

Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee

Minutes: 13 November 2025

Attendance: Gary Bartlett, Wendy Cook, Eric Foch, Bernadette Jungblut, William Provaznik, Rodrigo Rentería-Valencia, Nicole Stendell-Hollis, Cody Stoddard

Meeting notetaker: Gary Bartlett

1. Meeting called to order: 3:11pm
 - a. No changes to the agenda
 - b. 23 October 2025 meeting minutes approved unanimously
2. Chair report
 - a. EC Chair Natasha Lindsey is still looking for volunteers to serve on University policy working groups. Jungblut expressed interest. (Foch notes that chair Lindsey says she has yet to receive a response to her query about the policy changes that were made over the summer.)
3. New Business
 - a. Discussion of the CAT team draft report on 3-year degrees. (AAC25-26.01)
 - i. The CAH Dean has spoken strongly in favor of 3-year degrees. The COTS Dean has asked chairs to plan 3-year programs if they have interest in them.
 - ii. Committee members noted that the parameters of the 3-year degree seem ill-defined: in particular, it is unclear what will be cut from the 4-year degree.
 - iii. Concerns were expressed that 3-year programs will inevitably come to dominate even if they provide a lower-quality education, since they will be cheaper for students.
 - iv. Concerns were expressed that no attention has been given to the implications of such programs as related to NWCCU rules.
 - v. Committee members are to send any comments on the draft report to Foch by Nov. 18. He will collate them and send them to James Jankowski.
4. Old Business
 - a. Review suggested language developed in the previous meeting for class attendance policies as regards athletics and other university-approved events. (AAC25-26.05)
 - i. Language was added to provide guidance for late-arising situations that cannot be anticipated (e.g., a sports team traveling to a championship game) and thus cannot be planned for ahead of time.

- ii. There was some discussion of the meaning of “university-approved” in this context. It is not known whether there is an official definition of this term, but it seems likely there is not. The committee decided not to try to define it further at this point.
 - iii. The committee decided that this draft language should now be sent to stakeholders for review. It will be sent (by Foch) to Athletics, SOURCE, Music, Theater Art, and (by Rentería-Valencia) SLICE.
- 5. Meeting adjourned at 4:39pm
 - a. Next meeting is 4 December 2025 (not 11 December)