



Minutes of the
MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE
November 17, 2025

APPROVED

PRESENT: Ben Adams, Mary Ellen Brooks, William Dalrymple, Alexandra Doyle Bauer, Heather Elliott Pham, Adriana Guillen, Jason Jarvinen, Scott Klinger, Lawrence Lawson, Melissa Martinez, Vicki Mellos, Michael Mufson, Patrick O'Brien, Beth Pearson, Tanessa Sanchez, Karl Seiler, Russell Sheaffer, Nina Shmorhun, Nicole Siminski, Ashley Wolters, Anastasia Zavodny

ABSENT: Kelly Falcone, Wendy Gideon, Jazmin Reyes (ASG)

GUESTS: Matt Grills, Luis Guerrero, Timothy Swan II (ASG), Alyssa Vafaei Elena Villa Fernández de Castro

All votes are presumed unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President, Elizabeth Pearson, in LRC-116 at 2:34 p.m. The meeting was also streamed live on ZOOM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Lawson announced to save the date for Sunday, December 14th, for brunch at 1:00 p.m. and a 2:30 p.m. showtime for *Pastorela Fronteriza*, described as a bold reimagining of a beloved Mexican holiday tradition. PFF, CCE and ALASS are sponsoring 80 tickets, as the show is in the studio theater. An email with an RSVP link for faculty and a plus one will be sent on Thursday.

Senator Dalrymple announced a five-year follow-up survey will be distributed to all faculty, revisiting items from the fall 2020 Part Time Faculty Survey to assess how experiences and attitudes have evolved. Some new questions may be added.

Senator Mellos reminded Faculty to track any programs or courses launched by the October 1 deadline and ensure they move through approval processes by the end of the semester in order to appear in the Fall 2026 catalog.

Senator O'Brien announced that CSU transfer applications are due December 1. Students are encouraged to consult the Transfer Center website and Canvas resources containing workshops, tips, and timelines.

President Pearson announced that Effective December 1st, VP Ricaldi will serve as the acting president

until the board places an interim president. The board is scheduled to meet on December 10th for a special meeting. Since the discussion regarding the interim placement must be done in open sessions, members were encouraged to attend.

AGENDA CHANGES

- A. The AI Task Force agenda item was moved from Action to Information, as the governance sheet will not be approved by the Faculty Senate since the task force reports to the college council. The final version will be presented as information.
- B. The Subcommittee Reports Presentation was removed from the agenda and moved to the first meeting following the Thanksgiving break to allow subcommittees more time to submit reports

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC: Shmorhun/Klinger

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for November 10, 2025.

The motion carried.

ACTION

A. Committees on Committees (Exhibit 1) – Zavodny

No Business.

B. DE Resolution – Adoption of a Simple Syllabus - (Exhibits 2.1 & 2.2), Sanchez

MSC: Sanchez/Klinger

Faculty Senate to approve the adoption of the DE Resolution for use of Simple Syllabus

The Motion was withdrawn.

Discussion was extensive and focused on the tool's functionality, potential benefits, funding considerations, academic freedom concerns, data privacy, and implications for both full-time and part-time faculty.

The funding source is planned to come from eliminating a duplicative tool the college currently invests in. The estimated startup cost averages about \$35,000, though this figure has not yet been negotiated. The syllabus data would remain owned by the college, even if the tool was discontinued.

It was pointed out that Simple Syllabus pulls core course information, like dates and instructor

details, from PeopleSoft. Allowing for immediate updates. Students can access syllabi for courses

There were raised concerns about potential future mandates requiring public posting, citing an event in Florida where the tool was used to mandate public syllabi posting, which faculty there felt was chilling academic freedom.

It was clarified that adopting the tool does not mean syllabi will automatically be public, and faculty maintain ownership and can choose what specific content they wish to make public.

Concern was raised that if part-time faculty are assigned classes late, the resulting delay in publishing their syllabi might place those classes at a disadvantage if the goal is early student access.

Multiple senators expressed a desire for the resolution to include explicit language clarifying opt-in use and privacy protections.

Due to lingering concerns over privacy protections and the potential for a future mandate requiring public access, Senator Sanchez withdrew the motion so that specific language protecting faculty privacy could be added before it is brought back for a vote.

INFORMATION

A. ASG Report, Timothy Swan II, ASG Representative

The ASG representative, Timothy Swan II, reported that internal hot topics included delegate travel and re-wording bylaws. He focused his report on the upcoming board elections. He characterized the situation as an "us versus them type situation" He urged the faculty and student bodies to be unified to challenge this influence.

B. Subcommittee Report Presentation – (Exhibit 4), Pearson

Tabled.

C. AI taskforce - (Exhibit 3), Shmorhun

Nina Shmorhun presented the revised Governance Sheet for the AI Task Force (moved from action).

It was noted that this item was moved from action because the Task Force reports to the College Council, meaning it does not require formal Faculty Senate approval. Revisions, which were highlighted in red in the exhibit, were made following consultation with various groups. Key changes included changing the scope from developing policies to concentrating on standards and practices for AI use.

Senators emphasized that the development of standards must address faculty academic freedom, particularly concerning the mandatory use or non-use of AI tools in classroom instruction. It was also pointed out that the Faculty Senate Special Projects Coordinators (who conduct AI research) are members of this task force, providing a link between research and policy guidance.

Any additional feedback on the document can be sent directly to VPI Ricaldi or Senator Shmorhun

D. Call for Spring Semester Senator Nominations – (Exhibit 5), Pearson

President Pearson announced a Call for Spring Senator Nominations. She alerted the Senate to several upcoming vacancies beginning in the spring semester including the opening of a part-time seat.

