

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

September 30, 2022

1:00 PM until adjournment

Synchronous Online

Zoom link: will be provided

- I. Welcome and Roll Call**
- II. Review of Minutes from [August 26, 2022](#)**
- III. Overview of Faculty Senate meeting structure and procedures -- Joanne Matson**
 - When legislation has been passed and signed, please provide both red-lined and clean copy back to the executive committee.
 - See [Roberts Rules of Order](#) material from Arizona State webinar.
 - Add impacted units on any new legislation.
 - Implementing “2 bites at the apple” rule
- IV. Announcements**
- V. Airing of Concerns and Congratulations (2 minute limit)**
- VI. Introduction of New Topics (2 minute limit)**
- VII. Election of Senate Vice President**
- VIII. Reports**
 - a. Executive Committee - Joanne Matson, President of Faculty Senate
 - i. Referral of eStem pickup issues to the Traffic Committee.
 - b. Chancellor’s Report – Christy Drale, Chancellor
 - c. Undergraduate Council
 - d. Graduate Council
 - e. Core Council
- IX. Old Business**

none

X. New Business

1. **FS_2022_20 Faculty Governance Committee** (Legislation. Majority vote; no second required). Modify the Generic Departmental Governance Document to include approved language regarding Annual Review and Post-tenure Review.

[on April 29, 2022 agenda but never gotten to)

Be it resolved to modify the Generic Departmental Governance Document (Approved 5/2011) to include Senate-approved language pertaining to Annual Review and Post-tenure Review as shown in Attachment A (underline indicates addition; strikethrough indicates deletion); and

Be it further resolved that if approved, the changes would be implemented (retroactively) July 1, 2022.

Commentary: Originally approved by the Faculty Senate in May, 2011, the changes and additions to the generic governance document are needed to assure conformity to annual review and post-tenure guidelines in newly approved campus policies meeting Board of Trustees requirements.

See [Attachment A](#).

2. **FS_2022_23 Undergraduate Council** (Legislation. Majority vote; no second required). Revise the Honors policy (501.7) to modify graduation honors eligibility requirements and the manner in which the grade point average used for determining graduation honors eligibility is calculated.

Be it resolved to revise the “Graduation Honors” section of the Honors policy (501.7; rev 5/2003) as shown in Attachment B (underline indicates addition; strikethrough indicates deletion; {...} indicates other sections of the policy that remain unchanged)

And be it resolved that if approved, the revised policy would be implemented beginning with ~~Spring~~ ~~fall-2023~~ ~~2022~~ graduates.

Commentary: A full report on the reasons that a review of 501.7 was requested, its referral to the Undergraduate Council, the steps the Council took in reviewing the policy, the Council’s findings and recommendations can be found in the April 29, 2022 Undergraduate Council Report to the Faculty Senate, which can be found at <https://ualr.edu/facultysenate/files/2022/04/UGC-Senate-Report-04-29-2022.pdf>

See [Attachment B](#).

3. **FS_2022_24. Senator Michael DeAngelis** (Legislation. Referral to Undergraduate Council and Graduate Council. Majority vote at one meeting. Second required). Review, Report, and Vote on Simple Syllabus adoption and implementation.

Whereas curriculum and courses are the legislative authority of the faculty; and

Whereas a syllabus is a required component of each course; and

Whereas the Faculty Senate has determined a number of required components of each course syllabus; and

Whereas the Provost's Office has purchased a tool, Simple Syllabus, with the stated intent of requiring its utilization and begun a pilot implementation program for Spring 2023, thereby pre-empting both the faculty's authority over curriculum and courses, not following the well established precedent of syllabus needs being addressed and approved by the Faculty Senate, and potentially impinging on academic freedom;

Therefore be it resolved that the question of the need for, selection, and implementation of Simple Syllabus, along with the results of the Spring 2023 Simple Syllabus Pilot Program, shall be referred to the Undergraduate Council and Graduate Council for review; and

Be it further resolved that representatives of the Provost's office shall be invited to participate in the review of the question of adoption and implementation of Simple Syllabus and the results of the Spring 2023 Simple Syllabus Pilot Program; and

Be it further resolved that the Undergraduate Council and Graduate Council shall consider in its review of Simple Syllabus factors such as the rationale for its use, previous evaluations of the tool, its ease of use, its cost, its ability to intersect with existing software such as Blackboard, Banner, and Workday, and other matters relating to a comparison of its costs and benefits;

Be it further resolved that recommendations related to Simple Syllabus be reported back to the Faculty Senate at the March 2023 Faculty Senate meeting, and

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate shall make a recommendation regarding adoption and implementation of Simple Syllabus at the April 2023 Faculty Senate meeting after review and discussion of the Undergraduate Council and Graduate Council reports.

