

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

**March 11, 2026**

**Members in Attendance:**

Peter Adam, Tony Olson, Luke Rolfes, Mike Miller, Jill Baker, Jason Holderieath (alt. for 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, Casey Abington, Rob Voss, Bao Pham, Cindy Schairer-Kessler, Luke Campbell

**Members Absent:**

Oscar Perez-Hernandez

- **Call to Order**
  - President Miller called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.
- **Approval of Agenda Motion by Senator Adam /seconded by Senator Olson**
  - The agenda was approved unanimously.
- **Approval of Minutes Motion by Senator Adam /seconded by Senator Olson**
  - The minutes were approved unanimously.
- **Reports:**
  - **Provost Report (Dr. Ward)**
    - Dr. Ward shared information about the 90-hour degree proposals
      - There is some confusion over continuing degrees versus new degrees
      - The 90-hour degree is aimed at adult learners
      - Other institutions might be competing with us, but we are early on this compared to others; moving in this direction because the state is pushing on us; Mississippi, Indiana, and Idaho all have pushes for this.
      - Dr. Ward is looking for volunteers for a working group on Mondays at 4 for the next year to work through this degree challenge.
        - This group will be tasked with exploring and putting together some sort of degree, but also a plan and strategy moving forward; Age is a concern
      - Dr. Ward fielded questions from senators about the budget modeling from the state, with clarification based on reporting from Jefferson City.
  - **University Police Chief Amanda Cullin**
    - No report
  - **Associate Provost, Academic Operations and Assessment (Dr. Tapps)**
    - No report
  - **Human Resources (Mrs. Krista Barcus)**
    - No report
  - **Registrar (Mrs. Terri Vogel)**
    - Mrs. Vogel asked for feedback on rollout to Banner 9
      - Mrs. Vogel shared that there was no opportunity to test Banner 9 based on single sign-on, and the campus is trying to get away from customization in Banner because of a lack of IT staff. There are staff assigned directly to individual offices.
      - Mrs. Vogel provided updates on PIN numbers and communication styles.

- **Dr. Laura Kauzlarich (with members of the committee)**
      - Celebration of Scholars Report – Spring 2026, March 18 is the deadline for submissions
- **Senate President (Dr Miller)**
  - As we enter the final two months of service for the 52nd Faculty Senate, I want to congratulate and thank each of you for the dedication and hard work you have contributed this year. At the same time, we recognize that there is still important work ahead.
  - One of the first items on that work agenda is the development of accelerated bachelor's programs here at Northwest. On Monday, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Voss, and I met with Provost Ward to begin moving this initiative forward. Our goal is for Northwest to be a leader rather than a follower as these programs develop across other institutions. I look forward to working with several of you on this effort in the near future.
  - Additionally, I would like to commend Dr. Ward for her clear commitment to shared governance. This commitment is demonstrated through her regularly scheduled meetings with the Faculty Senate President, Vice President, and Past President—future meetings are already scheduled—as well as through her attendance at Faculty Senate meetings, and our inclusion in meetings with leaders of other units across campus. I believe she genuinely values shared governance and recognizes it as an essential component of a successful academic institution.
  - I would also like to mention that tomorrow morning I will be presenting the Faculty Senate report to the Board of Regents. In the previous Faculty Senate reports we have focused on the faculty contributions in research, in the classroom, and in our communities. Tomorrow, the report focus will be on the Faculty Senate accomplishments, highlighting what we have accomplished so far this year and where we hope to go in the coming months. I have requested input from the chairs of our reporting committees, but if there is anything you would like included, please let me know as soon as possible, but please keep it short. I plan to complete the report tonight as I am required to submit an advance copy before the meeting.
  - Finally, I encourage each of you to help spread the word and join us for the *Celebration of Scholars* on April 1. I always leave that event impressed by the outstanding work of our students and faculty, and each year seems more impressive than the last. It is also a great deal of fun.
- **Committee Reports**
  - Academic Petitions (Dr. Tony Olson)
    - Senator Olson reported that the committee met February 12 and reviewed 7 petitions. All petitions were approved.
    - Academic Integrity Panel- working on revising policy based on previous understanding and processes. 30 cases were filed by one

department at once, but that breaks the process, and departments need to slow down.

- Assessment and Retention (Dr. Shantel Farnan)
  - Senator Farnan reported that teaching and learning grants are due on the 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Senator Farnan reported that outcomes will come later; assessment and retention will come later.
  - Senator Farnan reported that survey results will come later.
    - Key themes in the survey are lack of awareness of the assessment process; concern with data accuracy and relevancy to various actors; no routing of documentation; One sized approach does not work through every program; The Core is a program when it comes to outcomes and understandings; disconnects between teaching practices and assessments; Faculty said that faculty need to give input into the design
- CDR (Dr. Cindy Tu)
  - Senator Tu reported :
    - CDR- no report
    - DCM- no report
    - Grad Council- Council met and approved 11 proposals and elected a new chair.
- Research
  - Senator Perez-Hernandez reported that the committee met and is still working on guidelines.
  - IRB- no report
  - Animal welfare- no report
- Faculty Welfare, Budget, and Finance (Senator Hillard)
  - Senator Hillard reported that the committee met on 3/10 and discussed the following:
    - Compensation- continued discussion about compensation structures and workload calculations.
    - The committee has one more meeting in April
- **Old Business**
  - Upcoming election-
    - No report
- **New Business**
  - Proposals
    - GEOL - 27540 – Paleontology
      - Motion to approve by Senator Olson/seconded by Senator Adam
        - Yay-18, Nay-0, Abstention-0
        - Motion Passes
    - MATH - 17635 - Computer Methods in Statistics I
      - Motion to approve by Senator Olson/seconded by Senator Adam
        - Yay-18, Nay-0, Abstention-0
        - Motion Passes
    - MATH - 17639 - Data Analysis
      - Motion to approve by Senator Olson/seconded by Senator Adam
        - Yay-18, Nay-0, Abstention-0
        - Motion Passes

- POLS - 34424 – Terrorism
      - Motion to approve by Senator Olson/seconded by Senator Adam
        - Yay-17, Nay-0, Abstention-1
        - Motion Passes
    - Social Studies: History Comprehensive Major, 51 hours: B.S. Ed. (Certifies grades 9-12)
      - Motion to approve by Senator Olson/seconded by Senator Adam
        - Yay-17, Nay-0, Abstention-1
        - Motion Passes
  - **Items from the Floor**
    - The 90-credit-hour accelerated bachelor's degree was addressed again
    - AI panel request – please inform faculty of the need for input; this will be chaired by Rob Voss, and Linda Gray-Smith is on board. The AI Panel will include significant conversations around policy, procedures, best practices, and directions for the university moving forward. The timing for this will convene before the end of the semester and will be an ongoing group providing advising for the provost and university leadership.
    - The Maya Angelou poet winner will be on campus at 5:30 pm on Thursday.
    - Concern with an enrollment issue for CatPaws with the registrar and enrolling for classes
    - Concerns with paycheck allocation moving forward with two-week pay and how that is structured. The provost pointed out that there are only 10 people on campus who do not take their pay spread throughout the year. The pay structure will help new hires have income sooner than waiting for a month or more for their first paycheck.
    - Concern with OP course loads of up to 25, but no extra pay until 30 students or more. The provost mentioned that she will look into the pay structure.
    - Concern was expressed over a lack of faculty representation on the Workday steering committee, however there are school chairs and college deans on the committee.
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  - **Closed Session**
    - None

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Voss, Past President for

Jill Baker

Faculty Senate Secretary