

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

April 22, 2026

Members in Attendance:

Peter Adam, Luke Rolfes, Mike Miller, Jill Baker, Johnny Chuang, Kyungjoong Kim (alt. For 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, Casey Abington, Bao Pham, Cindy Schairer-Kessler

Members Absent:

Oscar Perez-Hernandez, Rob Voss, Laura Kauzlarich

- **Call to Order**
 - President Miller called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.
- **Approval of Agenda Motion by Senator Olson /seconded by Senator Adam**
 - The agenda was approved unanimously.
- **Approval of Minutes Motion by Senator Olson /seconded by Senator Adam**
 - The minutes were approved unanimously.
- **Reports:**
 - **Provost Report (Dr. Ward)**
 - Dr. Ward offered thanks to all for the accomplishments that have occurred since her tenure began, including feedback, participation in work groups, etc.
 - Dr. Ward reported on three areas
 - 90 Credit Degree
 - The 90 Credit Degree committee has proposed a Bachelor's of Professional Studies. Dr. Ward shared a timeline of the work that has been done on the degree program since February 16.
 - CDR reviewed the curriculum proposal on 4/21. The CDR voted against the 90-credit hour degree program.
 - Dr. Ward asked for feedback on what happens next, as there is no precedent for what happens in this case.
 - Dr. Ward noted that there were no concerns noted, so sending it back to have corrections of concerns is not possible.
 - Senator Tu, Chair of CDR, shared that there were concerns that were mentioned in the meeting and that Dr. Eloie is drafting a message to send to the Senate on behalf of CDR. CDR felt that there were things that needed to be addressed by DCM.
 - Senator Hill, Chair of DCM, noted that the degree is in the hands of the committee, and the committee meets tomorrow.
 - After substantial discussion, the decision was made to allow the proposal to follow the protocol, and the proposal will return through DCM and CDR.
 - Guidelines for Centers

- Dr. Ward shared a proposal for a process for developing centers that are not student-facing. The proposal is attached to the minutes.
 - These centers would be things such as the Center for Rural Health.
 - Next Steps for Academic Strategic Plan
 - Dr. Ward will report on this at another time.
 - Dr. Ward also indicated that she has four strategic areas
 - Retention
 - 90 Credit Degree
 - Rural Health Center
 - AI
 - Dr. Ward shared that she is appreciative of the spirited discussion and feedback from the Faculty Senate.
- **University Police Chief Amanda Cullin**
 - No report
 - **Associate Provost, Academic Operations and Assessment (Dr. Tapps)**
 - Dr. Tapps reported on facilities closures
 - Garrett-Strong, McKemy, and Valk will also close on May 11.
 - Owens will continue to have significant basement work happening during the summer, as well as significant concrete work on the east side.
 - Colden Hall will be open and operational during the summer, but without hot water.
 - Staging will be going on before those dates.
 - **Human Resources (Mrs. Krista Barcus)**
 - No report
 - **Workday Updates (Ms. Kat Falke)**
 - Emails to all employees will go out next week about user readiness testing, which will take place on May 4-7.
 - Workday introduction sessions will cover the important training opportunities and processes. There will be live Zoom sessions for training. Training will be dependent on the role that an employee covers.
 - August training sessions are being scheduled for faculty.
 - The summer payroll review period (June 29-July 10) will be explained in the email that will go out next week. Employees will be encouraged to review their payroll information and make adjustments where necessary.
 - A senator asked a question about the calculations for salary. Faculty should divide their pay by 1560 to get their hourly rate. The leave balance buyout will be available from May 1-31.
 - A senator asked for there to be very specific titles, etc., for trainings so that employees know which trainings are appropriate for their role.
 - A senator asked a question about required training. Module 1 will be required for every employee. Remaining module trainings will be role-dependent.
 - Vice President Carrick indicated that any employee who has additional deductions taken out for withholding will have those deductions come out each pay period. Employees should be aware of this during the change period and make the change.