Commentary: Despite several town hall meetings that were held by the Provost's office during AY 2021-2022 related to the adoption and implementation of this software, many faculty were either not present or not aware of this proposed software nor its rationale.

Faculty Senators had many questions and concerns that were brought up during the August 26, 2022 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

In an email sent to all faculty on September 12, 2022, the Provost reported that a pilot program of the Simple Syllabus software would be conducted by *“early-adopter units and/or faculty who wish to volunteer”* and that *“data and feedback from this pilot will be provided to all academic units with follow-up discussion on advantages, disadvantages, and possible improvements to the Simple Syllabus tool,”* but did not provide specific details on how or when data and feedback from this pilot will be provided to all academic units nor how the faculty would either indicate their approval or disapproval. Here we have provided a timeline for review, discussion and a vote recommending approval or disapproval.

The potential positive and negative impacts of this software require additional time and consideration, and should involve faculty in the decision-making. Syllabi are integral to curriculum and courses, and are under the purview of the faculty (UALR Assembly Constitution, Article III).

4. **FS_2022_25 Senators DeAngelis, Nichols, Silverstein** (Recommendation. Majority vote at one meeting. Second required). Revise the [Faculty Workload Policy](#) (403.13) (FS_2016_14) to affirm full workload credit and compensation for courses taught.

Whereas adequate course preparation and quality content delivery must be done regardless of student enrollment in a course; and

Whereas individual faculty have limited to no control over enrollment in a course; and

Whereas courses may need to be taught, regardless of enrollment, for students to graduate in a timely manner; and

Whereas faculty may be required to teach additional courses to meet workload requirements if workload credit for some courses are prorated; and

Whereas faculty may receive prorated compensation if workload credit for some courses are prorated; and

Whereas penalizing individual faculty with extra workload or reduced compensation neither identifies nor addresses the particular circumstances of low enrollment in a course;

Therefore be it resolved that the following statement be added to [Faculty Workload Policy](#) (403.13) (FS_2016_14, Instructional Workload Weights section) affirming that faculty receive full workload credit and compensation for courses taught:

Faculty will receive full workload credit and compensation for any course that they teach. Prorating of workload credit or compensation is not allowed.

Be it further resolved that any policies, procedures, implementation, guidelines, or other comparable rules related to prorating of workload credit or compensation at UA Little Rock or any academic unit thereof are hereby immediately eliminated or repealed.

XI. Open Forum

XII. Adjourn

Attachment A

(underline indicates addition; strikethrough indicates deletion); and

Generic Departmental Governance Document

(The following document shall be used by departments until they have produced their own document and it has been approved.)

Adopted Month XX, 20YY

Definition of Membership

All faculty of the department, other than lecturers and visiting faculty, who hold more than a half-time appointment in the department, are members of the departmental governance body (hereafter referred to as the Assembly). Faculty who hold an appointment as described above during only one semester of an academic year shall have membership only during that semester. Faculty who qualify for membership shall have all privileges, including voting right, as set forth in this document.

General Charge of the Assembly

The Assembly is charged with the governance for the academic program of the department in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives of the department, college, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Jurisdiction of the Assembly

The Assembly shall have legislative power over the academic business of the department, including, but not limited to, the following matters:

- Curriculum including course and program additions, changes, and deletions.
- Degrees offered and degree requirements.
- Class scheduling within the parameters of meeting student needs and university requirements.

In addition, the Assembly, in cooperation with the department chairperson, shall recommend personnel policies to be observed within the department and shall perform a monitoring function to ensure that such policies are being observed.

Included in this authority are

1. The authority (within UALR's Procedures and Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure) to review faculty performance, including tenure and promotion, and to make recommendations in this regard, in addition to those recommendations provided by

the chair.

