

**Academic Senate
February 10, 2026
Cowan Hall # 314
Meeting Minutes**

Membership: Valerie Guyant, Mark Seiffert, Laura Gomez, Karyn Billmayer, Kasthuri Udayakumar, Grant Olson, Randy Bachmeier, Anna Bowker, Aaron Riggin, Curtis Smeby

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

Guests: Scott Guyant

Recorder: Jodi Kueffler

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Valerie Guyant at 4:04 p.m.

Agenda:

- Motion was made by Grant Olson to approve the agenda.
- The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
- Question
- Approved

Minutes:

- Motion was made by Kasthuri Udayakumar to approve the minutes from October 10, 2025.
- The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
- Question
- Approved

Chancellor/Provost Updates:

- There are no updates at this time.

External Committee Reports:

- **NWCCU**
 - There are no updates at this time.
- **UAC**
 - There are no updates at this time.

Senate Committee Reports:

- **Admissions and Standards**

- There were a lot of petitions and have moved through them.
- Curriculum
 - The committee met earlier this month to review several new proposals.
 - It was noted that all proposals should have all required signatures before moving forward to additional committees.
- Financial Aid
 - The committee has met twice since the beginning of the semester.
 - Please be aware when advising students their financial aid could be impacted when attempted credit hours exceed federal guidelines, particularly if they have switched their major or transferred from other institutions.
- General Education
 - The committee recently met and approved several proposals.
- Graduate Council
 - The committee has not met but plans to in the next couple weeks.
- Instruction, Research, Faculty Development & Cultural Programming
 - The committee met and are working on faculty awards.
 - OTLE has a new director to work with.
- Library & Instructional Technology
 - There are no updates at this time.

Proposals:

- 25-04; New Course Proposal - ANTY 3XX Archaeology and History Abroad
- 25-05: Request for Inclusion in General Education Core - ANTY 3XX Archaeology and History Abroad
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to batch proposals 25-04 and 25-05.
 - The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - These courses support the study abroad programming in many worldwide locations.
 - There is a prerequisite (LSH 107) for .01 credits which provides health and safety training along with course fees to comply with traveling abroad.
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to amend the description to allow students to take course more than once if traveling to different location.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Motion was made to accept the proposals with the amendment was made by Mark Seiffert.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.

- Question.
- Approved.
- 25-06; New Course Proposal - LSH 3XX Art and Philosophies Abroad
- 25-07; Request for Inclusion in General Education Core - LSH 3XX Art and Philosophies Abroad
 - Motion was made by Grant Olson to batch proposals 25-06 and 25-07.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to amend the description to allow students to take course more than once if traveling to different location.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Motion was made by Grant Olson to amend the title to “Arts and Philosophies Abroad.”
 - The second was made by Mark Seiffert.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Motion was made to accept the proposals with the two amendments by Mark Seiffert.
 - The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-08; New Course Proposal - LSH 3XX The People and Culture Abroad
- 25-09; Request for Inclusion in General Education Core - LSH 3XX The People and Cultures Abroad
 - Motion was made by Grant Olson to batch proposals 25-08 and 25-09.
 - The second was made by Mark Seiffert.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to amend the title to “The People and Cultures Abroad.”
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to change from “Humanities” course to “Cultural Diversity” course to align with the General Education Category.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Motion was made to accept the proposals with the two amendments by Mark Seiffert.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.

- 25-10; New Course Proposal - COMX 1XX Performance as Communication
- 25-11; Request for Inclusion in General Education Core - COMX 1XX Performance as Communication
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to batch proposals 25-10 and 25-11.
 - The second was made by Kasthuri Udayakumar.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - This course will allow students an alternative to the general education communication requirement.
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to accept the proposals.
 - The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-12; Course Revision - GEO 211 Earth History and Evolution
- 25-13; Course Revision - GEO 212 Earth History and Evolution Lab
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to batch proposals 25-12 and 25-13.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Updated the description.
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to accept the proposals.
 - The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-14; Course Name Change - GPHY 380 Principles of GIS (formerly known as Geographic Information Systems)
- 25-15; Course Name Change - GPHY 357 GPS Fundamentals/Applications in Mapping (formerly known as AOT 301: Global Positioning Systems)
 - Updated course prefix and name to align with MUS Common Course Numbering (CCN).
 - With the prefix change the courses will move from College of Technical Sciences (COTS) to College of Arts, Sciences and Education (CASE).
 - Motion was made Laura Gomez to table 25-14 and 25-15 to allow COTS a chance to vote on this change.
 - The second was made by Mark Seiffert.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Sent out for review and approval by electronic vote on February 24, 2026. The proposals were approved.
- 25-16; New Program Proposal - Career Certificate in GIS
 - Creates a certificate that will be offered online to help our students and professionals increase industry knowledge and increase pay by moving up in pay scale.
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to accept the proposal.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.

- Approved.
- 25-17; New Course Proposal - GPHY 3XX Raster GIS
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to accept the proposal.
 - The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-18; New Course Proposal - GPHY 3XX Technology in GIS
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to accept the proposal.
 - The second was made by Karyn Billmayer.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-19; New Course Proposal - GPHY 3xx Vector GIS
 - Motion was made by Kasthuri Udayakumar to accept the proposal.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.

Old Business:

- Dual Enrollment
 - Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is paying attention to whether faculty have obtained their Class 8 License when teaching dual enrollment.
- Academic Calendar
 - MSU Billings and MSU have 55-minute classes allowing the semester to end earlier than MSU-Northern.
 - To make any change it university faculty would need to vote.
 - Are we losing students due to the length of our semester or is this just a faculty concern?
 - Senate would like to further review the policy for calculating seat time to use in recruitment process.

New Business:

- Senate would like to review various options for managing the study abroad program.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jodi Kueffler

