

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**DATE:** February 1, 2024

PRESENT:	Suzette Nynas	Matt Queen
	Mara Pierce	Jennifer Lynn
	Debra Schoenfeld	Scott Gorman
	Susan Gregory	John Pannell
	Austin Bennett	Paul Pope
	Melissa Boehm	Jim Barron (ex-officio)
	Tami Haaland (ex-officio)	Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)
	Vern Gagnon (ex-officio)	Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)
	Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)	Eileen Wright (ex-officio)

ABSENT:	Kari Dahle-Huff*	David Russell (student)
	Ann Beste-Guldborg (ex-officio)	Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)
	Leslie Weldon (ex-officio)	Jana Marcette (ex-officio)
	<i>* excused</i>	

GUESTS:	Paula McMahon	Paul Foster
	Kathleen Thatcher	

PRESIDING: Jennifer Lynn, Chair

Jennifer Lynn called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 18 were accepted as presented.

III. PROVOST REPORT

Dr. Eskandari noted the taskforce has been working on the timeline and details for the B&N First Day Complete rollout. The proposed launch is Spring 2025. Since registration for Spring 2025 opens in early November 2024, the taskforce will need to decide when the platform will be open to faculty to add their course materials. Lots of faculty engagement will be necessary for this project, and town hall meetings will be scheduled very soon. We will also be meeting with other institutions who have implemented First Day Complete. We want to be sure to gather all input from the campus before launch.

Provost Eskandari stated that they will be starting University-wide conversations about our \$2.4 million budget deficit. We will be helped by the vacating of McDonald Hall by the COB, but we need to plan how we will reduce our budget and be ready for revenue opportunities. The Provost Council began a discussion and outlined three major steps:

1. Decide on the core values for this process, things that are not negotiable, like shared governance and student success.
2. Decide the guiding principles for the process, such as continuing to invest in faculty success.
3. Decide the areas of opportunity: reductions, revenue, and grant possibilities.

Once these steps are accomplished, the process of addressing the budget so it's right-sized for our institution will begin. We can all share in the responsibility.

IV. OTHER REPORTS

UISFL Grant: Paul Foster, Director, International Studies

Dr. Foster noted that we are the only institution in the region awarded the UISFL Grant. Applications for these small grants will be awarded throughout the consortium which includes Northwest College, Little Big Horn College, Dawson Community College, and Miles Community College. The grants are for faculty to travel, for curriculum development, to add global studies learning outcomes to courses, and a new type of grant for any program/unit/office/department beyond a single faculty member. These grants are awarded on a rolling basis through the year.

V. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Group 1		
Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Rehabilitation Counseling Option Master of Science	Added	1/23/2024
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⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Suzette Nynas to **approve Group 1.**

Paula McMahon, Chair, Rehabilitation & Human Services, noted that a year ago, they had proposed two tracks within the master's program. They then learned that the

accreditors want these tracks to be transcribed (which means a program name change, not just tracks or emphases). They had to start over and get OCHE approval to create two options within the master's program, which is what you see here. There are no changes whatsoever to the curriculum; it is exactly the same as presented in Spring 2023. The program learning outcomes have been updated to better differentiate the two options.

⇒ Motion carried.

Title	Status	Received	Request Type
Regular and Substantive Interaction Policy	Added	1/23/2024	Policy

⇒ Motion by Mara Pierce, seconded by Paul Pope to **approve the Regular and Substantive Interaction Policy.**

The question was raised as to whether this policy should specify modalities. Sue Balter-Reitz, Associate Provost, noted that the MUS is currently having a discussion about modalities that will likely result in a policy.

The Center for Teaching and Learning will be scheduling workshops for faculty in the Fall on how best to meet the Regular and Substantive Interaction policy. We likely do not want to make requirements regarding the policy, but rather encourage best practices through peer reviews and faculty evaluations. If we are audited by the U.S. Department of Education, they would want to see evidence of instructors interacting with students, not necessarily student interaction with instructors.

⇒ Motion carried.

The Regular and Substantive Interaction policy will be included in the 2024-25 catalog.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Accelerated Pathways Document

The document includes some minor updates. Should the Senate own this policy and set a scheduled review of it? It was agreed this will be a living document rather than a policy, and it will be posted with the other curricular forms info on the website.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Remember to RSVP for the Faculty Excellence celebration on February 20.

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

rjrm