

Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023, 3:30 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting ID: 824 1109 2322, Passcode: 180732](#)

I. Call to Order & Roll Call (M. Gowans, J. Thomas)

The Senate was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Senators Present: Matthew Gowans, Jed Rasmussen, Andrew Bahlmann, Karen Carter, Alan Christensen, Sandra Cox, David Fullmer, Wes Jamison, Dennis Schugk, Jeff Wallace

Senators Absent: Adam Burningham, Trent Fawcett

Guests: Jacob Thomas (Parliamentarian), Daniel McAllister (Student Body Vice-President), Mike Brenchley (Deans), Melanie Jenkins (Provost), Kade Parry (Asst. Provost)

II. Minutes from Previous Meetings (J. Thomas)

A. Minutes from January 25, 2023

Motion to approve: W. Jamison; **2nd:** A. Bahlmann
Approved unanimously by senators present.

B. Minutes from February 8, 2023

Motion to approve: D. Fullmer; **2nd:** W. Jamison
Approved unanimously by senators present.

III. Informational Items

A. Updates from the Faculty Senate President (M. Gowans)

1. *Presidential Search Committee*

M. Gowans indicated that there is nothing new for a few weeks, as applications for the position come in. The closing date is mid-March. The committee will meet again after the closing date.

2. *Deans Council*

A&T Policy. A&T expressed their approval of the revisions made to Policy #410 regarding tenure. The group discussed the allocation of funds for a one-time course release, and it was decided that the application would be sent out soon and would be available for divisions to apply for in the Spring of each year. M. Gowans volunteered to complete the application for the Senate President's course release for next year.

During the discussion, Provost Jenkins mentioned that the GE, Curriculum, and A&T committees have heavy workloads and suggested that they should consider applying for this release. A. Bahlmann agreed to talk to A&T, which will have an especially heavy workload next year. This year's priority deadline for applications is March 1, but it may be earlier in future years.

J. Rasmussen asked if the application process is open to all members of the committee or just the chair. Provost Jenkins replied that it depends on the specifics of the application. M. Gowans suggested that a committee could apply together and split the stipend, to which the Provost agreed, saying it was possible hypothetically.

House Bill 451. Senators discussed the implications of [Utah's HB 451](#), also known as the "Anti-Woke Bill," which would prohibit higher and public education institutions from implementing policies related to diversity, antiracism, or critical race theory. UCSFL is working on a

response paper to the bill, focusing on diversity, education, and inclusion (DEI). Provost Jenkins mentioned that there is a new draft of the response paper and institutions must respond by 8 a.m. on February 23. M. Gowans added that the current language of the bill does not seem to allow for any programs or language that could support DEI.

The senators were uncertain about the specifics of the bill, such as whether it applies to courses or programs or both. A. Bahlmann pointed out that the bill is not clearly written enough to be certain about the elimination of curriculum possibilities.

W. Jamison raised the concern about the impact on academic freedom, to which M. Gowans responded that the state Senate leaders are currently composing a response paper, and feedback from the group would be passed on to the UCSFL. Provost Jenkins added that the bill seems to focus more on employment than on teaching, particularly in regards to affirmative action.

Update 3/20/2023

When the legislative session ended at the beginning of March, HB 451 had been slightly amended but had not advanced for a floor vote.

B. Upcoming Senate and Senate-Administered Elections (J. Thomas)

Science & Math: Jed Rasmussen has been reelected for another term.

Business & Tech: Karen Carter is eligible for reelection (non-tenured)

Fine Arts & Comm: David Fullmer eligible for full-term election (non-tenured)

Adjuncts: Adam Burningham is eligible for reelection in the Fall.

*Senate President & Vice-President will also be elected in due course

Division elections are in the works and should be wrapped-up by the end of February.

C. Guest Remarks: Stacey McIff, Snow College Interim President

Pres. McIff attended the Senate meeting and made some brief remarks with updates. At the legislative level, she reported that the SNOWmobile traveling science exhibit and college land grants were high priorities, ranked at numbers 11 and 14 respectively, and that the college was encouraged to ask for more next year. All budget and requests are currently in the executive appropriations stage, and the college will soon receive some indicators of where things are headed.

The administration felt positive about the presentations and the “Snow Day on the Hill” event, and the Senate discussed the importance of keeping the momentum going and reminding legislators of the college's value. The college's presence on Capitol Hill helped legislators to see the college’s impact firsthand, with people coming to the college’s tables and talking about the Snow legacy. Many people often express a connection with Snow College, whether through personal experience or family connections. As A. Christensen put it, the college is “small but not obscure,” and D. Fullmer emphasized that it is a “state treasure.”