2. The authority to recommend the hiring and dismissal of faculty.
3. Recommendations on budgetary priorities concerning the department's discretionary funds.

Assembly Meetings

Presiding Officer

The chairperson or his or her designated representative shall preside at all meetings of the Assembly.

Schedule of Meetings

A meeting of the Assembly shall be scheduled by the department chairperson no later than the sixth day of classes for both the fall and spring semesters. The department chairperson may also call additional meetings and shall honor requests for called meetings by 25% or more of the Assembly's membership, or three members of the Assembly, whichever is less. A department meeting may be called at any time during the summer or during vacation periods provided a notice of the meeting and the agenda are mailed to the home of each faculty member at least seven calendar days prior to the meeting. Normal rules and requirements apply during the summer and vacation meetings. At the next regular meeting, the chair will summarize actions taken during the summer and/or vacation meetings.

Place of Meetings

Meetings will be held at a place convenient to members of the department, normally on the University campus in close proximity to department offices, hybrid or synchronously.

Meeting Agenda

Agendas shall be prepared by the department chair for all regularly scheduled meetings of the Assembly and shall be distributed to the members no later than 5:00 p.m. of the day before the meeting. Items may be placed on the agenda by any member of the Assembly.

Quorum

A quorum of 60% or more of the membership of the Assembly is required in order to conduct business requiring a vote at meetings of the Assembly. Meetings may be held without a quorum for discussion purposes only.

Voting Procedures

A simple majority of all members voting on an item of business of the Assembly is required for approval, except where otherwise specified in this document or in Robert's Rules of Order **(newly revised)**. No proxy voting is allowed. The Assembly may consider a motion on any item of business pertinent to the department. The Assembly may submit recommendations to the department chairperson on items not within the jurisdiction of the Assembly. While the chairperson is not bound to honor the Assembly's recommendations on such items, the chairperson is expected to inform the Assembly of his or her actions. Members of the Assembly may challenge actions of committees of the Assembly through motions submitted at meetings of the Assembly.

Rules of Order

The business of the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order **(newly revised)** unless specified otherwise in this departmental governance document.

Meetings Open

Meetings of the department are open to anyone who wishes to attend, except when personnel matters are being considered or when student privacy rights must be respected.

Record of Meetings

A department Assembly member will be elected or assigned by the chairperson to record minutes of each meeting, which shall be distributed to all members following the meeting. Copies of the minutes shall be maintained in the department office.

Voice and Voting Rights

All members of the Assembly shall have voice and vote at meetings of the Assembly. Other persons invited to attend meetings, including lecturers, staff members, and students of the department, have voice without vote.

Committees of the Assembly

Members of committees shall be elected by majority vote of members present and voting at a meeting of the Assembly that was publicized in advance for the purpose of such election. Members of committees shall be elected for a term of one year.

Each committee shall select a chairperson. Business of the committees shall be conducted by majority vote of members present and voting. Committee members are expected to attend all meetings of their committees.

The following committees shall function as herein described:

Curriculum Committee – The general charge to this committee is the overview of all academic matters of the department. Specific duties include:

Review and approval of all course additions, deletions and changes, all program additions and deletions, and all curriculum changes.

Other academic matters.

Personnel Committee - The Personnel Committee is responsible for monitoring all matters involving personnel including but not limited to the matters as directed below. After adoption of policies on these matters by the assembly, the committee shall continue to evaluate and recommend changes to the Assembly, as warranted.

The Personnel Committee shall coordinate and review the development of promotion and tenure criteria and procedures and submit them to the Assembly for consideration. These criteria must be in accordance with Board of Trustee and University policies;

The Personnel Committee shall coordinate and review the development of detailed criteria and procedures for annual evaluation of faculty and submit them to the Assembly for consideration. These criteria and procedures shall include their application to determining merit raises. These criteria and procedures shall include any specific items needed to accomplish post-tenure review. These criteria must be in accordance with Board of Trustee and University policies.

