

FACULTY COUNCIL
Tuesday, April 8, 2025
3:30 – 5:15 pm
Executive Boardroom (2390), University Capitol Centre

MINUTES

Councilors Present: R. Curto, L. Durairaj, A. Farag, C. Fox, N. Greyser, J. Kline, J. Koch, M. Santillan, M. Schroeder, D. Shane C. Vogel.

Officers Present: R. Curtu, E. Gillan, C. Sheerin.

Officers Excused: C. Just.

Councilors Excused: M. Abou Alaiwa, M. McQuistan, A. Shibli-Rahhal.

Councilors Absent: J. Gutierrez, C. McMillan, J. Sa-Aadu.

Guests: L. Geist (Interim Vice President for Research and Office of the Provost), E. Watson (Daily Iowan), L. Zaper (Faculty Senate Office).

I. Call to Order – President Sheerin called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

II. Approvals

- A. Meeting Agenda – President Sheerin noted that a change was made to the agenda after the meeting materials were sent out to Councilors. An executive session was added. Professor Fox moved and Professor Santillan seconded that the revised agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Faculty Council Minutes (March 11, 2025) – Professor Vogel moved and Professor Farag seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Draft Faculty Senate Agenda (April 29, 2025) – President Sheerin indicated that changes may be made to the draft agenda prior to the Senate meeting. She also observed that there will be two parts to the April 29 meeting, with election of officers (vice president and secretary) taking place in the second part. Professor Farag moved and Professor Vogel seconded that the draft agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. Faculty Senate and Council Election Results (Caroline Sheerin) – President Sheerin noted that there were several Council seats for which responses were still awaited from the individuals elected. The full list of results would be approved at the Senate meeting. Professor Vogel moved and Professor Koch seconded that the 2025 Faculty Senate and Council election results be approved. The motion carried unanimously. President Sheerin thanked the departing Councilors for their service: Professors Sa-Aadu, McQuistan, Curto, Fox, Greyser, McMillan, Durairaj, Gutierrez, Kline, Santillan, and Shibli-Rahhal.

- E. Committee Appointments (Rodica Curtu, Chair, Committee on Committees) – Vice President Curtu indicated that vacancies on several committees were yet to be filled. The full list of committee appointments would be approved at the Senate meeting. Professor Vogel moved and Professor Fox seconded that the 2025-26 committee appointment recommendations be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

III. New Business

- *Research Integrity and Security Office: Proposed Changes to UI Ethics in Research Policy (Mike Andrews, Research Integrity Officer and Director of Research Integrity & Security; Shelly Campo, Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs, Graduate College and Assistant Research Integrity Officer; and Kevin Zihlman, Research Integrity and Security Specialist)*

Mr. Andrews explained that by January 1, 2026, the university must revise its [Ethics in Research policy](#) (Policy Manual II.27.6) and related procedures in response to updated federal regulations recently issued by the Office of Research Integrity of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. President Sheerin commented that the typical shared governance path for UI policy revisions affecting faculty is for the proposed revisions first to undergo review by the Faculty Senate's Faculty Policies and Compensation Committee, then by Faculty Council, and finally by Faculty Senate. If policy changes are federally mandated, however, the shared governance role tends to be minimal.

Professor Curtu asked about a provision in the policy requiring that research data results be kept for ten years. Mr. Andrews indicated that this is to ensure that results remain available for a potential audit by the Office of Research Integrity. In response to a question, Mr. Andrews responded that he did not anticipate that any changes to the timeline for implementation would occur. Professor Santillan asked if there were any major changes to the revised federal regulations. Mr. Andrews noted that the assessment phase traditionally done by institutional offices of research integrity has now been codified. There have also been some definitional changes; for example, the role of the research integrity officer was defined for the first time. More details were added regarding what constitutes a research record. Additional details were also added for cases involving multiple institutions, especially regarding maintaining confidentiality.

Vice President Curtu asked if the Research Council was asked to review the proposed revised policy. Mr. Andrews indicated that he had met with the chairs last week; they did not provide significant feedback, but rather sought clarification of various points in the proposed revision, as well as an overview of the revision process. Past President Gillan commented that last week seemed to be rather late in the consultation process for Research Council to enter. Mr. Andrews explained that he had been waiting for necessary feedback from the Office of the General Counsel before approaching the Research Council. Also, he had wanted for the Faculty Council to have their first look at the proposed revised policy prior to the summer. The process of gathering feedback from numerous stakeholders will continue in the fall.

In response to a question, Mr. Andrews indicated that he did not anticipate any impact on Institutional Review Board processes from the proposed revised policy. Professor Kline commended the addition of the provision on *Honest Error and Disagreements of Scientific*,

Creative or Scholarly Opinion. Mr. Andrews commented that this provision allows for the institution to address these types of situations early on, rather than waiting for a full investigation to take place.

President Sheerin asked what specifically was needed from Council at this point. Mr. Andrews responded that he would like for Councilors to review the document from the faculty perspective and let him know if there were any important points that Councilors felt were missing. He also asked whether the Councilors found the proposed revised policy reasonable. Mr. Andrews reminded the group that because of federal regulations, however, there will be some portions of the proposed revised policy that cannot be altered by the university. Associate Dean Campo observed that the proposed revised policy was geared toward the sciences and the social sciences, consistent with federal policy. She added that cases involving the humanities rarely come to the UI Research Integrity & Security Office. In the long term, however, it could be helpful to consider whether the policy reflects the experiences of researchers and scholars in the arts and humanities. Mr. Andrews noted that efforts had been made in the proposed revision to expand the policy's scope somewhat to more fully include the arts and humanities, for example, with new definitions for scholarly and creative work.

