



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

February 23, 2026

**APPROVED**

### **ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:** Ben Adams, Russell Backman, Mary Ellen Brooks, Alexandra Doyle Bauer, William Dalrymple, Kelly Falcone, Gene Gushansky, Jason Jarvinen, Lawrence Lawson, Melissa Martinez, Vicki Mellos, Michael Mufson, Beth Pearson, Tanessa Sanchez, Karl Seiler, Russell Sheaffer, Nina Shmorhun, Alyssa Vafaei, Ashley Wolters, Anastasia Zavodny

**ABSENT:** Heather Elliott Pham (Zoom), Scott Klinger, Nicole Siminski

**GUESTS:** Gheni Abla, Peter Bowman, Cynthia Cordova, Matt Grills, Bill Jahnel, Mark Malebranche, Benjamin Mudgett, Cody Trefethen

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 2:30 p.m. The meeting was also streamed live on ZOOM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Sanchez announced an accessibility hands-on training session this Friday at the EDGE center from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The workshop is a repeat of the four-hour session from plenary and aims to help faculty refine Canvas coursework, flyers, and social media for accessibility compliance.

Senator Dalrymple informed the Senate that it is the last week for part-time faculty healthcare enrollment. He noted that there is not an automatic re-enrollment process and there is an enrollment form available for those who need to sign up.

Senator Lawson announced that nominations are open for PFF board positions, including two full-time members, two part-time members, two at-large members, the treasurer, and the full-time co-president. Nominations are open until March 12. He clarified that board meetings are currently held in person.

Senator Mellos shared that curriculum drop-in hours will be held this Wednesday, February 24th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the curriculum tech review. Specialist Cheryl Kearse and the SLO coordinator will be available to assist faculty.

Senator Sanchez reminded faculty that the final deadline to ensure all courses are fully accessible is April 24, 2026.

Senator Mufson announced that the annual musical, "*Into the Woods*," will open in two weeks. Tickets are available on the college website.

## **AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MSC: Mufson/Gushansky**

Faculty Senate to approve the minutes for February 9, 2026 as amended.

The motion carried.

## **ACTION**

### **A. Committees on Committees (Exhibit 1) – Zavodny**

**MSC: Zavodny/Mufson**

Faculty Senate to confirm the results of the ballot for the regular committee appointments.

The Motion Carried.

**Nina Shmorhun (ESES), Faculty representative, Academic Standards and Practices (ASP) Committee**

**Jason Jarvinen (Workforce Development), Faculty representative, Learning Outcomes Council Subcommittee**

**Tanessa Sanchez (Child Development), Faculty representative, Distance Education (DE) Committee**

**Luis Guerrero (Mathematics), Faculty representative, Professional Development (PD) Committee**

**MSC: Zavodny/Shmorhun**

Faculty Senate to confirm the results of the ballot for the hiring committee for Vice President – Instruction (VPI).

The Motion Carried.

**Russell Sheaffer (Media Studies), Faculty**

**B. Curriculum Committee- (Exhibit 2), Mellos**

**MSC: Mellos/Shmorhun**

Faculty Senate to approve the Non-Credit Graphic Designer Program – Foundations of Digital Imaging curriculum action from the February 4, 2026 Curriculum Committee meeting.

The Motion Failed.

**Results of the vote:**

**In Favor – 9**

**Opposed- 4: Senators Dalrymple, Doyle Bauer, Lawson, Sheaffer**

**Abstentions – 6: Senators Adams, Barnes (ASG), Gushansky, Martinez, Sanchez, Seiler, Zavodny**

Discussion points included:

It was noted that while there were concerns about overlapping content in a specific course, that course had already been approved, and the current vote was for the program certificate. It was expressed that the departments are in challenging conversations regarding curriculum encroachment.

It was noted that while conversations are ongoing, there is currently no non-credit photography program, and failing to approve this would prevent students from earning a certificate. There was a question about how the college can catch these overlaps earlier in the process.

**MSC: Mellos/Mufson**

Faculty Senate to approve the curriculum items from the February 18<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Committee meeting.

The Motion Carried.

**C. Senate Goal: Addressing Technology Gaps - (Exhibit 3), Sanchez (Moved to Action from Information Item B.)**

**MSC: Lawson/Falcone**

Faculty Senate to adopt the resolution addressing institutional technology changes and faculty voice.

The Motion Carried.

**Abstentions – 1: Martinez**

**D. Extension of the meeting by 5 minutes – Pearson – (Motion made during Discussion Item D)**

**MSC: Shmorhun/Adams**

Faculty Senate to approve extending the meeting by five minutes.

The Motion Carried.

**Abstentions – 1: Barnes (ASG)**

## **INFORMATION**

**A. ASG Report, Barnes**

Barnes reported a significant increase in ASG applicants, with five new members joining in the last week. Upcoming events include March Madness, Cinco de Mayo, and a mental health event. Additionally, student leaders are planning an advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. to seek federal support for equity and basic needs programs.