Promotion and Tenure Committee – Due to the varying requirements to participate as a member of a promotion and tenure committee under the University's Promotion and Tenure Guidelines, the Assembly shall establish committees as needed to review applications for promotion or tenure. Each committee shall consist of three members, meeting the requirements in the University's Promotion and Tenure Guidelines, and elected by the Assembly. In the event that there are not enough faculty members eligible under University Promotion and Tenure Guidelines, the Assembly shall create a list of qualified individuals from outside the department. The list shall contain at least one name more than the number of additional members needed and shall be used by the College Dean to select the remaining member

Assessment Committee – The Assessment Committee will recommend goals and means to the faculty for the assessment of student learning outcomes and will oversee their implementation. The committee will provide assessment assistance to faculty as needed and will analyze and report assessment results to the department and to other University officials.

Ad Hoc Committees – The Assembly may establish ad hoc committees. The department chair may also establish ad hoc committees, with notice to the department of the membership and assignment of any such ad hoc committee.

Department Administration

Chairperson

The department chairperson is the academic leader of the department. As such, the chairperson is expected to provide leadership with the goal of developing and maintaining academic programs of distinctive quality. The chairperson shall allocate available budget and other resources to support and encourage all faculty to seek excellence in teaching, Scholarly, Creative and Professional Activity and service. The chairperson shall ascertain that all students of the department are receiving appropriate advisement. The chairperson shall ascertain that student organizations within the department have chosen faculty members to be advisors in accordance with their by-laws. The chairperson shall evaluate faculty for salary increases, tenure, and promotion in accordance with procedures and criteria approved by the Assembly. The chairperson then shall forward his/her recommendations for tenure and promotion, along with the recommendations for promotion and tenure of the Promotion and Tenure Committee to the Dean. The chairperson shall prepare budget requests to the administration and report such requests to the Assembly. The chairperson shall review class schedules to ensure that all scheduled courses are staffed and shall assist in hiring part-time instructors.

Selection of Department Chairperson

Recommendations to the dean for the department chairperson position shall normally be made by election from among faculty members of the Assembly. The chairperson shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be elected by written ballot by majority vote of Assembly members that was publicized in advance for the purpose of such election.

The department chairperson must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member within the department.

Annual Review of Faculty

1. General guidelines

The annual review of the work of each faculty member shall be made in accordance to criteria and procedures required in Board Policy 405.1 (revised) and other pertinent Board and University policies.

The goals of the annual review are to: a) evaluate the activities and achievements of the faculty during a given year; b) identify meritorious accomplishment by faculty; c) identify inadequate performance by faculty in order to provide guidance for faculty development.

This review is to provide guidance and assistance to all faculty in their professional development and academic responsibilities. The annual review of each faculty member

shall provide the primary basis for the Chair's recommendation relating to salary, promotion, granting of tenure, successive appointment, non-reappointment and dismissal.

Review of faculty performance shall be based on three broad categories: teaching; scholarly, creative, professional activity; and service. Each year, at the time of the preparation of the self-evaluation, each faculty member shall estimate a percentage of his/her work to be allocated among teaching; scholarly, creative, professional activities; and service. In no case shall the percentage for teaching be less than 50% and some activity is expected in both of the other areas. For Instructors, it is assumed that the percentage for teaching will be significantly greater.

The department recognizes the various talents of individual faculty members and their respective interests as well as the difficulty in assigning to faculty a specific percentage of their efforts that should be dedicated to each of the areas. Tenured and tenure-track faculty are expected to contribute in all three areas. Non-tenure-track faculty are expected to emphasize teaching and contribute in the other areas as their interest and assigned tasks permit.

2. Criteria

Teaching

The Roles and Rewards Task Force I (policy 403.20) identified universal qualities of effective teaching. Although they were listed with tenured faculty in mind, they apply to non-tenured faculty as well. "The nature of effective teaching may vary across disciplines, but certain qualities are universal: respect for students, faith in student abilities, a focus on student learning, and a commitment to student success. Equally important, faculty should view themselves as role models who convey the values of their disciplines and initiate students into their professions. In the pursuit of excellence in teaching, faculty members must remain current in their discipline and in pedagogical strategies. They should consider teaching a continual process of improvement and growth."