In response to a question, Mr. Andrews commented that Councilors should feel free to share the proposed revised policy with colleagues to gather additional feedback. A redlined version of the federal regulation document would also be made available to Councilors after the meeting. Mr. Andrews indicated that he anticipated bringing an updated proposed policy revision to the Council and Senate in the fall. Professor Fox suggested that, for a future presentation to the Council and Senate, a slide presentation be developed featuring the timeline for the proposed policy revision, major changes proposed for the policy, and the type of feedback desired from Councilors and Senators.

- *Recreational Services Charter Committee Disbandment (Caroline Sheerin)*

President Sheerin explained that several years ago the leadership of the university-wide shared governance bodies (Faculty Senate, Staff Council, Undergraduate Student Government, and Graduate and Professional Student Government) had conducted a review of the [university charter committees](#). Charter committees are another component of shared governance; they bring together faculty, staff, and students to advise administrators on various aspects of the institution. The review had determined that, while most of the charter committees were functioning successfully, there were several that appeared to be struggling. The review report advocated for the disbandment of two of the charter committees. Thus far, the charter committee on university safety and security has been dissolved, following votes in the shared governance bodies, including Faculty Senate, to disband it. That charter committee has been replaced by what eventually became the Campus Safety Improvement Board, which includes broad representation from across the university, thereby ensuring shared governance input on campus safety and security issues.

The review report also singled out the [Recreational Services Charter Committee](#) for disbandment. However, no new entity was proposed allowing for wide campus and shared governance input into the area of recreational services. At a meeting of shared governance

leaders, representatives from the Office of the President, and staff members from Recreational Services, President Sheerin proposed that the charter committee be disbanded but be replaced by an annual advisory meeting between shared governance and Recreational Services leadership, thus continuing to allow feedback and information to flow between the two groups. She referred Councilors to the handout describing this proposed annual advisory meeting and noted the provision that *this agreement is valid for three years and can be renewed or terminated at that time*. President Sheerin further indicated that she had circulated this proposed agreement document to the Recreational Services staff and the other shared governance leaders for feedback. Recreational Services staff had made several edits. Staff Council leadership had approved the document, but she had not yet heard back from the leadership of the student groups. The other three shared governance groups have already voted to disband the Recreational Services Charter Committee, however. President Sheerin added that it had not been determined yet where this agreement would be housed.

Professor Curto suggested that the agreement clarify which shared governance bodies would send representatives to the annual advisory meeting. Professor Koch proposed the following edit to the *Responsibilities* section of the document: *A meeting agenda will be agreed upon by both entities in advance and may include **but is not limited to**...* Professor Vogel suggested the following edit to the *Meeting Schedule* section of the document: *An additional meeting might be called if needed.*

Professor Kline moved and Professor Koch seconded that the Recreational Services Charter Committee be disbanded in favor of replacing it with an annual meeting with shared governance leaders. The motion carried unanimously.

- *Executive Session: Statement from Big Ten Schools (Caroline Sheerin)*

Professor Santillan moved and Professor Kline seconded that the Faculty Council move into executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilors discussed the *Statement in Support of the Core Mission and Values of Higher Education in the United States of America*.

Professor Koch moved and Professor Santillan seconded that the Faculty Council move out of executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Professor Kline moved and Professor Curto seconded that the Faculty Council endorse the *Statement in Support of the Core Mission and Values of Higher Education in the United States of America* and forward it to the Faculty Senate for consideration. The motion carried with one opposing vote.

- *Topics for 2025-26 (All Councilors)*

President Sheerin observed that a major topic addressed by the Council and Senate this year had been the revision of significant sections of the [Faculty policy](#) (Policy Manual III.10). President Sheerin added that she had also emphasized communication this year, with the

creation of a Faculty Senate newsletter following each Senate meeting, along with several articles in *Iowa Now*. The Senate officers now sought input on issues that Councilors wished to see addressed in the next academic year.

Numerous topics were suggested, with President Sheerin adding some comments: academic freedom; challenges and limitations facing international faculty and students; an update on the budget (Secretary Just has been working with the Office of Finance and Operations on ways to educate faculty about the budget); financial risks facing the research enterprise in the current national funding climate (extensive financial modeling is being carried out by administrators in anticipation of potential funding cuts); enhanced internal and external communication, particularly focused on institutional values; criteria for tenure and promotion in a future national environment of decreased research funding opportunities (administrators have begun thinking about this); roles and authority of collegiate administrators, such as associate deans for faculty vs. departmental executive officers; and the emerging relationship between freedom of inquiry and funding.

- *President's Report (Caroline Sheerin)*

President Sheerin reported that she had been invited to give the annual brief presentation on UI faculty salaries later this month at an Iowa Board of Regents meeting. She intended to highlight the work of individual faculty members and therefore welcomed Councilors to send her stories of faculty members whose work has had a substantial impact on the state.

As this was her last Council meeting as president, President Sheerin expressed her gratitude to Councilors for their dedicated engagement with shared governance work over the past year. Councilors thanked President Sheerin with a round of applause.

IV. From the Floor – There were no items from the floor.

V. Announcements

- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Tuesday, April 29, 3:30 – 5:15 pm, Senate Chamber, Old Capitol. Election of officers will take place.

VI. Adjournment – Professor Durairaj moved and Professor Kline seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. President Sheerin adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.