**B. Senate Goal: Addressing Technology Gaps – (Exhibit 3), Sanchez**

Senator Sanchez presented the Distance Education (DE) Committee's resolution regarding technology gaps. The goal is to advocate for a faculty voice in institutional technology decisions, stemming from frustrations over differing access to Microsoft and Adobe suites between full-time and part-time faculty.

There was discussion around the frustration of administration failing to act on past resolutions. However, it was argued that a resolution serves as a formal official stance that can be used to hold administration accountable.

It was suggested inviting the new Director of IS to the Senate for a conversation and it was noted that while the Senate has limited power under the 10+1+1, the resolution is a necessary step.

The motion carried.

**Abstentions – 2: Senators Backman & Shmorhun**

**DISCUSSION**

**A. Pride Center Faculty Coordinator Job Description Update – (Exhibit 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3), Mudgett**

A presentation was given regarding the updated job description for the Pride Center Faculty Coordinator, which was re-evaluated following the hiring of a full-time classified support coordinator. The updates aim to align the position with specific 10+1+1 responsibilities, including educational program development, student success standards, and institutional budget processes.

It was noted that the role now involves significant accountability for annual state budget allocations, requiring detailed reporting and planning for the next several years. Furthermore, state legislation now requires an LGBTQ liaison to act as a bridge for Title IX and serve as a confidential contact for the campus community.

It was noted that the proposal includes increasing the position's term from two to three years to ensure continuity and better succession planning. During the discussion, a senator asked for clarification on the "curriculum" aspect of the description, and it was explained that this allows for the future development of a potential LGBTQ leadership certificate.

Another senator raised concerns regarding whether the current 20% reassigned time is sufficient for the expanded workload and asked for clarification on which duties are collaborative with staff versus those handled solely by the coordinator. It was emphasized that with 25% of the student population identifying as LGBTQ, the scope of support has grown to potentially interface with 8,000 students.

**B. Increase in Senate Part Time Membership Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Update – (Exhibit 5), Shmorhun Dalrymple, Martinez, Siminski**

The Senate discussed the negotiated increase in compensated part-time membership following a collective bargaining agreement update. It was noted that this effort aligns with a 2021 resolution advocating for adjunct equity and shared governance.

Based on spring 2024 survey data, four primary options were presented for increasing part-time representation: adding two new part-time seats to increase the body size, converting two full-time seats to part-time, adding two at-large seats open to all faculty, or converting two full-time seats to at-large. A fifth option to "do nothing" was also acknowledged.

A senator asked for a definition of at-large seats, and it was clarified that these would be a new category that does not change existing department caps.

Another senator remarked that adding only two seats is a "drop in the bucket" toward achieving true parity, especially considering there are approximately 700 part-time faculty compared to 300 full-time faculty.

A senator inquired about the process for moving forward, and the body reached a consensus to bring the five options back for a ranked-choice vote at the next meeting.

Finally, a senator asked about the reasoning behind current department caps, but it was noted that changing those caps is not under consideration at this time.

### **C. Constitution Review Committee Updates – (Exhibit 6), Shmorhun, Dalrymple, Martinez**

An update was provided on the ongoing efforts to refresh the Senate's Constitution and Bylaws. It was explained that while minor grammatical and structural edits are being made, the Constitution requires a two-thirds vote from all full-time faculty to pass, whereas the Bylaws can be updated by the Senate body.

It was highlighted that feedback is specifically needed regarding the eligibility requirements for the President and Vice President roles, as current survey data shows 55% of respondents believe the President should remain a tenured faculty member.

The committee also requested feedback on establishing consistent terminology for committees, subcommittees, and task forces, as well as defining processes for filling vacancies within task forces.

A historical point was raised by a senator that the prohibition on non-tenured faculty serving as President or Vice President is a relatively recent constitutional change.

### **D. GE Subcommittee Progress Report – (Exhibit 7), Mellos Mudgett**

Proposed learning outcomes for a new Area 7 General Education category were presented to the Senate. The subcommittee explained that they refined the outcomes based on prior feedback, changing the focus to "engage and navigate" local and global challenges rather than just "participate responsibly".

There was a question around how these objectives align with current local requirements, specifically American History and Institutions and Health and Kinesiology.

There was expressed strong concern that the proposal effectively eliminates these local requirements, dismissing past data where 66% of faculty voted to keep them. In response, it was noted that the proposal replaces district requirements with a three-unit Area 7 requirement, and courses like AHI could potentially fit into the new rubric.


A senator pointed out that students often transfer without degrees because of extra local requirements and argued that the college must consider the funding formula and student completion rates. However, another senator countered that educational standards should be based on student learning outcomes rather than financial incentives.

Additional data was shared indicating that other colleges that dropped local requirements did not see a subsequent increase in graduation rates and that students cited life and finances rather than course related primary barriers to completion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Michael A. Mufson, Secretary