciences) Vitalis Enemmuo (Health Sciences) Andrew Wesley (Adjunct Senator At-Large) Michelle Smith (Professional Development/Flex Chair)</p> <p>3. Agenda Approval Senator Duane motioned to approve the January 12, 2023 agenda; Senator Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor.</p> <p>4. Comments from the Public Senator Cortes shared information about the new ESL Lab and encouraged everyone to pass along details to students, faculty, etc.</p> <p>5. Information/Discussion Items <i>5.1 Welcome – AS President Josh Scott, VP Lisa Neeley, and VP David Williams</i> AS President Scott, VP Neeley, and VP Williams welcomed the meeting attendees. In addition, Rischa Slade (Student Affairs Specialist) thanked the Academic Senate and administrators for their support and help with planning of the 2023 graduation. <i>5.2 Report from morning Senate session - Josh Scott</i> AS President Scott gave a recap of the morning Academic Senate meeting. Main discussion topics included the achievement of student success in 2023, including timeliness of grading, the definition of success (mastery of content, rigor, preparedness for the future, etc.), and support of the ASSC.</p>
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5.3 Graduation – May, 2023 – Discussion: how can we support a robust graduation? This will be chance to brainstorm strategies for increased faculty participation in graduation, as well as to consider ways different schools and departments can be involved in celebrating our graduates. – [See Meeting Preparation Notes](#)

Josh Scott

Group Brainstorm: What is holding faculty back from attending graduation?

- They do not see the value in attending, and they do not see it as a big deal.
- It takes faculty a while to feel like they “belong” to a community.
- Regalia is expensive and not simple to acquire.
- It is not on everyone’s radar with regular meetings, discussions, etc. throughout the semester.
- It’s too “stuffy” (not fun)!

Discussion Questions (Small Groups):

- What was your most meaningful graduation experience?
- How can we recruit faculty and students to participate?
- What could we do to make a big graduation event?

Summarized Results of Small Group Discussions:

- Change the format! Ideas: Cluster/pod graduations, i.e., by program followed by a larger celebration for everyone. Keep the ceremonies small and short and have an “after-party” later. Faculty may realize the value if it’s a smaller group.
 - Who would give the speech and perform the ceremony?
 - How do we get more people to show up to the small groups when attendance is so low at the larger graduation? Would there be more accountability?
- OR big ceremony first, followed by smaller groups (reverse of previous idea)
- Change the venue - possibly inside.
- Should students ask faculty members to walk with them in the ceremony? Would that motivate faculty to support students? This could work for small or large events. Unmatched faculty and students could be paired up to walk together.
- Faculty could line up and the students walk past them. Or faculty could walk with their students as a group.
- Important to make it easy for faculty to attend. For example, faculty need assistance with their regalia (availability, cost, etc.). Should we consider having faculty not wear regalia?
- Graduation plans need to be announced with specific numbers, i.e., # of faculty attended last year and attendance goal for this year; send out a save-the-date.
- Goal is to make it a significant experience for the students.
- Focus should NOT be on faculty who generally do not attend; the culture should be developed throughout the year; it’s not just

about the contracts. How do we create a community?

- Create an incentive by collecting a list of students and sharing with faculty to motivate them to attend.

Summary/Final Thoughts:

- There is a need to get faculty involved and engaged.
- The “first day” and the “last day” are the most important for students.
- Cost of 2022 graduation was \$23,500; ASSC paid for the DJ.
- It is important to consider what is important for students, i.e., celebrating with their families, seeing faculty members, taking pictures, etc.
- Student representatives had many suggestions, but it is important to first solve issues, i.e., lack of faculty attendance and lack of volunteers (students, staff, and faculty).
- The preferred number of volunteers is 25-30.

5.4 Wrap-Up – AS President Josh Scott, VP Lisa Neeley, and VP David Williams

AS President Scott thanked everyone for their participation. VP William encouraged everyone to exercise kindness, i.e. participation in graduation is a great way to show kindness. VP Neeley acknowledged the productive discussion.

6. Adjournment

Senator Cheah motioned to adjourn the meeting;
Senator Duane seconded the motion.

AS President adjourned the meeting at 2:43pm.
