

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

January 21, 2026

Members in Attendance:

Peter Adam, Tony Olson, Luke Rolfes, Mike Miller, Jill Baker, Oscar Perez-Hernandez, Johnny Chuang, Laura Kauzlarich, Chi Lo Lim, Travis Surprise, Sanjay Prabhakar, Linda Gray-Smith, John Katsion, Kim Casey, Heather Hill, Tony Olson, Alex Taylor, Cindy Tu, Amy Hillard, Shantel Farnan, Luke Campbell, Casey Abington, Rob Voss

Members Absent:

Bao Pham, Cindy Schairer-Kessler

- **Call to Order**
 - President Miller called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
- **Approval of Agenda Motion by Senator Olson/seconded by Senator Adam**
 - The agenda was approved with the addition of a report under new business regarding a meeting with Dr Tatum.
- **Approval of Minutes Motion by Senator Olson/seconded by Senator Adam**
 - The minutes were approved unanimously.
- **Reports:**
 - **Provost Report (Dr Tapps for Dr Tatum)**
 - A written report was given:
 - Student Affairs VP
 - President Baker will assume the office on March 2nd at Emporia State. We are working through plans for his transition.
 - Compensation
 - Compensation letters went out to employees before the break. For phase one, 21 faculty & 102 staff were impacted.
 - Advancement
 - Bearcat Day of Green will be April 7 & 8
 - Alumni Awards will take place on April 24.
 - Strategic Planning
 - SWOT Sessions are occurring the week of February 9th in the Station Center Room. Invitations will be sent out for each area.
 - ADA Compliance
 - All faculty received an email from the Office of the Provost regarding ADA compliance with details following Wednesday, January 7th's P&D session, including steps on how to access the Canvas template

that contains editable pages to be duplicated (if desired), the presentation containing future open houses, office hours, and LTC events.

- Additional training will take place on January 29th at 3:30 pm and February 9th at 3:30 pm. Please register on the LTC website.
- Plus, Mackenzie Campbell will hold office hours for individual help every Wednesday and Thursday in Union Meeting Room E OR by appointment if those times do not fit in faculty schedules. Mackenzie's office hours: 3:30-4:30 pm each W and Th.
- As a reminder, courses taught AFTER April 2026 will need to be ADA-compliant. This is an effort for faculty to mitigate the likelihood of students filing a complaint and to ensure that any student can file a complaint, regardless of ability.
- Please contact Elise Hepworth, Stephanie Krauth, or Mackenzie Campbell directly with concerns and questions or for additional support.

- Provost Search

- The next step for the committee and campus community is to submit individual feedback through the survey web link that has been provided.
- Anthem Executive will compile the committee's feedback and review it with Dr Tatum, as part of his decision-making process. There are no additional committee meetings or collective actions planned at this time beyond completing the survey.

- **Human Resources (Krista Barcus)**

- No report

- **Chief Amanda Cullin**

- Chief Cullin reported that the statewide tornado drill will be held on March 4 at 11:00 a.m., even though Northwest will be on spring break. All individuals on campus that day should participate. Northwest will hold an on-site tornado drill on March 11 at 11:00 a.m.
- A senator asked Chief Cullin about the timing of severe weather closures. Chief Cullin stated that the decision and the Bearcat Alert will be sent out by 6:00 a.m. on inclement-weather days.

