
The University Senate

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2022-23 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Faculty Senate Minutes: No. 5

Thursday, March 30, 2023

4:15 - 4:40 p.m.

The fifth meeting of the Faculty Senate for 2022-23 was convened on March 30, 2023, online via Zoom, and was also live-streamed and recorded on [YouTube](#). At the time of this meeting, there were 146 voting members of the University Senate. 115 were present.

1. Faculty Senate Call to Order

President Joan T.A. Gabel

President Joan T. A. Gabel called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

2. Motion to Approve Special Rule (*Action by the Faculty Senate*)

Professor Colleen Flaherty Manchester, chair, Faculty Consultative Committee

The Faculty Consultative Committee proposes the following special rule during this meeting:

- Speakers are limited to two minutes each time they are recognized.

The clerk will interject when speakers have thirty seconds left and when time is up.

A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of those present and voting is required to approve the special rule.

Motion: To approve the special rule.

Approved.

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

None pending.

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

Professor Rachna Shah, clerk, Faculty Senate

Motion: To approve the minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting on February 23, 2023.

Approved.

5. Faculty Consultative Committee Report

Professor Colleen Flaherty Manchester, chair, Faculty Consultative Committee

Professor Colleen Flaherty Manchester, chair, Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC), began by reporting back on a question that had been raised at the previous meeting, regarding use of research funds during sabbatical.

Manchester said that she had met with Beth Tapp, the director of Purchasing Services, who explained that if research funds are not approved for use while a faculty member is on sabbatical, it often has to do with reimbursement of travel expenses. The policy does not speak to some expenses, so there is some ambiguity. Tapp agreed to put together a group, including faculty, to suggest clarifications and guidelines around research funds for sabbatical travel.

Manchester then informed senators that Professor Will Durfee, chair, Core Curriculum 2025 Committee, had updated the FCC on that committee's recommendation to organize general education requirements around important societal issues that are meaningful to that student. Durfee will attend the next University Senate meeting to gather senator feedback on the draft recommendations, she said, adding that the FCC was excited about how the recommendations were taking shape. The final recommendations will come to the Faculty Senate in fall 2023 for discussion, and in spring 2024 for a vote.

Finally, said Manchester, the FCC has been working to reinvigorate the connection between the FCC and the faculty legislative liaisons. To this end, Manchester and FCC Vice Chair Mark Bee recently accompanied Faculty Legislative Liaison Donna Spannaus-Martin and University budget and finance leadership to a hearing of the State Senate Higher Education Committee. They continue to look for ways to elevate the role of the faculty in student success and other measures that are important to the legislators.

6. Questions to the FCC Chair

Professor Colleen Flaherty Manchester, chair, Faculty Consultative Committee

Michael Gallope, faculty senator from the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), asked, regarding the Core Curriculum 2025 Committee, whether there would be campus wide fora before the Faculty Senate discusses the recommendations in the fall. Manchester said it was her understanding that there would be.

Karen-Sue Taussig, CLA faculty senator, thanked Manchester for following up on the sabbatical issue. She called attention to several types of research that the work group will need to consider, including archival, archeological, ethnographic research, which may happen at places that seem like vacation destinations, and may require that the faculty member stay there for several months.

7. Faculty Legislative Liaison Report

Professor Donna Spannaus-Martin, Faculty Legislative Liaison

Focusing on the University's core mission request and noting that that is where funds for compensation come from, Professor Donna Spannaus-Martin, Faculty Legislative Liaison, reviewed the budget process at the state legislature. She explained that the state House and Senate Higher Education Committees each put together a bill for budget requests. The

committees then create a proposal for what the overall higher education should be (this includes funds for the Minnesota State system, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University), as does the governor. [Those](#) were released this week. Next, a conference committee comes together and decides what proposal will go to the full legislature. Spannaus-Martin encouraged senators to sign up for [UMN Advocates](#) to find out how to contact their legislators and advocate for the University.

8. Faculty Senate Rules Amendments (*Discussion by the Faculty Senate*)

Professor Colleen Flaherty Manchester, chair, Faculty Consultative Committee

Background

Periodic reviews of governing documents should occur on a timely basis. For the Faculty Senate, no such comprehensive review has been conducted in a few decades. Further, feedback from constituents, changes in meeting modality, and the need to codify existing practices also contributed to the review. In 2019, the University Senate Office initiated a comprehensive review process. In February 2021, a work group was formed. This work group, chaired by Senate Parliamentarian Mitch Zamoff and comprising representatives from each senate as well as University Senate Office staff, carefully reviewed each suggested change identified by the senate staff, and suggested additional changes based on recent events and issues.

Areas of focus included:

- Addressing outdated language
- Codifying current practices, and/or modify procedures to align with common practice
- Making technical and grammatical changes
- Looking to best practices from peer institutions
- Creating uniformity across senates where possible

***Note:** At this time, only changes to the Rules are being proposed. Due to the higher thresholds for amending the Bylaws and Constitution, it may take two meetings to approve those amendments, and it is undesirable for senate membership to turn over in the middle of that process. Therefore, Constitution and Bylaws amendments will be proposed in the fall.*

Notable proposed changes to the Rules include:

- Permanently changes the speaking time limit in debate to 2 minutes.
- Added language allowing for the continuation of meetings and voting via electronic means.
- Changes to reconsideration of motions rules.
- Striking redundant language pertaining to closed committee meetings (Article IV, Section 6(e)). This provision is addressed in the [Faculty Senate Bylaws](#) (Article IV, Section 3(e)), which supersede the Rules.

The work group brought the suggested changes to the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC) on March 16, 2023. The FCC endorsed the changes.

Presentation

Manchester shared a [slide deck](#) that explained [proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Rules](#).

Discussion

There was no discussion. A vote will be taken at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

9. Administrative Policies (*Information for the Faculty Senate*)

Professor Carston Wagner, chair, Senate Research Committee

The following policies have been amended as noted in the linked documents:

- [*Acquisition, Use, and Disposition of Donated Human Fetal Tissue for Transplantation Research*](#)
- [*Acquisition, Use, and Disposition of Donated Human Fetal Tissue for Research \(Non-Transplantation\) or Teaching*](#)

10. Faculty Senate Old Business

None.

11. Faculty Senate New Business

Carl Flink, FCC member from the College of Liberal Arts, asked whether there could be conversations about faculty members being required to spend time on work such as entering expense information into ChromeRiver, which takes away from their mission-driven work. Gabel said that some of that may be resolved through the PEAK Initiative.

12. Faculty Senate Adjournment

Gabel adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Amber Bathke

University Senate Office