

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

April 8, 2026

Members in Attendance:

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

Members Absent:

None

- **Call to Order**
 - President Miller called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
- **Approval of Agenda Motion by Senator Adam /seconded by Senator Lim**
 - The agenda was approved unanimously.
- **Approval of Minutes Motion by Senator Adam /seconded by Senator Farnan**
 - The minutes were approved unanimously.
- **Reports:**
 - **Provost Report (Dr. Ward)**
 - Dr. Hepworth reported in place of Dr. Ward and shared an update about the 90-credit-hour degree programs
 - Dr. Hepworth shared the scope of the work.
 - Minimum of 90 total credit hours required for degree completion
 - 24 credit hours of approved core coursework (9 hours required: Engl 10111, Com 102 and a choice of HIST 33155 / HIST 33156 / PS 34102)
 - Missouri Politics course, or Civics exam, would remain, per [RsMO 170.013](#)
 - Minimum of 18 credit hours above the 300 level
 - Minimum of 24 credit hours completed at Northwest Missouri State University (Residency Requirement)
 - Up to 66 transfer credit hours may be applied toward the degree
 - Students may transfer in more than 66 credit hours, but only 66 may count toward degree completion
 - Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 overall
 - Minimum GPA of 2.0 in coursework completed at Northwest
 - No additional institutional degree requirements beyond those listed above
 - Degree criteria requiring students to be two years post high school graduation/GED to better align with the charge to support adult learners and potentially strengthen recruiting with community colleges

- Dr. Hepworth fielded a question from a senator about the impact of these degree programs on the online professional programs.
 - Dr. Hepworth fielded a question from a senator about the statutory nature of the teaching of the Constitution in this program
 - Dr. Hepworth indicated that Dr. Ward has asked for CDR and DCM to convene to move the process through and get it to HLC
 - President Miller called for a vote to approve the report as stated. Report approved unanimously.
- **University Police Chief Amanda Cullin**
 - No report
- **Associate Provost, Academic Operations and Assessment (Dr. Tapps)**
 - No report
- **Human Resources (Mrs. Krista Barcus)**
 - No report
- **Infrastructure and Capital Programs- Mr. Scott Kuhlemeyer and Mr. Derek DeMott**
 - Mr. Kuhlemeyer reported on the various projects that are happening on campus, specifically stating that the steam plant will be taken down this summer, but the chiller plant will stay
 - Mr. Kuhlemeyer reported that the project has upgraded the HVAC systems and automation controls in individual buildings.
 - Mr. Kuhlemeyer shared about space heaters on campus. He indicated that the systems are being fine-tuned and that this season will be the last winter with the older heating system. He has asked that space heaters no longer be used in the next heating season so that the system can be fine-tuned to work accurately. Instead, he asks individuals to place work orders to get the heating and cooling back within range. The work orders will help Facilities Services to make sure that the system is balanced and working well. In the instance that a system can't get regulated, Facilities Services would work to provide a space heater. The target range will be 68 degrees to 75 degrees. This range is determined by the Missouri Energy Standards.
 - Mr. Kuhlemeyer asked that all space heaters be taken home this summer so that they can fine-tune the system.
 - Mr. Kuhlemeyer and Mr. DeMott fielded questions from senators, specifically about the work order process, individual thermostatic control, and the heating and cooling related to power outages.
 - Vice President Carrick addressed the question about response times for work orders.
- **Senate President (Dr Miller)**
 - In the best way possible, the end is near. Thank you for taking the time to be 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.
 - As we begin today's meeting, we have a full agenda that reflects both ongoing operations and new matters requiring our attention. In addition to our regular

reports, we are joined today by Mr. Scott Kuhlemeyer, Director of Capital Programs, and Mr. Derek DeMott, Capital Programs Engineer, who will discuss the proposed Space Heater Policy prior to its presentation to the Board of Regents.

