

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2026
1:00 – 3:00 PM
Virtual only - Zoom

Attendance

Officers Present:

- Dr. Kelly Grim O'Keefe, President (Workforce Development & BUS & IT)(proxy for Sean Mendoza)
- Dr. Dennis Just, President-Elect (Sciences)
- Vivian Knight, Vice President (Business, IT, Hospitality Leadership)
- Sarah Abbott, Governing Board Representative (Applied Technology)(proxy for John Gerard)
- Jane Hall, Secretary (Business & IT)

Senators Present:

- Robin Mayer (Adult Education)
- Dr. Eric Winkleblack (Applied Technology/Aviation)
- Michael Nolan (Visual Arts)
- Greg Loumeau (Arts)
- Sarah Robinson (EDU & STU)
- Mayra Cortés-Torres (Communication)
- Cythnia Howe (CMU)
- Dr. Elliot Mead (Communications)
- Maggie Golston (Communication)
- Christina Schemp (Health Professions)
- Rita Lennon (Health Professions)
- Nikki Robinson (Health Professions)
- Stacy Cousins (Health Professions)
- Sol Gómez (Library)
- Emily Besich (Library)
- Caroline Torres (Math)
- Yvonne M Sandoval (Math)
- Jennifer Switzer (Math)
- Ally Stacey (Math)
- Liz Rangel-Arriola (PimaOnline)
- Lisa Werner (Sciences)
- Cora Varas-Nelson (Science)
- Aaron Kostko (Humanities & Social Sciences)

- Randal Munsen (Social & Behavioral Sciences)
- Paulina Vega (Public Safety)
- Dr. Brooke Anderson (PCCEA)

Senators Absent:

- John Gerard (Applied Tech)(proxy identified)
- Sean Mendoza (Business/IT and Adjunct Faculty Representative)(proxy identified)
- Alexandra Armstrong (Science)

Guests who signed in:

- Dr. Ian Roark
- Dr. Emily Halvorson-Otts
- Jeff Silvyn
- Dr. Josie Milliken
- Michael Amick
- Dr. Isaac Abbs
- David Parker
- Amanda Abens
- Jim Craig
- Suzanne Desjardin
- Kate Schmidt
- Makyla Hays
- Denise Reilly
- Sotomayor
- Elvia Bow
- Tamara Dew
- Angela Moreno
- Gwen Schwartz

1. Introductions (1:00 – 1:15 PM)

- Welcome and introductions – Faculty Senate President Dr. Kelly Grim O’Keefe
- Review and approval of August minutes - The minutes were approved unanimously with no amendments.
- Requests for Agenda Modification/Executive Session
 - No requests for Agenda Modification or Executive Session.

d. Requests for Open Forum

- No requests for Open Forum

e. Request for Faculty Engagement

- [Faculty Senate Engagement Request](#) (Complete if you'd like time to present at Faculty Senate)
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2. Reports (1:15 – 1:40 PM)

- a. [Chancellor Report](#) - Dr. Jeff Nasse
 - b. Provost (Verbal) Report – Dr. Ian Roark
 - i. Dr. Roark presented six Cabinet goals focused on learner access, career pathways, career-connected learning, online math success, 8-week scheduling, and digital fluency/AI. Updates also included proposed two-year Faculty Senate officer terms and an Adult Basic Education spotlight.
 - c. [President's Report](#) – Dr. Kelly Grim O'Keefe
 - d. BOG Report (no report) - Governing Board meets 9/25/26 - Sarah Abbott
 - e. [PCCEA Report](#) – Written Report
 - f. [TLC](#), [Adjunct](#), [Professional Development Sub-committee](#) - Written Reports
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3. Business (1:40 – 2:48 PM)

- a. Division Spotlight - [Adult Education](#)

Presenters: Amanda Abens and Ginny Seltenright

- **ABECC Spotlight:** ABECC presented its comprehensive Adult Education programs, serving more than 4,200 learners and providing pathways from basic education and English-language learning into workforce training and PCC credit programs.

- b. [8-Week Initiative](#)

Presenter: Dr. Gwen Schwartz

- [Naming contest](#)
- [Form for submission of questions](#)
- **8-Week Initiative:** Dr. Schwartz reported continued progress, with 13 projects finalized. Discussion focused on exceptions and appeals, student readiness, DFC involvement,

Fall Break, and maintaining CLOs. Faculty were also encouraged to provide feedback and vote on a new initiative name.

c. SENSE Survey

Presenter: Dr. Gayle Bell

- Faculty were reminded to encourage eligible students to complete the SENSE Survey. Eligible students will receive the survey directly, with \$300 certificates offered as participation incentives.

d. [Academic Calendar 2028-29](#)

Presenter: Dr. Jeff Thies

- **2028–29 Academic Calendar:** Fall break options were presented for consideration. Faculty feedback is due September 15, with the final calendar scheduled for submission to the October Governing Board meeting.

e. [FTF Definition](#)

Presenter: Rita Lennon

- **Full-Time Instructional Faculty Definition:** Draft definition presented to clarify the full scope of faculty responsibilities beyond teaching. Faculty feedback was incorporated, and the Senate was asked to endorse the definition as a framework for future policy and shared-governance discussions.

f. [DFC Handbook](#)/ [SOP for the LMS](#)/On-Campus Presence

Presenters: Dr. Emily Halvorson-Otts and Michael Amick

- **DFC Handbook:** Provost-approved handbook will be posted in MyPima; DFCs should review and submit an appendix if needed.
- **LMS SOP:** Finalized LMS expectations for all modalities will be posted in MyPima for faculty use.
- **Faculty On-Campus Presence:** Discussions continue regarding increased spring engagement and updating the 29-hour expectation to reflect different modalities and meaningful participation beyond office hours. PCCEA and AERC will be involved in the review.

g. Digital Learning & AI

Presenters: Dr. Elliot Mead and Dr. Josie Milliken

- Dr. Mead and Dr. Milliken presented the final draft of AI and cybersecurity competencies developed through extensive feedback from faculty, students, and community surveys.

h. [AP/BP Review](#)

- BP 1-20

- AP 5.15.02
- AP 9.01.13

Presenters: Isaac Abbs and Jeff Silvyn

- **Next Steps:** David noted that the revised AP is planned for review and will be posted on the website - <https://www.pima.edu/about-pima/leadership-policies/policies/index.html>

h. Voting Results – Vivian Knight

- **Officer Terms:** Approved two-year officer terms (30 of 32 votes); existing structure maintained through 2027 (26 votes).
- **AI & Digital Literacy:** Proposal approved (26 of 29 votes).

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM by Dr. Kelly Grim O'Keefe

Minutes submitted by:

Jane Hall, Faculty Senate Secretary and Faculty Senator for Business, IT, Hospitality Leadership