FACULTY SENATE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

# Minutes of the 2025/2026 Faculty Senate

## Date, Time and Place

- Tuesday, July 21, 2026
- 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
- Virtual Meeting-Teams

## Call to Order and Roll

- Call to order
  - Call to order at 2:31 pm
- Present
  - Spencer Lewis (SA) - Chair
  - Gar Casale (SCS) – Vice Chair
  - Cruz Laudenslager (SCS) - Secretary
  - Arlene Herrera (SA)
  - Camille Vega (SA)
  - Claudio Osinaga (SCS)
  - Crystal Chang (SCS)
  - Darlene Aranda (SA)
  - Glenn Heath (SCS)
  - Jessica Grauel (SCS)
  - Karla Kirk (SA)
- Absent
  - Rylee Wiley (SA)

## Approval of May/June Minutes

- Motion by Camille to approve minutes a second by Glenn. May and June minutes were approved.

## Guest

- No guest for July. Spencer will send an invite to Brody Leiser, Vice Chancellor of Budget and Finance, for the meeting in August.
- Welcome to Claudio Osinaga as one of our new senators.
- Welcome to all colleagues/guests who signed in to listen online

## Chair's Report

- At the meeting with the Chancellor Spencer discussed incorporating Faculty Senate on governance issues. Moving forward we would like to see a senator serve on the hiring committee for executive search committee.
- Going forward, any standing or ad-hoc committees, Matt puts forward, we ask that there be a faculty senate representative.
- Arelene Herrera will be our representative on the Culture Committee. Camille Vega will serve as our representative on the search committee for Vice Chancellor of Academic & Student Affairs. Camille worked in Student Services and her background will be helpful in this search. She will keep us updated and give us a timeline on the search.
- Matt discussed forming a taskforce or a potential standing ad hoc committee(s) to access the vacant committees and creating a priority list and using the Faculty Senate members.
- The discussion about a future Strategic Plan would take Board approval because of budget to contract a vendor. However, this would also include having a Faculty Senate member.
- This helps us create charges and give a recommendation to the Chancellor and ultimately have an opportunity in what gets approved.
- We are a unique senate compromised of administrative faculty which is comprised of professional staff.
- There was a notification for Emeritus Status: Rich Ayala, Todd Borman and Renee Davis (see below for more discussion on this topic). What is our role? We cannot approve or deny. Is there some kind of public comment when we are given the announcement? We need more discussion for clarification or transparency on this topic. Glenn will head up this charge and reach out to work with someone in HR about this process. The hope is to better define our role and what Emeritus means, since the benefits differ depending on the institution.

## Old Business

- Senators came up with a list of ideas for Charges in the new year. They are as follows:
  - Charge 1: Assess emeritus status policy, benefits, and application process. Make recommendations to improve the process. There was a motion to approve the charges by Camille and seconded by Glenn. (Lead) **Glenn** (Assist) Camille, Karla, Jessica, Spencer, Crystal
    - Glenn has a document working on a plan to review the process. Because we are an administrative faculty we go through departmental review and do not have the same requirements/criteria as institutions. There are four core requirements, which go through a director/direct-line-of-report and once it goes to the chancellor for approval and we are notified five days in advance. Glenn will provide the document if asked. The question is how far we go/or not go for procedural change.

  - Charge 2: Explore ideas to implement an employee recognition award(s). There was a motion to approve the charge by Cruz and seconded by Camille. (Lead) **Gar** (Assist) Arlene, Jessica, Cruz

        - The culture committee may be working on this and with Arlene being our representative there may be a sharing of ideas with SA. It would be good to see people's ideas on this. Gar stated this may be an exercise in how people want to be appreciated/recognized.
    - Charge 3: Enlist an NSHE Faculty Senator to partake in the Culture Committee and report back to the committee with updates. There was a motion to approve the charge by Gar and seconded by Crystal. (Lead) **Arlene** (Assist) Claudio
        - Arlene gave an update to say that they have a meeting date and time for the Culture Committee. Arlene is welcome to feedback to take back with her to the committee.
    - Charge 4: Enlist an NSHE Faculty Senator to participate in the VC Academic and Student Affairs search committee and report back to the Senate with updates There was a motion to approve the charge by Arlene and seconded by Gar. (Lead) **Camille**
        - As discussed in the "huddle" this position was already opened. There is a search firm who will guide the search committee. Spencer asked Matt if someone from Faculty Senate partake and Camille was included as part of the search committee.
        - Glenn asked that we reword the charge as "Enlist an NSHE Faculty Senator to serve or be a part of a search committee". We can be active participants in our own culture and environment and the impact it has on all of us. Spencer will reach out to Yonata so we can have more participation moving forward.
    - Arlene also asked that everyone take a turn, so if someone serves then they leave it to someone else to serve a different time.
    - It was also asked that we be given a few minutes at the Faculty Senate meeting to give an update on these sub-committees. It was asked that we send this information to Spencer so that he can inform us. Spencer said this would be added as Old Business to give an update on charges by the lead.
    - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. The next steps will be to add detail to each charge (creating a smart goal)

## New Business

- Faculty Senate Bylaws
    - AI helped Spencer to revise the old bylaws and changed it to something more proactive and gives us more room to grow and give ideas.
    - We meet monthly and update the language.
    - Glenn will reach out to discuss this with Spencer about how we may be working with retired document(s) that may be locked. Spencer said he is using the majority of our own voting members to make changes. He will go out and verify that we do not have any other documents that are contrary.
    - There was a motion from Camille and seconded by Gar to table the change in the wording to the bylaws until such time that we know there are no current documents to contradict the most recent change.
    - Arlene asked if we wanted to discuss the remote work policy at our next meeting. Camille asked that we proceed with caution until we know more.

## Next meeting

- Tuesday, August 18, at 2:30pm

## Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn.
    - Moved to adjourn by Spencer.
    - Meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.