All faculty are expected to meet classes regularly, require appropriate work from students, make themselves available for student consultations, maintain regular office hours, provide and follow a course outline/syllabus, respond adequately and fairly to student work and offer examinations and other forms of student assessment that are fair in the sense of giving each student an equal chance to succeed and are relevant to the content of the course. Teaching effectiveness will be evaluated, and performance below Departmental standards will be deemed unsatisfactory.

Teaching is defined in terms of providing for student learning in a variety of ways including classroom or laboratory instruction, team teaching, supervision of independent

study or research, multi-disciplinary teaching activities, student advisement, course preparation, curriculum design and development, use of creative teaching strategies and technologies, and innovative activities.

Documentation of teaching performance may include, but is not limited to evidence of the following:

—appropriate teaching methods

—innovative teaching methods

—appropriate usage of technology

—currency of course content and presentation techniques

—ability to inspire and stimulate students

—development of courses and/or instructional material

—effectiveness/leadership in academic advisement and mentoring

—teaching awards/honors

—student/peer evaluations

b. Scholarly, Creative and Professional Activity

For tenured and tenure-track faculty, there is the expectation that they be involved in scholarly, creative and professional activities. A continuing lack of involvement in such activities will be deemed unsatisfactory. For Instructors desiring advancement, there is the expectation that they be involved in scholarly, creative or professional activities.

Documentation used to evaluate scholarly, creative, professional activity may include evidence of:

—academic publications (books, monographs, articles, reviews, scholarly newsletters)

—grants

—papers/presentations at professional meetings

—creative works

—membership on editorial boards of professional journals

—service as manuscript referee—preparation of instructional materials (texts, videos, lab manuals, etc).

—training and certification in specialized skills

--professional honors/awards

c. Service

Service involves service within the university, the community and the profession. All voting members are expected to perform committee work within the department and from time to time at the college and university levels. Members are expected to be responsive to community needs as time and expertise allow. A continuing lack of involvement in service activities will be deemed unsatisfactory.

Tenured and tenure-track faculty shall be evaluated in terms of service to the profession, the public, the university, and the department and may include activities such as discipline-related community service, work on college or university committees, department service, administrative service, working with professional organizations and participation in professional meetings. Instructors desiring advancement shall be evaluated for their work in service as described below as well.

Documentation of service may include evidence of:

—activities intended to enhance community understanding

—involvement in professional organizations

—holding office or positions of leadership in professional organizations

—involvement in student life activities

—service to other University programs

—participation in discipline-related service organizations

—leadership in college/university governance

—participation in college/university committees/councils

Post Tenure Review

Criteria and Procedures: to include the following:

With regard to tenured faculty an annual rating of unsatisfactory in any two categories of teaching, service, or research shall constitute an overall unsatisfactory performance

rating for that year. Before making a determination of overall unsatisfactory, the chairperson must take into consideration the faculty member's assigned workload and evidence of relevant, documented efforts and outcomes within the context of that workload. If there is a determination of overall unsatisfactory performance, then post-tenure review will be initiated. If the faculty member is not rated overall unsatisfactory. then the faculty member is overall satisfactory. If the faculty member is determined to be overall unsatisfactory the Promotion and Tenure Committee, the chair and the dean shall prepare a professional development plan supported by appropriate resources. The plan must be developed within 30 days of the final overall evaluation of overall unsatisfactory and must contain measurable objective benchmarks identifying what is necessary to attain meaningful progress and. separately, satisfactory performance. if the faculty member receives one additional overall unsatisfactory review during the professional development plan period, and fails to demonstrate meaningful progress in remediating overall performance deficiencies, the department chairperson informed by the recommendation of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the dean, may initiate the process for terminating with cause the tenured faculty member as specified in the UA Little Rock policies and UA Board policies Faculty.

Evaluation of Faculty and Staff for Salary Increases

Annual reviews of non-classified personnel shall be conducted in accordance with criteria and procedures approved by the Assembly. The department chairperson shall provide each person a written copy of his/her evaluation, listing strengths as well as weaknesses, and specifically addressing any problems that require correction.

Amendments

Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Assembly through motions submitted at a meeting of the Assembly. Amendments must receive a favorable vote from two-thirds of the members present and voting at two consecutive meetings to become effective. All amendments to this document are subject to review and approval in accordance with the constitution of the University Assembly before they come into effect.

