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MINUTES FOR THE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026,
FACULTY SENATE MEETING AT 4:00 P.M. IN UC COUNCIL ROOM

Present: Brown, Brownhill, Chapin, Cieminski, Dietz, Elkins, Feinstein, Fischer, Fleming, Garrett, Gershwin, Haddad, Humphrey, Kang, Karlin, Landry, Lunaris, Leonard, Levin, McDuffie, Schuttler, Senbet, Schafie, Wieben

Zoom: Castro, Leatjerman, Mannello, Manshad, Morse, Roberts, Tian, Trask, Wood

Absent: Alcantar, DeKrey, Han, Henderson, Newman, Paytoe Gbayee

Guest: Wade Bumgarner and Phil Wyperd

1. Call to Order 4:00pm
2. Approval of the February 16, 2026 Agenda approved without objection
3. Approval of the February 2, 2026 Faculty Senate Minutes approved without objection
4. Chair's Report (Newman) – No report
5. Administrative Reports

President (Feinstein) – Dinner is scheduled this evening with Michael Bennet. With additional dinners with governor candidates, Phil Weiser and Barbara Kirkmeyer scheduled as well. These meetings provide an opportunity to ask questions and share perspectives on higher education. There have been recent articles regarding statewide budget shortfalls indicating impacts across several institutions. The current projected shortfall is approximately \$8 million. A meeting was held last week with the Speaker of the House to discuss how matters may unfold with the Colorado Joint Budget Committee. The provost search is underway. Campus visits are being organized for April, with the goal of having the selected candidate in position by July 1. The Colorado Center of Rural Education is currently at risk of elimination and is being actively and aggressively advocated for. “Greeley Day at the Capitol” is scheduled for March 18. Several students will attend, providing an opportunity to highlight why Greeley matters to legislators. Faculty are encouraged to participate. A fireside chat with Dale Hall is scheduled for February 17 at 9:00 a.m. The College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) is seeking a class of 81 students for the first cohort. The program received approximately 1,000 applications, with over 250 applicants advancing to secondary interviews. The White Coat Ceremony and building celebration are scheduled for July 24. The Board of Trustees is concluding Phase III and continues to prioritize compensation. This was reflected in January pay adjustments and remains an ongoing focus. A town hall is scheduled for March 26 to discuss Phase IV. On Thursday (2/19), there will be a Finance & Audit meeting, followed by attendance at a Chamber of Commerce event at Island Grove Regional Park with members of the Board of Trustees.

Provost (Fleming) – Nancy Sileo discussed the concerns they had with SEC regarding their proposal. Calculations were completed using current data, resulting in an estimated

cost of approximately \$250,000. Provost Fleming noted the need to balance institutional commitments with the data currently available. At this time, it appears more likely that the SEC proposal will not be approved and that the current increment structure will move forward instead. The Distinguished Professor remains under consideration, with alternative models still being discussed.

- A model from Metro was shared and, in this case, it may be challenging to raise faculty using that model and they may need to be phased in.

Dean's Representative (Haddad) – The deans get together every Wednesday, and they shared priorities for the provost search and how they are handling budget reductions.

Board of Trustees (Fischer) – The Finance & Audit meeting is scheduled for Thursday. The Board of Trustees (BOT) will meet on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Campus Commons (CC) Multipurpose Room. Meetings are open to the public. The Friday BOT meeting will include public comment sessions on action items, including curriculum approval, football lights, the Sodexo contract, and room naming proposals. Discussion items will include sabbaticals, the strategic plan, the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM), enrollment management, and strategies related to curriculum.

6. Staff Council Reports

Classified Staff Council (Henderson) – No report

Professional Administrative Staff Council (Castro) – The last day for a pop of appreciation is on February 20th. Grants and scholarships for staff taking classes are due March 15th.

7. Standing Committee Reports

Academic Policies (Gershwin) – Item under new business. The AI syllabus proposal will be brought to the March 3rd Senate meeting. The committee discussed the S/U grading policy at today's meeting.

Codification (Schuttler) – Codification continues working on the Administrators Moving to or Returning to Faculty policy.

Elections (Schuttler) – The following Senators term ends this year, and they are all eligible for re-election,

- Jeff Brown, HSS
- Greg DeKrey, NHS
- Hannah Kang, EBS
- Dana Landry, PVA
- Judy Leatherman, NHS
- Harmony Newman, HSS
- Rachel Roberts, MCB
- Khalil Shafie, EBS

Two other seats will need to be filled as well. The call for nominations will be sent out on Monday, February 23, 2026.

Faculty Welfare (Brown) – Faculty Welfare continues to work on the University Regulations for faculty promotions and evaluation

Salary Equity (Senbet) – The Budget Priority Guidelines with revision and will be sent to Salary Equity before coming to Faculty Senate. The committee is also looking at 2026 compensation reports and asked Sileo for an analysis of proposals 1 and 2.

8. Student Government Association Report (Brownhill) – Bylaws and elections have been approved.

9. Special Orders

10. Unfinished Business

11. New Business

- Proposal to Revise Academic Warning Language (Gershwin)
 - i. Elkins asked why is warning better than probation?
 1. Gershwin stated that it aligns with graduate school language and other institutions.
 2. It was shared that this proposal was student driven as well.
 - ii. Dietz shared that he is in favor of the original language suggesting something stronger might be appropriate.
 - iii. Provost Fleming noted that “probation” carries a stigma associated with legal or prison contexts. Students may not yet know how to succeed, and the language should communicate that support and assistance are available.
 - iv. Wieben shared that probation originates from the Latin verb *probare* which means to prove or to test. Using probation could send a message that students have to prove they belong here,
 - v. Levin is in favor of the proposal, noting that it seems student friendly. However, the wording seems confusing.
 1. Gershwin shared that wordsmithing can be done.
 - vi. Following rules of procedure, voting will take place at the next meeting.

12. Special Reports

- Ursa to SaaS migration (Wade Bumgarner and Phil Wyperd)
 - i. Cieminski asked if Canvas and Banner will be affected during roll over.
 1. Canvas should not be affected; it will be paused during the process, and data/info can be restored afterward.
 - ii. Levin asked, how do we know registration will not crash the system.
 1. Tests will be conducted, and registration will be rolled out gradually to monitor stability.
 - iii. Brown asked for a response in the case faculty ask why we are doing this.
 1. Other institutions may not have the advantage of backfilled knowledge.
 2. The update improves security and ensures all components are up to date.
 3. The changes will provide an opportunity to be more innovative and modern.
 4. Working with a better vendor with improved tools will better protect data.

- iv. Levin thanked Wade and Phil for not using Workday!
- v. Kang asked how faculty will be informed of this change.
 - 1. A communication blitz will be sent through marketing channels, including email and social media. The registrar has been sharing information. Tutorials will also be available, and users will be redirected to MyUNC when logging into URSA.

13. Comments to the Good of the Order

14. Adjournment 5:10pm