

**Fifty-First Faculty Senate
Northwest Missouri State University
Full Senate Meeting Minutes**

December 4, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Rhonda Beemer, Rob Voss, John Gallaher, Jenni Wall, Giselle Greenidge, Peter Adam, Ashley Black, Araceli Hernandez-Gonzalez, Tony Olson, Luke Rolfes, Bao Pham, Mike Miller, Alex Taylor, Oscar Perez-Hernandez, Cindy Tu, Amy Hillard, Jill Baker, Ashley Strickland, Johnny Chuang, Jeff Bradley, Luke Campbell, Kim Casey (alt. for Dawn Gilley), Kylie Wilson, Kyungjoong Kim (alt for Laura Kauzlarich)

Members Absent:

Dawn Gilley, Laura Kauzlarich

- **Call to Order**
 - President Voss called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
- **Approval of Agenda Motion by Tony Olson/Second by Peter Adam**
 - The agenda was approved with one abstention.
- **Approval of Minutes Motion by Tony Olson/Second by Peter Adam**
 - The minutes were approved with one abstention.
- **Special Guests:**
 - None
- **Reports:**
 - **NW President Report**
 - None
 - **Provost Report (Dr. Hooyman)**
 - None
 - **Human Resources (Mrs. Krista Barcus)**
 - None
- **Senate President (Dr. Voss)**
 - As we approach the conclusion of another busy and productive semester, I want to take a moment to reflect on our work together and share updates on key initiatives. Over the past few weeks, we have made meaningful progress in several areas. Our standing committees of assessment, teaching, and learning, and Faculty Welfare and Budget have continued to handle critical business efficiently, from curriculum updates to faculty welfare concerns, ensuring our shared governance remains strong and effective. Faculty Senate has also actively supported the integration of artificial intelligence into our academic environment, focusing on responsible usage, student engagement, and policy frameworks that reflect our values as educators. I have met with Kevin Cagg and will have an AI document in the next few weeks for your review that incorporates our current policies that pertain to AI. Additionally, faculty across the university have been producing outstanding scholarship that strengthens Northwest's reputation as a hub of innovation and learning.

- We will have a Board of Regents meeting next week and I look forward to sharing our progress as faculty towards research, teaching, and learning. I will be sharing the research areas that we have found progress as well as some of the concerns that have been raised. I am looking forward to representing you to the Board of Regents.
- Finals week is a challenging time for everyone. I encourage all Senators to reach out to their departments and colleagues, offering support and fostering community as we navigate this busy period. Whether it's mentoring students, collaborating with peers, or sharing resources, your efforts make a meaningful difference and help sustain our academic mission.
- As we close out this semester, let's take time to celebrate our achievements and recognize the incredible contributions made by our faculty. Acknowledging our collective successes reinforces the sense of purpose that drives us forward. I also encourage you to gather feedback from your constituencies on their experiences with initiatives like AI integration, curriculum changes, and campus resources. These insights will guide our efforts as we look toward the spring semester. The holiday break will provide us with an opportunity to reflect and recharge, returning ready to build on the momentum we've created this fall.
- Your dedication to the Faculty Senate, your departments, and Northwest as a whole is inspiring. Thank you for your hard work, thoughtful discussions, and commitment to improving our university. Let's finish this semester strong and step into 2025 with the same energy and passion that has defined our efforts this year.
- **Academic Petitions (Dr. Campbell)**
 - Senator Campbell reported that the committee has yet to meet since the last meeting.
- **Academic Appeals (Dr. Greenidge)**
 - Senator Greenidge reported that presently there are no appeals.
- **CDR (Dr. Eloie)**
 - **No report**
 - **DCM (Dr. Thornsberry)**
 - In a written report, Dr. Thornsberry reported DCM met on November 7th and 21st and approved the following proposals:
 - 224-10-02 Composition I: Writing in Academic Contexts
 - 224-10-03 Composition II: Writing in Public and Personal Contexts
 - 224-10-04 Accelerated Composition
 - MUS - 19201 - Music Appreciation 2025-2026 UG Course Change Form proposal

- **Assessment (Dr. Farnan)**
 - Senator Farnan reported that the committee met before Thanksgiving break and had Drs. McBride, Johnson, and Allerd join the meeting. President Voss and Senator Farnan will meet to discuss the process for the curriculum scorecard moving forward.
- **Teaching and Learning (Dr. Strickland)**
 - Senator Strickland reported that there is nothing new to report at this time.
- **Academic Integrity Panel (Dr. Adam)**
 - Senator Adam reported that there is nothing new to report at this time.
- **Faculty Welfare and Budget (Dr. Gray-Smith)**
 - Dr. Gray-Smith reported that there is nothing new to report at this time.
- **Legislative**
 - No report
- **COTE (Dr. Davis-Black)**
 - Senator Davis-Black reported that there is nothing new to report at this time.
- **Graduate Council**
 - Senator Wilson reported that there is nothing new to report at this time.
- **Research Committee (Dr. Kaulzarich)**
 - No report
- **IRB**
 - No report
- **Animal Welfare**
 - No report
- **University Seminar**
 - No report
- **Old Business**
 - **Faculty Grievance Policy Updates**
 - President Voss indicated that we continue to wait on updates from Chairs and Directors.
 - **Board of Regents Report for Faculty Senate**
 - President Voss asked senators to indicate items that should be brought to the Board of Regents for next Thursday's meeting.
 - President Voss will share the research that is currently being conducted as per the IRB report as well as issues related to the compensation study.
 - Senators also asked that the following be brought up
 - illustrating the number of proposals passed
 - movement and construction Garrett-Strong

- appointments to the Board
 - Dairy Bar in the School of Agriculture
 - Results of first-year engagement survey
 - Senators are asked to share other items of pride from their units so that President Voss may share.
- **Curriculum Proposals**
 - None
- **New Business**
 - **Update on AI Statement**
 - President Voss reported that he met with Assistant Vice President Kevin Cagg to discuss AI issues. President Voss has created a mockup of a statement based on current policies that AVP Cagg has shared with others. President Voss shared that this statement is not a policy, it is a statement that is a compilation of policies that exist within the current policy library. President Voss will share this statement with senators for review before it is sent to the broader university community.
 - A proposal for an AI minor is also in its infancy.
- **Items from the Floor**
 - A senator raised the question about graduate assistantships for students who are in online graduate programs. The senator noted that the graduate student handbook states no stipulation for on-ground programs, only for a “graduate program”.
- **Closed Session**
 - No closed session was needed

Move to adjourn by Senator Olson /Second by Senator Gallaher. The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Baker

Faculty Senate Secretary

