



#658

MINUTES FOR THE MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026,
FACULTY SENATE MEETING AT 4:00 P.M. IN UC COUNCIL ROOM

Present: Brown, Brownhill, Cieminski, Dietz, Etheridge-Woodson, Fischer, Fleming (Sileo), Garrett, Gershwin, Henderson, Karlin, Leatherman, Lee, Levin, Mannello, McDuffie, Newman, Schuttler, Senbet, Wieben

Zoom: Alcantar, Elkins, Feinstein, Han, Kang, Lunaris, Leonard, Morse, Manshad, Shafie, Tian, Trask, Wood

Absent: Castro, Chapin, DeKrey, Haddad, Humphrey, Paytoe Gbayee, Roberts

1. Call to Order 4:00pm
2. Approval of the March 2, 2026 Agenda approved with change to the agenda order, the presidents report will be the first item discussed.
3. Approval of the February 16, 2026 Faculty Senate Minutes approved without objection
4. Chair's Report (Newman) – The provost search is moving forward. Some faculty have expressed concern about continuing the search without a sitting president next year. However, since applications have already been received, the committee will continue reviewing materials and asking candidates about their comfort with entering the role during a presidential transition. There will be an interim president for the next academic year. Planning is underway for Faculty Senate to tour the new COM building. Newman held a listening session with HSS senators. Strategies discussed included encouraging senators to stay closely connected with constituents, piloting Faculty Senate office hours, and dividing programs within colleges among senators and attending respective faculty meetings. She is planning to create an orientation packet with ideas and strategies for engagement. Faculty Senate has been asked to participate in Bear Fest, if anyone is interested reach out to Newman. The Faculty Senate newsletter will be distributed before spring break. Faculty are encouraged to attend Greeley Day on March 18th. The faculty promotion stipend discussion will be postponed to the next Faculty Senate meeting. We are still looking for nominees in PVA and MCB. NHS is also looking for nominees to fill the one-year term seat.
5. Administrative Reports
President (Feinstein) - President Feinstein is currently at Penn State as a guest lecturer. He will continue working through August 1st and will remain president of the philanthropic organization while assisting the incoming president with the transition. The Provost search is ongoing. Applications are still being collected, and there is approximately one month remaining before the vetting process begins. March 18th is Greeley Day at the Capitol. There will be strong participation, including students, District 6 representatives, the Chamber of Commerce, and others. Please let McDuffie know by Wednesday, March 4th if you plan to attend. An upcoming Fireside Chat with Scott James is being planned. April 6th there will be Coffee and Connection with President Feinstein from 9:00–10:30 a.m. April 30th there will be a farewell event for President Feinstein.

Provost (Fleming) – The administration made a counteroffer to SEC regarding faculty promotion stipends based on MSU’s model. Nancy Sileo and Robert Hepperle continue working on the promotional stipends. As featured in the Academic Affairs Newsletter, Academic Affairs will be sponsoring a team for the Women’s Walk on 4/11. Newman was featured in the newsletter about a module on AI literacy for educators and students. Outreach was made to students whose home is in the Middle East to check in and offer support. Faculty are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students if they are aware of students who may be struggling with current events.

Dean’s Representative (Haddad) – No report

Board of Trustees (Fischer) – As a reminder agendas and minutes are available online. Trustees are very interested in expanding stackable programs and exploring opportunities to combine programs. All action items passed, including the football lights that will be privately funded and changes to Holmes Dining Hall that will occur through the new Sodexo contract. The primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to select and evaluate the president. The Board will select an interim president. Trustee Fischer will attend and participate in discussions; while he does not have a vote, he does have a voice. Per Board Policy Manual input must be solicited from campus groups, including faculty. A Zoom meeting will be held on Thursday at 9am to establish guidelines for creating a search committee. Public comments will be permitted regarding the creation of the committee. For further questions please contact General Counsel English. Fischer encouraged senators to consider potential candidates for Faculty Trustee.

6. Staff Council Reports

Classified Staff Council (Henderson) – The employee recognition event is this Thursday. CSC is hosting a campaign with the University Libraries in a few weeks to solicit feedback on professional development opportunities. Henderson is working on a classified impact scholarship and will be meeting with the writing department to further discussion.

