



Matthew Gowans, President  
Jed Rasmussen, Vice-President  
Jacob L. Thomas, Parliamentarian

## Meeting Minutes

March 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 3:33 p.m.

**Senators Present:** Matthew Gowans (Pres), Jed Rasmussen (VP), Andrew Bahlmann, Adam Burningham, Karen Carter, A. Christensen, Sandra Cox, Trent Fawcett, Dennis Schugk, Jeff Wallace, W. Jamison

**Senators Absent:** David Fullmer

**Guests:** Jacob Thomas (Parliamentarian), Melanie Jenkins (Provost), Carson Howell (VP of Finance), Sherri Hansen (Budget Director), David Allred (Deans Council), Kade Parry (Asst. Provost)

### II. Minutes from Previous Meeting

**A. Review of minutes from February 22, 2023 (attached; J. Thomas)**

**B. Vote to approve or amend minutes (M. Gowans)**

**Motion to Approve:** A. Bahlmann; **2nd:** S. Cox

**Approval:** unanimous of those present with one abstention (T. Fawcett)

### III. Informational Items

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

M. Gowans provided the following updates from the host of leadership meetings he attended in the past month:

- During the Utah legislative session, Snow's land bank requests were approved: two locations in Ephraim and one in Nephi. The "SNOWmobile" traveling science exhibit was also approved.
- The legislature approved a 8.75% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase, but the state doesn't fully fund it. To cover a portion of it through tuition would require a tuition increase, which is not possible due to a state-mandated tuition freeze. However, faculty will see a meaningful increase.
- UCSFL will be meeting face-to-face at the University of Utah in mid-May.
- Deans are working through workload release requests, and M. Gowans has filled out the requested release time for the Faculty Senate President next year.
- The presidential search committee has met with candidates, but the names of applicants are still confidential. The committee will select three candidates, and the Board of Trustees will hire one person out of those nominees after interviews and getting community feedback.

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

**Science & Math:** Jed Rasmussen elected for a second term

**Business & Tech:** Karen Carter elected for a second term

**Fine Arts & Comm:** Adam Larsen has been elected for a first term

**Adjuncts:** Adam Burningham eligible for reelection this Fall

### **C. Senate President & Vice-President Election for 2023-2024 (J. Thomas)**

Elections for Senate President and VP should ideally occur before the next Senate meeting. Each eligible senator will be given an interest form asking them whether they are willing to stand for election in either of these positions.

**Eligible Senators:** A. Bahlmann, A. Christensen, S. Cox, T. Fawcett, M. Gowans, J. Rasmussen, D. Schugk

### **D. Guest Remarks: Sherri Hansen, Budget Director**

During the meeting, Sherri Hansen discussed the need to improve budget utilization on campus to more effectively use our limited resources. Some problems mentioned were over- or under-utilization of budgets in certain programs and a lack of accountability for those responsible. A proposal was made to centralize equipment and software requests through IT, update asset and equipment lists, and establish a "No Rollover" rule to prevent negative budgets. The Budget Taskforce would review requests three times a year for one-time requests under \$25k, while requests over \$25k would need approval from the Cabinet.

Concerns were raised about potential arbitrary budget cuts or rewarding overspending. The Budget Taskforce would mediate and mitigate such scenarios, and executive oversight would be needed for larger requests to ensure alignment with long-term strategic plans. The purpose of the proposal is to streamline purchase requests, ensure equal distribution of funds, and provide a mechanism for departments to request funding through the Budget Taskforce or Cabinet.

During the meeting, senators also discussed concerns about budget changes in certain divisions, protection of faculty and staff voices, and the potential privileging of certain requests. The proposal would separate the Equipment Replacement Budget from the Operating Expenses Budget, with a master equipment list to help departments plan for expenses in advance. The goal is to ensure that the college has funds to

move forward in a strategic direction while evaluating requests across competing needs.

## **IV. Senate Orientation**

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

During a discussion on Chapter 3 of Henry Reichman's book "Understanding Academic Freedom," the group addressed the issue of where to draw the line between what can and can't be done in the classroom. W. Jamison referred to Potter Stewart's definition of obscenity—"I know it when I see it"—stating that academic freedom may mean different things based on differing community standards. A. Bahlmann believed that while professors should show respect to local community standards, drawing lines will always be problematic and should not be codified. The group discussed the principle of including a variety of scholarly perspectives in class discussions, but not necessarily *all* perspectives on well-established issues, especially those that are demonstrably false. W. Jamison expressed concern that discussions in the classroom are no longer privileged conversations due to smartphones, cameras, and recordings, and that this may be hindering teaching. The group discussed the recently added Academic Freedom Council process to help protect faculty. They plan to revisit Chapter 3 in their next meeting, with A. Christensen leading the discussion.

## **V. Senate Initiative Discussions**

### **A. College Generative A.I. (W. Jamison)**

During the meeting, W. Jamison reported that the subcommittee had developed an institutional statement on generative A.I. He principally wrote the language and received feedback from others on his draft. W. Jamison made two recommendations moving forward: (1) that the Teaching and Learning Center should start immediate work on a more comprehensive webpage that explores examples and anti-A.I. software, similar to other USHE institutions; and (2) that the Curriculum Committee should continue to work on a formal policy.

A. Bahlmann suggested removing the word "prepared" from the statement "Snow College is eager and prepared," since most faculty members are not prepared at this point for the consequences of generative A.I.

M. Gowans added that most English professors prioritize a student's authorial voice over a polished product. The Senate discussed how ChatGPT could affect the writing process. Senators recommended adding a statement encouraging students to ask for guidance from professors for each class and assignment, as requirements may vary.

J. Wallace agreed that a policy would be good, but there needs to be some form of agreement for accountability. W. Jamison suggested taking the statement to the faculty to gather their opinions on the language.

Provost Jenkins recommended that every faculty member should address this issue individually, as each class will have different circumstances. K. Parry expressed that he wants the freedom to either adopt or ban generative A.I., and have institutional support to explore or enforce these policies.

W. Jamison concluded the discussion by distinguishing between "prompt engineering" and "plagiarism." A. Bahlmann pointed out that whether or not it is plagiarism, it is still cheating. W. Jamison will add these updates and send out a revised statement next week.

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

This policy is out for 30-Day Review.

## **VI. Division & Committee Reports**

### **1. Curriculum Committee (S. Cox)**

S. Cox related that the following question arose in the most recent Curriculum Committee meeting: "What happens if someone is not fulfilling their role as a committee member? Is this Provost problem, Senate issue, or the responsibility

of the Committee Chair? Whose responsibility is it to encourage that person to participate? Does the person get asked to step down, and who discusses it with the individual?"

M. Gowans and Provost Jenkins agreed that it is not the responsibility of the administration to address these issues initially. The Senate agreed that committee chairs should receive training on how to handle these issues. Additionally, these issues should be reported on in A&T interviews and decisions. FET leads should consult with the committee chairs to discuss the performance evaluations of individual committee members. Chairs should manage committee meetings efficiently with a set agenda, outline basic responsibilities and expectations for committee members, and regularly follow up with them. The Chair's actions greatly influence the performance of committee members. Chairs should be empowered to lead their committees.

## **VII. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn:** T. Fawcett ; **2nd:** W. Jamison

The Senate adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next Senate meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023** from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Academy Room, Noyes Building.

### **End-of-Semester Goals**

Develop a statement on ChatGPT

Discuss empowering committee chairs

Discuss adjunct visibility and recognition

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Minutes taken by Jacob L. Thomas

Minutes approved 04/19/2023