- I have also been in contact with Alex Cruz in Institutional Research, who will soon be distributing a survey asking faculty to indicate their committee preferences. I encourage you to reach out within your schools to remind colleagues that service to the university is an important responsibility, and participation on Faculty Senate committees is a meaningful way to fulfill that expectation.
- Among our primary tasks today are the elections for next year's Faculty Senate officers—Vice President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian—as well as the selection of representatives for the Promotion and Tenure Committee. I am confident that Dr. Campbell will provide strong and effective leadership for Northwest Missouri State University's 53rd Faculty Senate. At the same time, it is essential that we provide the support necessary for success in that role. I have been fortunate this year to work alongside dedicated colleagues, including Rob Voss, Luke Campbell, Johnny Chuang, and Jill Baker. As Rob, Johnny, and Jill conclude their service in the coming weeks, we recognize and appreciate the significant contributions they have made. I am confident that the incoming officers, with the support of next year's Faculty Senate will continue this strong work.
- By way of reminder, the Promotion and Tenure Committee consists of one eligible faculty member (full professor) from each school. Schools may nominate up to two candidates, with the Faculty Senate selecting the representative. Membership rotates on a two-year cycle, with approximately half of the schools participating in elections each year. The School of Agricultural Sciences currently does not have a full professor and, therefore, is not represented on the committee at this time.
- As we move through today's agenda, I encourage thoughtful discussion, respectful dialogue, and a continued focus on decisions that advance our academic mission and support our students and faculty.
- **Committee Reports**
 - Academic Petitions (Dr. Tony Olson)
 - No report
 - Assessment and Retention (Dr. Shantel Farnan)
 - Senator Farnan reported that the committee met on March 26 and discussed the change in scale for the outcomes. Dr. Mike McBride gave updates to the committee regarding the Curriculum Scorecard.

- Outcomes Committee
 - The committee has not met, as there are not outcomes to consider, but Dr. Rolfes will attend the next Assessment and Retention committee as a guest since outcomes will be discussed.
 - Teaching and Learning Committee
 - The committee has given their feedback to Registrar Terri Vogel.
 - CDR (Dr. Cindy Tu)
 - Senator Tu reported :
 - CDR- no report
 - DCM- no report
 - Grad Council- no report
 - Research
 - No report
 - Faculty Welfare, Budget, and Finance (Senator Hillard)
 - Senator Hillard reported that the committee meets next week.
- **Old Business**
 - Report from the WG90 Committee
 - President Miller indicated that Dr. Hepworth provided most of the information in her previous report. Names for the degrees have been forwarded to the next level of decision-making individuals.
 - Report from the AI Committee
 - Past President Voss reported that the committee met for the first time on April 7. The committee reviewed the charges that had been given to them. The committee will meet again on April 21 to develop a 3 or 4-part AI usage policy for faculty for the fall syllabus language.
 - Report from the Shared Governance Committee
 - Vice President Campbell reported that there are two people interested in being on the committee and that the charges for the committee have been shared by Dr. Ward.
- **New Business**
 - Promotion and Tenure Committee Elections
 - Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Dr. Brett Chloupek
 - Computer Science and Information Systems
 - Dr. Ajay Bandi
 - Communication and Mass Media
 - Dr. John Katsion
 - Mathematics and Statistics
 - Dr. Jenni Wall
 - Health Science and Wellness
 - Dr. Shelley Hiatt
 - Language, Literature, and Writing
 - Dr. Joseph Haughey
 - 53rd Faculty Senate Officer Elections
 - Vice President/President-Elect: Peter Adam
 - Parliamentarian- Cindy Tu
 - Secretary- Jesse Lane

- **Items from the Floor**

- A senator noted that there are two copies of the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Miller will check into this.
- This year's Lemon Lecture series will be held on April 9 at 7 pm in the Boardroom, with Jeffery Rosen giving the lecture.
- A senator asked a question about the changes in the promotion and tenure application process. Discussion ensued.
- A senator asked a question about the ADA accessibility deadline for changes to the course sites and coursework. Dr. Hepworth fielded the question and several others. Dr. Hepworth indicated her willingness to sit with faculty to help them through the process.

- **Closed Session**

- The Senate adjourned into closed session at 4:55 pm. Closed session adjourned at 5:11 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Baker

Faculty Senate Secretary