IV. Pressing Committee Matters

A. Honors Committee (A. Christensen)

The Honors Committee recently revised its bylaws and is seeking Senate review. A Senate vote is needed to approve or amend the proposed changes. The changes include requiring each division to send a standing representative to the Honors Committee (as many other Senate committees do), which is currently not the case.

A. Christensen brought up the importance of accountability for each division to have a permanent representative in order to involve all divisions and send out information. He emphasized that this representation is not reflected in the current bylaws, and that of all Senate committees, only Honors does not have permanent representatives.

He also noted the need for more classes from certain divisions, such as math and science, to become Honors courses, and division representatives can advocate for these courses to be included. J. Thomas noted that making representation permanent from each division was his recommendation last year after leaving the co-directorship of the Honors Program, and was happy to see this move forward.

Motion to approve the changes by A. Bahlmann. **2nd:** W. Jamison.

The motion passed with every senator voting in favor, with only one abstention (J. Ramussen.)

V. Senate Orientation

A. Henry Reichman, *Understanding Academic Freedom* (2021)

Senators discussed Chapter 2: "Research." Many of the principles in the chapter did not apply to Snow College, a teaching institution. Senators asked questions about intellectual property rights produced on campus, and were referred to [Policy #405](#).

VI. Senate Initiative Discussions

A. Policy #319 30-Day Review: Reduction in Force & Financial Exigencies (M. Gowans, J. Rasmussen)

Before the meeting, Senators had been given copies of the current version of Policy #319, which pertains only to Staff. The revised Policy #319, which is out for 30-Day Review, will also apply to Faculty, and was also provided to senators.

M. Gowans expressed a desire to represent where the Senate stands in relation to the document before going to College Council where it will be reviewed. J. Rasmussen led the discussion, noting that some statements in the document seemed contradictory, particularly in relation to financial exigency. There were also some problems with definitions, such as the meaning of "bona fide FE" and "unit discontinuance." The term "serious distortion" was also unclear. The

document mentions the need for necessary consultation with the Senate in section 3.9, but not in relation to financial exigency. There were also concerns about the lack of information regarding administration (or staff considered administration), and the effect of this policy on revisions to the A&T Policy 410. Senators also discussed the definition of "key faculty," consistency in the language relating to termination, and the mention of "tenure" in section 9.1.3.5.

M. Gowans suggested sending any concerns to Carson Howell, Vice-President of Finances and Administrative Services, who will make corrections before it goes to College Council.

B. ChatGPT / AI Composition Policy on Syllabi (K. Parry)

K. Parry shared that about half of the USHE institutions have posted something on their webpage about the use of artificial intelligence to assist writing papers (most notably ChatGPT). Two main points were discussed: the need to update policies, such as Academic Standards, and to put together best practices for faculty. Regardless of whatever policy changes will happen, faculty must communicate clearly their expectations to students.

Senators wondered how many adjuncts and concurrent enrollment teachers were aware of the issue and how it can be used responsibly. K. Parry suggested getting "low-hanging fruit" resources out to everyone ASAP, such as a class policy statement. The Provost's office will work on a short-term stopgap measure, and the Senate will discuss long-term action.

J. Rasmussen made a **motion**, seconded by A. Bahlmann, nominating W. Jamison to form a subcommittee to work with the Provost's Office on this issue, with the goal of putting something in place in time for Fall semester; this work could include a faculty resource page. The motion was approved unanimously by all Senators present.

C. Shared Governance Subcommittee (Gowans, Rasmussen, Christensen)

The subcommittee members noted that Memorandum of Understanding needs to be drafted between the Provost, Deans, and the Senate, so that no information is lost after all of their important discussions over the past year.

D. Policy #402 Revision: Academic Freedom Procedure (W. Jamison)

The attorney reviewed the updated document and gave his assent. College Council needs a redline version from W. Jamison, who promised to forward it to them.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: W. Jamison; **2nd:** S. Cox

The Senate adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

The next Senate meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 22, 2023** from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Academy Room, Noyes Building. The normally scheduled meeting for March 8 is canceled due to Spring Break. The Senate will consider at the next meeting whether an additional meeting needs to be held.

Minutes taken by Jacob L. Thomas

Minutes approved March 22, 2023