- **Associate Provost, Academic Operations and Assessment (Dr Tapps)**
 - In addition to the report that Dr Tapps gave on behalf of Dr Tatum, Dr Tapps fielded a question about ADA compliance and the role of adjuncts. This issue is still being ironed out, and Dr Tapps encouraged faculty to ask questions via email so that issues that surface can be addressed.
 - Dr Tapps fielded a question about the timeline for ADA compliance. Senators stated that during the PD days, the expectation was to have sites ready in time for summer courses.
 - Dr Tapps reported that the final candidate for Provost was on campus today, 1/21, and feedback will be compiled. Dr Tatum will meet with the Anthem search consultant to discuss feedback. When an offer is ready to be extended, a Board of Regents meeting will be held to approve the offer.
- **Senate President (Dr Miller)**
 - Allow me to begin by congratulating each of you, both individually as Senators and collectively as the Faculty Senate. During the fall semester, you took on assignments beyond those normally encountered and did so with impressive efficiency, achieving positive results in a remarkably short period of time.
 - In addition to fulfilling the Faculty Senate's core shared governance responsibilities, you have effectively addressed the complex challenges associated with academic restructuring and other non-routine obligations. These efforts have included the organization, leadership, and active participation in both Senate and non-Senate committees, contributing to revisions of the Faculty Handbook, representing faculty on the University's Provost Search Committee, and undertaking many other duties too numerous to list. Thank you for all that you have done and for all that you will continue to do.
 - As we move into the new semester, it is essential that we sustain the momentum and high standards established by the Faculty Senate during the previous term. Your dedication, collaboration, and thoughtful leadership demonstrated last semester resulted in meaningful progress for the institution and strengthened the role of shared governance. Maintaining this level of engagement and excellence will be critical as we address ongoing initiatives and new challenges, ensuring that the Faculty Senate continues to serve the faculty and the university with effectiveness and integrity.
 - So, where do we begin – pretty much the same place that we left off last semester: with reports from committees, updates on the Provost Search and the most recent meeting with Dr Tatum, a brief

overview of the semester timeline, and lots of proposals for our consideration.

- Committee Reports
 - Academic Petitions (Dr Tony Olson)
 - No report
 - Assessment and Retention (Dr Shantel Farnan)
 - Senator Farnan reported that the committee asked each school to ask for feedback about assessment. The committee is still waiting to get information from three schools, so the committee will meet once that data is in. on the following:
 - Outcomes Committee- Nothing new
 - Teaching and Learning Committee- Nothing new
- CDR (Dr Cindy Tu)
 - Senator Tu reported on the following:
 - CDR- Met on January 13 and reviewed 35 proposals. Most of the proposals passed, and some were rerouted or cancelled. CDR will meet again on January 27. Senator Tu noted that there are several common issues with proposals and asked senators to share with their schools:
 - Be sure to check the workflow if the proposal is amended, and restart the workflow after changes are made.
 - When choosing impacted units, do not choose the originating unit.
 - When changing a course, provide an updated syllabus reflecting the changes. The best practice is to submit the old and revised syllabi.
 - If multiple changes are needed for a class, combine proposals as much as possible.
 - If a new class is being created, or a course number change, a course number must be given by the Registrar's or Provost's offices.
 - If a description is changed, do not include the previous description. Only include the new description.
 - Dr Eloie is willing to go to units to assist with proposal creation or to answer questions via email.
 - DCM- no report
 - Graduate Council- Met on January 12 and approved 10 curricular proposals. The next meeting will be on January 26.
- Research (Dr Oscar Perez-Hernandez)
 - Senator Perez-Hernandez reported on the following:
 - Research Committees- Nothing to report

- Animal Welfare- No report
 - IRB- The committee has received 29 applications and has approved 24
- Faculty Welfare, Budget, and Finance (Dr Amy Hillard)
 - Senator Hillard reported that the committee met on January 20. The committee received updates on parking and discussed information given from the Northwest Insights group regarding strategic planning.
 - Senator Hillard reported that she received information from Jacob Wood that the strategic planning survey is anonymous and sent to Institutional Research.
 - Senator Hillard reported that the committee discussed the implementation of phase 1 compensation. The committee has additional questions that they will ask of Ms Barcus regarding compensation.
 - Senators noted that, under the original compensation arrangement, those who received pay raises did not receive information about their market value. Senators noted that the documentation showed that the information received pertained only to the pay raise and overall salary, not the market value.
 - Senators discussed that the market value should be on employment contracts.
 - The committee also discussed the prospective visit day process and will reach out to Admissions for clarification.
- **Old Business**
 - Provost Search
 - President Miller stated that Dr Tapps provided the bulk of the information about the search report during his report.
- **New Business**
 - President Miller, Past-President Voss, and Vice President Campbell's meeting with Dr Tatum
 - President Miller, Past-President Voss, and Vice President Campbell met with Dr Tatum to grow the relationship and expectations.
 - Vice President Campbell reported that faculty frustration about communication and meeting times was communicated to Dr Tatum regarding the Provost Search.
 - Vice President Campbell reported that the concerns about Dr Tatum assuming both Provost and President roles during the transition were communicated to Dr Tatum.
 - Past President Voss reported that the AI feedback dashboard from the faculty questionnaire was shared with President Tatum during the meeting. Past

President Voss reported that the data showed that many faculty are concerned about AI over-usage.