President Pearson stressed the importance of having broad representation and urged faculty members to encourage colleagues to serve, noting that nominations, including self-nominations, will be solicited via an upcoming email.

DISCUSSION:

A. DE Committee Resolution: Institutional Technology – (Exhibit 6), Sanchez

Senator Sanchez presented the Distance Education Committee's resolution on Institutional Technology. The resolution was prompted by recent non-transparent decisions regarding licensing for software like Microsoft and Adobe, which initially caused issues for part-time faculty access. While the licensing issue for part-time faculty was fixed, faculty noted that part-time faculty need access to full licenses to teach courses utilizing the software.

Discussion points included:

Some senators pointed out that the lack of transparency has caused continuous disruptions affecting faculty, staff, and students, such as abrupt changes to library login processes and major software updates, such as Photoshop, occurring mid-semester, which functionally prevented media studies students from working in classrooms or at home.

Concerns were raised regarding the resolution's reliance on asking the administration to establish transparent processes. One Senator suggested that due to a lack of faith in the administration's priorities, the Faculty Senate should define a specific technology policy that it wants implemented, rather than leaving the process up to the administration.

A suggestion was made to circulate the resolution to the faculty at large because many faculty have been directly impacted by these issues.

Additional feedback or suggested policy wording should be sent to Senator Tanessa Sanchez or Senator Kelly Falcone

B. PFF Resolution: Nectir & AI – (Exhibit 7), Siminski

Senators Lawson and Siminski presented the PFF resolution focused on the PFF resolution regarding the impacts of AI and the institutional tool Nectir on faculty workload. PFF was seeking feedback from the Senate and requested consideration of co-authorship.

Discussion points included:

The resolution has been revised significantly based on extensive faculty feedback and was formally approved by PFF on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

The core resolve of the PFF resolution states that PFF opposes AI tools designed to replace or replicate faculty labor. This specific wording was intended to counter feedback suggesting PFF was attempting to eliminate useful AI tools that support faculty work.

The resolution advocates that all institutional technology, such as Nectir, must be vetted and consulted upon with faculty.

It was noted that this is a widespread concern, as the ASCCC has addressed the state implementing AI tools without consulting faculty.

A guest to the meeting noted that Professional Development (PD) would be proposing a potential alternative or parallel resolution in a future meeting. The Senate agreed to hold the PFF resolution on the discussion agenda for the next meeting (after the break) to allow review of the PD resolution, potentially leading to the combination or selection of a unified Faculty Senate resolution

C. Changes to Title V – Course Outline of Record – (Exhibit, 8.1 & 8.2), Mellos

Senator Mellos, Co-chair of the Curriculum Committee, provided a review of revisions to Title 5 that specifically impact the Course Outline of Record (COR).

Discussion points included:

The major change requires that curriculum committees adopt a documented procedure ensuring all CORs describe approaches to accommodate and engage diverse student bodies, advance equitable student outcomes, and promote the inclusion of students.

The Curriculum Committee is working on implementing corresponding changes in Canvas and will provide communication, trainings, and support to faculty during the current and next semester. This work was characterized as being a heavy lift and Curriculum is hard at work.

It was clarified that the purpose of the discussion was to provide an opportunity for Senators to weigh in and, importantly, to share this critical information with their colleagues.

D. Academic Standards & Practices Committee: Update Grade Dispute Policy – (Exhibit 9), Shmorhun

Senator Shmorhun presented the updated Grade Dispute Policy for Senate feedback and discussion. This policy is intended to replace the college's outdated existing policy. She pointed out that the ASP Committee consulted widely with groups including ASG, Student Life and Leadership, and Instructional Services while drafting the revisions.

Key Revisions Include:

Clarifying the distinction between informal versus formal grade disputes. The informal dispute procedure was updated to align with Title V, specifying that the department chair serves as the backup alternative if the original instructor cannot participate.

The time limit for a student to initiate a grade dispute is 3 years after the grade was assigned. It was pointed out that the goal is to encourage students to initiate the grade dispute process within one year to help to insure retention of records for the most fair review.

Discussion points include:

Clarification that the Superintendent/President has the final statutory authority to change a grade, following the formal appeal review panel.

Approving the policy would necessitate updating related documents, including AP4231 (Grade Changes) and the college's formal grade dispute resolution request form, which is an old, inaccessible PDF from 2008 and an easy-to-follow guideline as well as a visual flow chart are planned to ensure students understand the process.

E. Review Resolution for Classified Hiring – (Exhibit 10.1 & 10.2), Pearson

President Pearson revisited the Faculty Senate's prior resolution concerning classified staff hiring to determine the next steps. The original resolution asked the administration seven specific questions regarding staffing needs, mechanism for input, hiring plans, retention strategies, and evaluation of hiring practices.

Discussion points included:

Senators noted that limited progress has been made since the resolution. Vacancies are often "filled" by shuffling people from other spots or hiring temporary workers, inflating the appearance of hiring success.

Given the current administrative flux (the recent departure of the former president), Senators questioned the value of simply inviting the administration back for a general update.

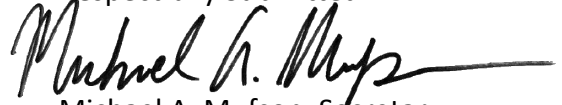
Suggestions were made to craft new, more pointed questions for VP Pedroza (who is remaining in her role) to get accurate data on vacancies and hiring plans.

It was also suggested to invite the Classified Coalition of Employees (CCE) to speak to the Senate to discuss how faculty can best support their efforts. Senators were encouraged to support CCE's planned rally/march on the 16th, which addresses Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and classified vacancies.

The discussion ended with a request for Senators to email President Pearson with further thoughts or ideas on how to proceed as she works to put something together to craft next steps.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Mufson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael A. Mufson, Secretary