

Meeting Minutes

Name of body: Faculty Senate

Date: March 5th, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Gilkey Auditorium, Room 105



Call to Order (3:00pm – 3:05pm)

- Roll Call:
Present: V. Moody, L. Fern, L. Calderon-Garciduenas, E. Gren, L. Krantz, C. McKague, C. Martin-Wagar, M. Hendrix, M. Schertz, A. Ware, S. Lollar, K. McKinnie, J. Bunch, K. Kane, K. Werner, V. White, M. Harrington, A. Luis, J. Tuttle, A. Carpoca, J. Musick, J. Olomi, Z. Peng, C. Breuner, D. Allen, K. Loree, C. Palmer, P. Anzollitto, D. Kellenberg, M. McGrath, P. Kirgis, A. Duwell, K. Cotton, K. Geiger, M. Shogren, C. Walker, N. Priestley, J. Eglin, M. Hamon
Absent: S. Hirner, D. Macaluso, A. Belcourt, A. Metcalf, K. Jakob, D. Affleck, C. Martin Wagar
 - Approve [02/05/2026 Meeting Minutes](#) – **Approved**
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Public Comment (3:05pm – 3:15pm)

- A letter from the department of World Languages and Cultures was read, expressing concern over the proposed moratorium of the Minor in Chinese and the non-renewal of a faculty member. The statement emphasized the importance of the program to the university's global mission, student opportunities, and institutional reputation. It also raised concerns about whether shared governance processes had been fully followed and encouraged the administration to reconsider the decision and engage in further consultation.
 - A second comment addressed broader concerns about proposed program reductions, particularly their impact on humanities disciplines and historically marginalized fields of study. The comment highlighted the significant effort students and faculty have invested in responding to these proposals and urged that their perspectives be meaningfully incorporated into ongoing deliberations.
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Reports (3:15pm – 3:40pm)

- Commissioner Christian
 - An update was provided on the presidential search process. The university has engaged a national search firm to assist with recruitment, and a strong pool of applicants has been identified. A working group has narrowed the initial applicant pool to a smaller group for preliminary interviews.

- The process is moving on an accelerated timeline in order to maintain institutional momentum and remain competitive with peer institutions conducting similar searches. Finalists are expected to participate in campus visits that will include open sessions and opportunities for community input. These visits may begin as early as late March.
- Provost Office [Update](#)
 - Provost Lawrence & Vice Provost DeBoer
 - The Provost's Office provided a broad overview of the current higher education landscape and the institutional context shaping decision-making. The presentation highlighted several key pressures facing the sector, including increased external accountability, financial sustainability challenges, questions of market relevance, and the need for greater institutional agility.
 - Additional discussion addressed emerging trends such as declining K-12 pipeline indicators, shifts in student preparation, and the growing influence of artificial intelligence on teaching, learning, and workforce expectations. The administration emphasized both the challenges and opportunities presented by these changes, noting the importance of adaptability and innovation.
 - An update was also provided on the university's Integrated Review Framework, which connects academic portfolio review, student learning assessment, and program review into a coordinated process. Updated templates have been distributed to programs undergoing review, and additional data resources will be provided to support decision-making. The framework is intended to support more consistent and forward-looking evaluation of program viability, resource allocation, and alignment with institutional priorities.
 - Clarifications were offered regarding program termination proposals. It was noted that most proposals originate from academic units themselves, while a smaller number have come from administration. Decisions are being guided by long-term sustainability, available resources, and strategic priorities rather than program quality alone. The administration acknowledged the difficulty of these decisions and emphasized that proposals remain under review through shared governance processes.
- Chair's Report
 - UBC [Report](#)
 - Faculty Senate election nominations have been distributed, and a call for committee volunteers will be issued shortly. Senators were encouraged to promote participation among colleagues. Additionally, faculty were reminded of the upcoming employee engagement survey and encouraged to support broad participation.

Old Business (3:40pm – 3:45pm)

- None

New Business (3:45pm – 4:55pm)

- ASCRC Consent [Agenda](#) – Michelle Hritsco
 - **Approved**
- Graduate Council Consent [Agenda](#) – Cara Nelson
 - **Approved**
 - In addition, an overview was provided of the Graduate Council's approach to reviewing program termination proposals. The Council is developing a structured and deliberative process that includes gathering input from relevant stakeholders, clarifying evaluation criteria, and ensuring that decisions remain within its purview of graduate education.
- ECOS Consent [Agenda](#) – Val Moody
 - Procedure 102.30 Center Review
 - **Approved**
 - Procedure 102.40 Faculty Feedback for the Administration
 - **Approved**
- [The Big Event](#) – Hailey Roduner (10 mins)
 - A presentation introduced "The Big Event," a campus-wide day of service scheduled for April 25. The initiative is modeled after a national program and is intended to strengthen the university's commitment to community engagement.
 - Students will participate in service projects throughout the Missoula community, followed by a campus celebration. The event is designed to foster leadership development, build connections between students and the community, and reinforce a sense of belonging and civic responsibility.
- [Student Resources](#) – Amy Capolupo & Erinn Guzik (15 mins)
 - An overview of student well-being data and support services was presented. Survey results indicate that approximately 21% of responding students report experiencing significant psychological distress, while about half report feelings of loneliness.
 - The university has reorganized its well-being resources into a more accessible and holistic framework, incorporating multiple dimensions of student health. Counseling services were also highlighted, including staffing levels, treatment options, and expanded outreach initiatives such as drop-in consultations and suicide prevention training.
 - Efforts to reduce financial barriers to care were discussed, including subsidized counseling services and donor-supported funds to assist students who may not be able to afford treatment. Coordination with community resources has also been strengthened to ensure continuity of care when needed.
- Paul Lasiter- Budget Update (20 mins)

- A detailed budget update was provided, focusing on current fiscal year performance and projections for the upcoming year.
- Although overall enrollment has increased slightly, tuition revenue has declined due to changes in student demographics and increased tuition discounting. The university is enrolling a more economically diverse student population, which aligns with institutional values but results in lower average net tuition revenue.
- The university is currently projecting a shortfall of approximately \$2.7 million in net tuition revenue for the fiscal year. While this gap is expected to be managed through reserves and other adjustments in the short term, it presents ongoing challenges for future budget planning.
- Looking ahead, modest enrollment growth is anticipated, but limited new revenue and rising personnel costs are expected to constrain the FY27 budget. As a result, budget planning will likely involve careful prioritization and potential reallocation of resources.

Good of the Order (4:55pm – 5:00pm)

- None

Adjournment (5:02 PM)
