

Academic Senate
October 10, 2025
Cowan Hall # 310
Meeting Minutes

Membership: Valerie Guyant, Mark Seiffert, Laura Gomez, Karyn Billmayer, Kasthuri Udayakumar, Joyce Mphande-Finn, Grant Olson, Randy Bachmeier, Anna Bowker, Aaron Riggin

Members Present: Valerie Guyant, Mark Seiffert, Laura Gomez, Kasthuri Udayakumar, Grant Olson, Randy Bachmeier, and Karyn Billmayer

Guests: Jennifer Brown, Scott Guyant

Recorder: Jodi Kueffler

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Valerie Guyant at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda:

- Motion was made by Laura Gomez to approve the agenda as amended.
- The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
- Question
- Approved

Minutes:

- Motion was made by Laura Gomez to approve the minutes from September 9, 2025.
- The second was made by Mark Seiffert.
- Question
- Approved

Chancellor/Provost Updates:

- TekNoXpo was a huge success with over 350 students attending.
- Several individuals observed and assisted with TekNoXpo including: Roberta Tilleman, SkillsUSA Montana State Director; Glen Disque, State Director of Registered Apprenticeship, and Sara Engle, Montana Department of Labor & Industry Engagement Strategist.
- Career Fair was a success and we will be exploring strategies to encourage even more students to participate.
- Midterm grades were due last Friday.
- Promotion and Tenure Dinner takes place tonight.

- Attended the MUS AI Leadership Retreat last month.
 - Montana Digital Academy presented information on their resources for campuses. Hoping to invite them to our campus for a forum next semester.
 - University of Montana has their own AI bot separate from the internet that is safe to input proprietary data. There is a plan to make this accessible to each campus in the future.
 - Scott Guyant and Emilee Luke are working together on a weekly AI column in the *Northern Network News*.

External Committee Reports:

- **NWCCU**
 - Once the proposed new programs are approved we will be requesting NWCCU to approve them.
- **UAC**
 - UAC met in September and several policies were voted on and approved.

Senate Committee Reports:

- **Admissions and Standards**
 - There was one GPA appeal reviewed.
- **Curriculum**
 - The committee met earlier this month to review three new proposals.
- **Financial Aid**
 - There are no updates at this time.
- **General Education**
 - The committee recently met and approved two ARTZ courses and reviewed one new proposal.
- **Graduate Council**
 - There are no updates at this time.
- **Instruction, Research, Faculty Development & Cultural Programming**
 - The committee plans to meet next Tuesday.
- **Library & Instructional Technology**
 - There are no updates at this time.

Proposals:

- 25-01; Major Revision – Integrated Health Sciences – PAH Track

- The proposed changes will allow students more flexibility to accommodate their needs.
- Discussion on changing “health science” to “health-related” in description under Upper Division Health-Related Courses since PSY courses are part of the choices.
- Discussion to include Physics courses under Pre-Allied Health Courses as a choice.
- A motion was made by Grant Olson to approve the proposal with “science” changed to “related” under Upper Division Health-Related Courses and the inclusion of PHSX under Pre-Allied Health Courses.
- The second was made by Laura Gomez
- Question
- Approved
- 25-02; Major Revision – Integrated Health Sciences – ExSci Track
 - Proposed changes to allow students more curriculum flexibility.
 - A motion was made by Laura Gomez to approve.
 - The second was made by Kasthuri Udayakumar.
 - Question
 - Approved
- 24-03; Course Prefix and Revision Change – History of Rock and Roll
 - This course was originally a MUSI prefix under common course numbering.
 - The course is designed to be a general humanities class, which does not fit with MUSI prefix.
 - Proposing to change the course prefix from MUSI to LSH and change the course description to accurately reflect the focus of the class.
 - A motion was made by Mark Seiffert to approve.
 - The second was made by Grant Olson.
 - Question
 - Approved

Old Business:

- Grant Olson, MSU-Northern’s MUSFAR representative, provided an update from the September Board of Regents’ meeting.
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - At this time there is no plan to create a blanket AI policy as the technology is moving too fast.
 - Explored the philosophical and ethical perspective of students using AI and how to address students who do not see it as academically dishonest.
 - Other campuses have regularly scheduled meetings between Academic Senate and Administration. Would like to explore ways to do the same on our campus.

New Business:

- 2026-27 Academic Calendar

- Discussion was held on 17-week versus 15-week semester. Would need to change from 50-minute classes to 60-minute classes.
- Are we losing students due to the length of our semester?
- Faculty prefer to begin fall semester on Monday rather than Wednesday.
- Senate would like to review the policy for calculating seat time.
- Having the break before mid-terms would be more beneficial than waiting until after.
- Mark Seiffert announced the newly elected union officers: Valerie Guyant, President; Laura Gomez, Vice President; Kenny Wait, Treasurer; and Gwen Hart, Secretary.
- Dual Enrollment
 - Need to consider how dual enrollment is approached.
 - As more students are utilizing it, professors are hearing more from high school counselors as students don't understand the college process.
 - Many schools are using dual enrollment as they do not have qualified teachers for the subject matter.
 - Our library is finding students cannot access our library resources through high school libraries.

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Laura Gomez.
- The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
- Question
- Approved

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jodi Kueffler