

Faculty Senate Informal Statement – January 22, 2024

University leadership plays a pivotal role in fostering a productive and collaborative academic environment. One crucial aspect of this responsibility is assigning teaching loads that safeguard the time allocated for Faculty Senate meetings. Faculty Senate meetings serve as forums where faculty members discuss important academic matters, share diverse perspectives, and contribute to decision-making processes. When faculty Senators are absent, their constituents lose their voice in crucial decision-making processes and discussions. By protecting faculty Senator time, university leaders demonstrate a commitment to open dialogue and democratic governance within the institution. This not only enhances transparency but also ensures that faculty members can actively engage in shaping policies, curriculum changes, and other key aspects that impact the academic community. Ultimately, fostering a culture that values and safeguards Faculty Senate time contributes to a more inclusive and effective university governance structure.

Therefore, I ask that the Faculty Senate add this topic to a future meeting so that we can proactively work on a standard for all university leaders that protects faculty Senator time for Senate meetings, ensuring the preservation of an effective and inclusive decision-making process within the academic community.

Respectfully,

Rhonda Williams

Senator, School of Nursing