
The University Senate

FACULTY • STUDENT • P&A • CIVIL SERVICE

2023-24 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Faculty Senate Minutes: No. 5

Thursday, March 28, 2024

3:45 - 4:30 p.m.

The fifth meeting of the Faculty Senate for 2023-24 was convened on March 28, 2024, online via Zoom. At the time of this meeting, there were 151 voting members of the Faculty Senate. 108 were present.

1. Faculty Senate Call to Order

Interim President Jeffrey Ettinger

Interim President Jeffrey Ettinger called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

2. Administrative Responses to Senate Actions (*Information for the Faculty Senate*)

- [Resolution on the Development of Policy Regarding Unit Statements](#) (approved February 22, 2024)
 - [Response](#)

3. Approval of Minutes (*Action by the Faculty Senate*)

Professor Ned Patterson, clerk, Faculty Senate

Motion: To approve the minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting on February 22, 2024.

Approved.

4. Faculty Consultative Committee Report

Professor Mark Bee, chair, Faculty Consultative Committee

Professor Mark Bee, chair, Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC), provided the following updates:

- **Chairs' Reports:** One of the 22 specific things the FCC is charged to do is “To convene on a regular basis the chairs of Faculty Senate committees as a coordinating committee to discuss and track agenda items.” This year, Bee asked chairs of Faculty Senate committees who also serve as ex officio members of the FCC to present reports on the activities of their committees to the rest of the FCC. In recent meetings, the FCC has

heard reports from the Faculty Senate committees on Research, Faculty Affairs, Finance and Planning, and Educational Policy, as well as the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Health Sciences. The Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee chair will report at the FCC's next meeting.

- **Indigenous Research Policy:** The FCC consulted with Karen Diver, senior advisor to the president for Native American affairs, on the development of new policy around indigenous research. That item is on today's agenda for discussion and will be on a future agenda for further discussion and a vote.
- **National Security Institute Task Force Report:** The FCC received a report from the National Security Institute Task Force. The task force was convened by Vice President for Research and Innovation Shashank Priya and was chaired by Professor Daniel Frisbie from the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. The report describes strategic ambitions to grow that part of the University's research enterprise that deals with a range of issues that touch upon national security. The basic idea would be to create synergisms around research areas for which there is already existing strength at the University, which might include things like bioterrorism and pandemic response; medical solutions for service members; biomanufacturing; near-space research; robotics; and radiation hard microelectronics. Compared to many peer institutions, this appears to be an element of the University's research portfolio that is currently underdeveloped and the task force report outlines plans to address that issue by growing the University's research efforts in this area.
- **Pilot on degree completion:** The FCC also heard from Professor Eric Watkins, vice provost for distributed learning, about a new pilot program aimed at promoting degree completion. The program is targeted at reaching those students who – for whatever reason – have left the University before completing their degree. The program aims to identify and eliminate various barriers in order to make it easier for these students to return to the University to complete their degrees.
- **Faculty Professional Misconduct Review and Implementation Group:** Finally, the FCC met with Professors Ned Patterson and Lin Xiu earlier today. They are the co-chairs of the Faculty Professional Misconduct Review and Implementation Group. Professors Xiu and Patterson will be consulting with the full Faculty Senate later this semester.

5. Questions to the Faculty Consultative Committee Chair

Professor Mark Bee, chair, Faculty Consultative Committee

None.

6. Indigenous Research Policy (*Discussion by the Faculty Senate*)

Karen Diver, senior advisor to the president on Native American Affairs

Background:

A [proposed policy on Indigenous research](#) is under development. The draft policy is before the senate for discussion today, with a vote scheduled for April 25, 2024.

Karen Diver, senior advisor to the president on Native American affairs, explained that the proposed policy is based on the [Guidelines for Indigenous Research](#) that were developed to

provide guidance around how to do research with tribal governments and Indigenous communities. This was requested by the local tribes. The guidelines were discussed at and approved by several committees last year, including the Senate Research Committee and the FCC.

Discussion:

Sarah Buchanan, faculty senator from the Morris campus, asked whether these guidelines were applicable for the Canadian First Nations. Diver said that as best practices, they are applicable, but for the purposes of the policy, it refers to US-based tribal nations.

David Jacobs, faculty senator from the School of Public Health, noted that there may be reluctance to do research involving Indigenous nations due to these additional guidelines. He wondered whether there was an effort to build new bridges. Diver replied that building trust and relationships with the tribes should open up additional research opportunities.

Kat Hayes, faculty senator from the College of Liberal Arts, asked whether the guidelines might someday extend to cover things like previously collected data and collections, especially as relates to the new regulations under the [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#). Diver thanked Hayes for the question and said that she had made a note to include this in future iterations of the guidelines.

7. Make Up Work Policy (*Action by the Faculty Senate*)

Professor Katherine Scheil, chair, Senate Committee on Educational Policy

The Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) and the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC) have reviewed and approved amendments to [Administrative Policy: Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences](#) (including changing the name to *Excused Absences and Makeup Work*).

Motion: To approve the policy as amended.

Approved (73 ayes, 1 nay).

8. Faculty Senate Old Business

None

9. Faculty Senate New Business

None

10. Faculty Senate Adjournment

Ettinger adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Amber Bathke

University Senate Office