- A senator asked about other types of deductions, and VP Carrick indicated that she will check on that to be sure the correct information is given.
 - A senator asked about summer pay for faculty. Ms. Falke indicated that the system will align with the date range of the role that an employee has.
 - **Senate President (Dr Miller)**
 - I promise to keep this short today.
 - At this time of year, many of us are feeling the weight of what has been a particularly demanding and, in many ways, unusually challenging year. The workload and obstacles we have taken on have exceeded what we typically experience, and that effort is evident. Thank you for the resilience and commitment you have shown in navigating it all. That said, as today's agenda reminds us, the work does not stop.
 - As we move into the summer months, I hope you are able to take moments to pause and recharge—even briefly—while recognizing that our work continues. In addition to our usual summer responsibilities and plans, several committees will need to meet over the break. Please remember that committee chairs will continue in their roles until the new senate convenes in August. The committee sign-up survey has been completed, and Dr. Campbell and I will be coordinating with faculty to finalize committee memberships and fill any remaining chair positions.
 - Having said all of that, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your support, guidance, and collaboration throughout this year.
 - Two years ago, on the day I became President-elect, I was walking out of Brown Hall behind two Senators—one of them a former Faculty Senate President—and I overheard him say that his time serving as President was the worst year of his academic life at Northwest. I can honestly say my experience has been very different. In all my years working, both in academia and beyond, I have never been surrounded by people I admire and trust more. Your dedication to this university, to our students, staff, and especially to the faculty, impresses me every day. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to serve alongside you.
 - I want to offer a special thank you to President-elect Luke Campbell, Past President Rob Voss, Secretary Jill Baker, and Parliamentarian Johnny Chuang. They have always been willing to step in when needed, and just as importantly, they have been honest and candid when it mattered most. This year's accomplishments would not have been possible without them.
 - Thank you for your time, for being here, and for your continued service to our institution. The Faculty Senate plays a vital role in shared governance, and your engagement helps ensure that the faculty voice remains central to the decisions that shape our university.
 - **Committee Reports**
 - Academic Petitions (Dr. Tony Olson)
 - Senator Olson reported that the committee heard 26 general petitions 119 excess credit petitions.
 - Assessment and Retention (Dr. Shantel Farnan)
 - Senator Farnan reported that the General Education Assessment committee charges were given, and the committee was asked to send Dr. Hepworth any changes.
 - Outcomes Committee

- Senator Rolfes and Senator Farnan sat on the outcomes committee and gave feedback and received information from Dr. McBride and Dr. Tapps on the curriculum scorecard.
 - Dr. McBride is asking for a summer subcommittee to look at the key themes that the committee provided regarding program outcomes.
- Teaching and Learning Committee
 - The committee submitted its review of 12 applications for the Teaching and Learning grant. Crystal Combs, Shelly Hiatt, Kyle Miller, and Tish Warner served on the committee.
- CDR (Dr. Cindy Tu)
 - Senator Tu reported :
 - CDR- discussed during previous agenda item
 - DCM- discussed during previous agenda item
 - Grad Council- committee met and approved 1 graduate faculty and 14 adjuncts.
- Research
 - The committee finalized reviewing the research committee guidelines. Dr. H-P will meet with Dr. Ward regarding components of the guidelines.
 - IRB- 42 applications for IRB were submitted, and 34 were approved.
- Faculty Welfare, Budget, and Finance (Senator Hillard)
 - Senator Hillard reported that the committee met to discuss the position of faculty involvement in the strategic planning
 - The committee discussed using the Faculty Senate standing committees rather than creating a significant additional workload in workgroups, etc.
 - The committee will continue to work on advocacy relative to compensation.
- **Old Business**
 - Report from the WG90 Committee
 - Discussed during a previous agenda item
 - Report from the AI Committee
 - Senator Hill reported that the committee is working to get examples of AI proposals so that faculty can have examples to use for syllabus language.
 - Senator Hill reported that once the language is in place, there will be an FAQ and resources within a website to assist faculty.
 - Report from the Shared Governance Committee
 - President-Elect Campbell reported that the committee is still looking for a member from the Staff Council and that the committee will meet next week via Zoom.
 - The committee will begin work on Charge 1, which is to research schools of similar size, etc., to benchmark.
- **New Business**
 - Presentation on AIP Data (Senator Adam)
 - The presentation is attached to the minutes.

- **Items from the Floor**

- A senator asked a question about the ADA compliance table on the OP syllabus. Dr. Ward stated that this table can be copied, but be mindful and cautious when using tables.
- A senator asked a question of Dr. Ward regarding the template for promotion and tenure being posted this summer. Dr. Ward indicated that she has received feedback, and there will be an email sent directly to faculty when the feedback has been completed and the template is ready.
- A senator indicated that the ADA compliance deadline has been pushed back by the federal government. Dr. Ward indicated that the information has just recently been shared with the chairs, and deadlines are forthcoming.

- **Closed Session**

- None needed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Baker

Faculty Senate Secretary