Coda

As a generic departmental governance document, the document is to be used by a new department **or department lacking an approved governance document** until it can write and get approved a document of its own. The expectation is that each department will replace this document with a document of its own designed to meet the specific needs of their department. To approve a replacement for this document requires a favorable vote from a majority of the members present and voting at two consecutive meetings of the department Assembly. The proposed document must then go through the normal review process of the

university with approval being at the discretion of the chancellor.

Commentary:

Originally approved by the Faculty Senate in May, 2011, the changes and additions to the generic governance document are needed to assure conformity to current practices and so that an academic unit using the document utilizes annual review and post-tenure guidelines that conform to newly approved campus policies that meet Board of Trustees requirements.

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Attachment B on Honors (501.7)

(underline indicates addition; strikethrough indicates deletion)

{...}

Graduation Honors

To qualify for graduation honors, a student must have completed a minimum of 60 hours in residence at UA Little Rock. Graduation honors are calculated on all academic work ~~including all~~ completed in UA Little Rock credit-bearing courses, ~~all repeated courses and all work completed at all other institutions, whether accepted as transfer credit at UA Little Rock or not.~~ For repeated courses, only the grade from the final iteration of the course will be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average for determining graduation honors. All work completed at all other institutions, whether accepted as transfer credit at UA Little Rock or not, will not be included in the final calculation of graduation honors (except as noted below).

The bachelor's degree with honors will be conferred upon candidates who graduate and earn a minimum cumulative grade point on all credit courses taken ~~(both transfer courses and credit courses at UA Little Rock)~~ as follows:

- Summa cum laude: minimum grade point average of 3.90
- Magna cum laude: minimum grade point average of 3.70
- Cum laude: minimum grade point average of 3.50

Students who do not complete the minimum of 60 hours in residence at UA Little Rock may request, in writing, that all work completed at all other institutions, whether accepted as transfer credit at UA Little Rock or not, be used in the final calculation of graduation honors. For repeated courses at other institutions, only the grade from the final iteration of the course will be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average for determining graduation honors. ~~A minimum of 30 hours in residence at UA Little Rock is required to qualify for a degree with honors. A student qualifies for honors based on the grade point average on all hours, including repeated courses at UA Little Rock and including transfer hours whether or not accepted for credit. All academic work, including transfer courses and repeated courses, is included in the final~~

~~calculation for honors.~~ Some courses from institutions outside of the U.S. are calculated in the admissions process on a pass/not pass basis. In order for a student to be considered for graduation honors, all credentials from institutions outside of the U.S. must be evaluated to determine an A, B, or C equivalency.

Students who are granted academic clemency are still eligible to qualify for graduation honors, but they must complete a minimum of 60 hours in residence at UA Little Rock not including the hours for which clemency was granted.

The associate degree with honors will be conferred upon candidates who have completed a minimum of 30 hours in residence at UA Little Rock and at graduation have earned a minimum cumulative grade point of 3.7 on all academic work completed in UA Little Rock credit-bearing courses. The recipient must have met all requirements for graduation with an associate degree and must not have completed more than 83 credit hours. Students who are granted academic clemency are still eligible to receive an associate degree with honors, but they must complete a minimum of 30 hours in residence at UA Little Rock not including the hours for which clemency was granted.

~~A UA Little Rock student can be awarded graduation honors only once. A student who~~ has earned a baccalaureate degree from UA Little Rock and is pursuing a second baccalaureate degree at UA Little Rock is granted graduation honors based on the credit hours earned subsequent to the posting of the first degree. If fewer than 30 credit hours are completed at UA Little Rock subsequent to completion of the first UA Little Rock degree, the level of graduation honors can be no higher than that obtained on the first degree. If 30 or more credit hours are completed at UA Little Rock after completion of the first UA Little Rock degree, the level of graduation honors on the second degree is based on the cumulative grade point average on coursework subsequent to the first degree.

Students who graduate from another college or university and pursue a second undergraduate degree at UA Little Rock must complete a minimum of 30 hours in residence at UA Little Rock to be ~~are not~~ eligible for graduation honors. Graduation honors on the second degree is based on the cumulative grade point average on all UA Little Rock coursework subsequent to the first degree.

University and departmental honors (but not awards) may be posted on the academic transcript.

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