Professional Administrative Staff Council (Castro) – No report

7. Standing Committee Reports

Academic Policies (Gershwin) – Academic Policies is working COM and Graduate school policies.

Codification (Schuttler) – Codification is looked at the funding priorities guidelines and Undergraduate Council Board Policy Manual revisions. The committee will continue working on the Administrators Moving to or Returning to Faculty policy

Elections (Schuttler) – The Call for nominations deadline is today at 5pm and we are still looking for PVA and MCB nominees.

Faculty Welfare (Brown) – Faculty Welfare met with Nancy Henke and may bring a resolution in support of OER. The committee continues working on Faculty Evaluations in the University Regulations.

Salary Equity (Senbet) – Salary Equity is working on faculty promotion stipend. The committee received a counteroffer from administration and looking at its budget impact. The budget priorities guidelines will be brought to the next Senate meeting.

8. Student Government Association Report (Brownhill) – Student Government Association did their first read through of bylaws and will do a second reading at the next meeting before a vote. Student senators are being encouraged to attend Greeley day.

9. Special Orders

10. Unfinished Business

- Proposal to Revise Academic Warning Language (Gershwin)
- **MOTION:** Revise the undergraduate academic standing language to “*Academic Warning,*” instead of “*Academic Probation.*” Motion to adopt these changes to the undergraduate catalog and university regulations.
- **DISCUSSION:**
 - It is agreed to move forward with the revision but to monitor where the language appears to ensure consistency.
 - Levin noted that Faculty Senate has always proposed specific language for the catalog and cautioned that sending language that alternative or conflicting language could create mixed messages.
 - Levin proposed the following amendments,
 1. In the first bullet, remove “the” before “24” and remove “window warning.”
 2. In the second bullet, remove both instances of “warning.”
 3. In the third bullet, remove the second instance of “warning.”
 4. In the fourth bullet, insert “academic” before “warning.”
 - Gershwin accepts the amendment.
- **VOTE:** Motion approved unanimously

11. New Business

- Undergraduate Council Board Policy Revisions (Karlin)
 - **MOTION:** Karlin moves to approve the changes to Section 2-3-107(1) The Undergraduate Council (UGC) in the Board Policy Manual, seconded by Gershwin.
 - **VOTE:** Motion approved unanimously
- AI Syllabus Statement (Gershwin)
 - Brown emphasized that language must be ADA-friendly and proposed sharing some suggested language. He also noted that professors must have clear authority if their approach on AI differs from the unit, to avoid conflicts.
 - Senbet recommended including a specific UR or BPM location.
 1. Levin suggested section 2-3-501 in the Board Policy Manual
 - Dietz is against codifying rules in a way that might infringe on academic freedom.
 1. Several senators agree and note that the second point raised concerns in terms of academic freedom.
 - Senbet questioned what it means to be student-friendly, accessible, and clear, and who determines that.
 - Newman shared that it is reasonable for departments to have statements rather than policies.

- Levin mentioned that BPM 2-3-501(2) already includes language that encompasses the use of AI and suggested a resolution that all faculty should make syllabus language clear and state BPM 2-3-501(2).
 1. Gershwin and Cieminski shared that the AI task force assigned this task to APC since current policy is unclear.
 - Lee stated that GenAI is the most common and asked what happens when AI is used in meta glasses.
 1. She believes in telling students why they should be thinking about this deserves space on syllabi.
 - Wieben and Mannello stated that enforcing a complete ban on AI would be very difficult and that there is no way to prove AI was used unless a student admits it.
 - Cieminski wants to ensure students aren't penalized due to unclear expectations and raised a concern about how to reinforce guidelines for faculty who fail to include AI language.
 - Following rules of procedure, voting will take place at the next meeting.
- 4+1 Program Credit Hours (Gershwin)
 - **MOTION:** Motion to adopt these changes to the Accelerated Master or 4+1 Degree program in the graduate catalog.
 - **DISCUSSION:**
 1. Senbet noted that this is commendable and will make the process easier for some programs.
 2. Cieminski shared that several 4+1 programs have requested this change and this proposal will be in compliance with HLC guidelines.
 - **VOTE:** Motion to approve unanimously

12. Special Reports

13. Comments to the Good of the Order

- The final Women's Basketball home game was last week and the final Men Basketball.

14. Adjournment 5:24pm