

Academic Senate
March 10, 2026
Cowan Hall #310
Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Valerie Guyant, Mark Seiffert, Anna Bowker, Laura Gomez, Kasthuri Udayakumar, Grant Olson, Randy Bachmeier, Curtis Smeby, Aaron Riggan,

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 Grant Olson to approve the agenda.
- The second was made by Aaron Riggan.
- Question.
- Approved.

Minutes:

- Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to approve the minutes from February 10, 2026.
- The second was made by Laura Gomez.
- Question.
- Approved.

Chancellor/Provost Updates:

- ADA compliance deadline is April 24, 2026. There will be a follow up virtual compliance training for anyone who is interested in the near future.
- Have been working with the Deans and Chairs on revamping program review process to include actionable items. Would like Academic Senate to review and potentially ratify the process.
- Lot of faculty searches going on and want to thank the members of the search committees for serving on these committees.
- Will be attending the Board of Regents meeting in Dillon this week along with the AI retreat on Friday.

External Committee Reports:

- NWCCU
 - Mid-Cycle Review Self-Evaluation Report is due in early August, with an on-site visit planned for October.
- UAC
 - There are no updates at this time.

Senate Committee Reports:

- Admissions and Standards
 - There are no updates at this time.
- Curriculum
 - The committee met earlier this month to review several new proposals, with some tabled for further review.
- Financial Aid
 - The committee met to review a few petitions.
 - The committee is gearing up on scholarship items for the Awards Ceremony.
 - The last legislative session adopted changes to the American Indian Tuition Waiver, which will take place July 1, 2026.
- General Education
 - The committee recently met and approved several proposals and tabled a couple for further review.

- Graduate Council
 - The committee met last week and approved new course proposal WRIT 550.
 - Reviewed strategy for hiring adjuncts in the Counselor Education program.
 - Reviewing Instruction and Learning program to consider placing in moratorium due to enrollment under resourced.
- Instruction, Research, Faculty Development & Cultural Programming
 - The committee met and are working on faculty distinction awards.
 - Would like to have two speakers with one each semester to give TED Talks type presentation in the Theatre with the bar open to make them more fun.
- Library & Instructional Technology
 - There are no updates at this time.

Proposals:

- 25-20; Course Name Change – GDSN 240 Branding & Ad Campaign Design (formerly known as Electronic Design 1)
 - Working with Miles City Community College on an articulation agreement.
 - Course already in MUS Common Course Numbering (CCN), but since only offered here and Miles City Community College it can be renamed.
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to approve.
 - The second was made by Grant Olson.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-21; New Course Proposal – WRIT 550 Advanced Professional Writing
 - This course was created since WRIT 350 Technical Editing would need new written outcomes to become a graduate level course.
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to approve.
 - The second was made by Curtis Smeby.
 - Question.

- Approved.
- 25-22; New Course Proposal - ANTY 210 Intro to Biological Anthropology with Lab
- 25-23; Request for Inclusion in General Education Core - ANTY 210 Intro to Biological Anthropology with Lab
 - Motion was made by Grant Olson to batch proposals 25-22 and 25-23.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - New courses that could be used for possible future anthropology minor.
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to approve.
 - The second was made by Aaron Riggin.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-24; New Course Proposal - ANTY 220 Culture and Society
- 25-25; Request for Inclusion in General Education Core - ANTY 220 Culture and Society
 - Motion was made by Grant Olson to batch proposals 25-24 and 25-25.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - Course falls under General Education Categories IV and V.
 - Motion was made by Grant Olson to approve.
 - The second was made by Laura Gomez.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-26; New Course Proposal - ANTY 351 Archaeology of North America
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to approve.
 - The second was made by Kasthuri Udayakumar.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
- 25-29; Major Program Revision - Minor Applied Ag
- 25-30; Major Program Revision – Bachelor of Agricultural Operations Technology

- 25-31; Major Program Revision - Applied Associates of Agriculture Technology
 - Motion was made by Laura Gomez to batch proposals 25-29, 25-30, and 25-31.
 - The second was made by Grant Olson.
 - Question.
 - Approved.
 - All three proposals changed AG 150 to CAPP 156.
 - The minor and advisor approved elective language in the bachelor's degree revised.
 - Motion was made by Mark Seiffert to approve.
 - The second was made by Anna Bowker.
 - Question.
 - Approved.

Old Business:

- Academic Calendar
 - MSU-Billings has 55-minute classes allowing their semester to end earlier than MSU-Northern.
 - To make any change, university faculty would need to vote.
 - Some students would like longer breaks to work more.
 - Grant will research how longer class time would affect the semester and if there any negatives to this model and report back.
 - Curtis will research how UM does a session between fall and spring semester and report back.
- Meeting with Administration
 - Other campuses have regular meetings with Administration.
 - Would having a regular meeting benefit faculty and provide for clearer communication?
 - Would it be beneficial to send a representative to Core?
 - The Provost will discuss options with the Chancellor and report back.

New Business:

- Study Abroad Subcommittee
 - Do we need a subcommittee so it isn't just Grant and Kyra involved?
 - Plan to vote at April meeting on whether a subcommittee should be made or if this should be included in another committee.

- Would need to amend the Senate By-Laws accordingly.
- Dual Enrollment
 - MUSFAR will be discussing this topic during the Board of Regents meeting this week.
 - Looking at why some students who take dual enrollment courses do not go on to higher education.
 - A lot of students in smaller schools are taking these courses since they are the only offering due to teacher shortages.
 - Is dual enrollment hurting universities financially?
 - If a student has a bad experience in high school will this hurt trying to recruit them to higher education? It can also be used to build good relationships to help recruit.
 - With the prevalence of the STARS Act students are incentivized to take more and more dual enrollment courses. Is the compensation matrix set up to work with universities in a positive way?

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Laura Gomez.
- The second was made by Curtis Smeby.
- Question.
- Approved.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jodi Kueffler