- Proposals

- 1. BIOL - 04365 - Animal Behavior
- 2. BIOL - 04435 - Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
- 3. CHEM - 24362 - Survey of Biochemistry
- 4. CHEM - 24363 - Survey of Biochemistry Laboratory
- 5. CHEM - 24540 - Physical Biochemistry
- 6. CHEM - 24562 - General Biochemistry
 - Motion to bundle proposals 1-6 by Senator Hillard second by Senator Olson
 - Motion passes
 - Motion to approve bundle by Senator Olson second by Senator Adam
 - Yay- 19 Nay-0 Abstention- 0
- 7. CRIM - 46301 - Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice
 - Motion to approve proposal by Senator Olson second by Senator Adam
 - Yay- 19 Nay-0 Abstention- 0
- 8. CRIM - 46310 - Criminological Theory
 - Motion to approve proposal by Senator Olson second by Senator Adam
 - Yay- 19 Nay-0 Abstention- 0
- 9. Data Analytics Certificate
 - Motion to approve by Senator Olson second by Senator Adam
 - Yay-19 Nay-0 Abstention- 0
- 10. EDCI - 62304 - Practicum: Early Learning
- 11. EDCI - 62421 - Early Childhood Curricular Approaches
- 12. EDCI - 62426 - Curriculum and Assessment Grades K-3
- 13. EDCI - 62435 - Practicum: Primary Classrooms

- 14. EDCI - 62441 - Early Childhood Leadership and Program Management
- 15. EDCI - 62445 - Student Teaching Seminar
- 16. EDCI - 62662 - Resilient Professionals
- 17. EDCI - 62663 - School Crisis Response and Trauma-Informed Interventions
- 18. EDCI - 62664 - Impact of Media on Children and Adolescents
- 19. EDCI - 62694 - Literacy-Focused Theory, History, & Research
- 20. EDCI - 62695 - Literacy Capstone
- 21. EDUC - 61642 - Multiculturalism in Education: The Culturally Responsive Educator
 - Motion to bundle proposals 10-22, 25 by Senator Surprise second by Senator Adam
 - Motion passes
 - Motion to approve bundle by Senator Olson second by Senator Adam
 - Yay- 19 Nay-0 Abstention- 0
- 22. ENGL - 10621 - Reading and Pedagogy
- 23. ENGL - 10697 - History and Contexts of English Education
- 24. ENGL - 10698 - Action Research
 - Motion to bundle proposals 22-24 by Senator Adam second by Senator Hillard
 - Motion passes
 - Motion to approve bundle by Senator Adam second by Senator Olson
 - Yay-19 Nay-0 Abstention- 0
- 25. Early Childhood Education Minor, 22 hours
- 26. GEOL - 27214 - Gemology
- 27. GEOL - 27369 - Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology
- 28. GEOL - 27423 - Economic Geology
- 29. GEOL - 27440 - Sedimentology and Stratigraphy

- Motion to bundle proposals 26-29 by Senator Adam second by Senator Olson
 - Motion passes
 - Motion to approve bundle by Senator Adam second by Senator Olson
 - Yay- 19 Nay-0 Abstention- 0
- 30. Generalist, Ed.S.
 - Motion to approve proposal by Senator Olson second by Senator Hillard
 - Yay- 19 Nay-0 Abstention- 0
- Election Timeline
 - President Miller reported on the timeline for Faculty Senate elections.
- Board of Regents Report
 - President Miller stated that for the next BOR report, he would like to highlight the accomplishments of the Faculty Senate. President Miller asked senators to send any information he could include.
- **Items from the Floor**
 - A senator brought a concern from their school about the timeline for proposal submission. Senators noted that this timeline is beyond the faculty's control.
 - A senator reminded others that programs affected by the Missouri 60 should be mindful of the proposal submission timelines to meet state requirements.
 - Senator Adam noted that there will be a CERT training for FEMA certification on March 12. If anyone is interested, Dr. Peter Adam and Mr Travis Surprise are the contact persons.
- **Closed Session**
 - None

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Baker

Faculty Senate Secretary