

Meeting Agenda

Name of body: Faculty Senate

Date: April 30th, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Gilkey Auditorium, Room 105



Call to Order (3:00pm – 3:10pm)

- Roll Call:
Present: V. Moody, L. Fern, N. Priestley, K. Loree, K. Geiger, A. Carpoca, K. Cotton, J. Olomi, A. Metcalf, S. Fielding, M. Shogren, P. Kirgis, D. Macaluso, J. Tuttle, S. Lollar, C. McKague, G. Quintero, V. White, K. Jakob, D. Allen, M. McGrath, A. Luis, C. Palmer, D. Affleck, L. Hu, M. Harrington, A. Duwell, C. Walker, D. Kellenberg, M. Heirigs, M. Gerdes, K. Reiser, M. Hritsco, D. Salois, M. Petersen-Rockney, J. Bunch, C. Hansen, Z. Peng, L. Calderon-Garciduenas, L. Krantz, A. Belcourt, K. McKinnie, A. Ware
Absent: S. Hirner, C. Breuner, J. Eglin, K. Kane, P. Anzollitto, E. Gren, J. Musick, M. Hamon, M. Hendrix, C. Martin-Wagar
- Approve [04/02/2026](#) Meeting Minutes – **Approved**

Public Comment (3:05pm – 3:10pm)

- Senator Macaluso gave a statement acknowledging the retirement of longtime faculty member, Andrew Ware following nearly 30 years of service to the university. Remarks highlighted contributions to departmental leadership, Faculty Senate governance, and university service. Senators were invited to attend a retirement reception recognizing these accomplishments.
- Lauren Fern shared a statement regarding her transition from a faculty role into an administrative leadership position at Missoula College. Remarks emphasized the value of shared governance, reflected on service within Faculty Senate, and encouraged the Senate to prioritize experienced leadership during the upcoming chair election. The importance of collaboration, constructive problem-solving, and maintaining strong shared governance practices at the University of Montana was underscored.

Reports (3:10pm – 3:15pm)

- Chair's Report
 - The Senate received an update on the Faculty [Feedback of the Administration](#) process. The survey, administered during Fall 2025, received participation from approximately 190 faculty members. Results were compiled and reviewed during winter break and subsequently shared with the individuals evaluated through the process. Senators were informed that detailed feedback materials would remain available for

review through the Senate Office until May 12. Senators wishing to review the materials may schedule an appointment through the Senate Office.

Old Business (3:15pm – 3:25pm)

- None
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New Business (3:25pm – 4:55pm)

- Financial Aid Updates – Drew Riley
 - The Senate received an update regarding federal financial aid changes resulting from recent federal legislation. A new Student Financial Aid website has been developed to provide information regarding the impacts of these changes on undergraduate students, graduate students, borrowers in repayment, and continuing and incoming students.
 - The most significant operational change discussed involved the timing of financial aid disbursement. Historically, aid was disbursed ten days prior to the start of classes. Due to new federal loan reduction requirements tied to enrollment status, the University will move aid disbursement to the first day of classes beginning Fall 2026. Student refund will begin processing the following week.
 - It was explained that the change is intended to reduce situations in which students receive financial aid based on full-time enrollment and subsequently owe funds back after adjusting their course schedules. While students will continue to receive all aid for which they are eligible, some students who have traditionally relied on early refunds for living expenses may be affected by the revised timeline.
 - Additional communication efforts are underway, including website updates, direct student outreach, social media campaigns, and printed communications. Senators discussed the importance of reaching students during the summer months and ensuring advisors are informed about the changes. The Financial Aid Office reported that advising groups, academic fiscal officers, and other campus partners have already been engaged.
 - An August 1 priority deadline was also announced for scholarship and financial aid documentation. Materials received by that date will be guaranteed processing before payment deadlines, while submissions later will continue to be processed as quickly as possible.
- ASCRC Consent [Agenda](#)
 - ASCRC Chair Michelle Hritsco presented the consent agenda containing curriculum proposals and procedural updates.
 - **Approved**
- Grad Council Consent [Agenda](#)
 - Chair Moody presented the consent agenda containing curriculum proposals and procedural updates.
 - **Approved**

- ECOS Consent [Agenda](#)
 - Chair Moody presented the consent agenda:
 - A new procedure outlining the process for conducting a special election when a Chair or Chair-Elect position becomes vacant.
 - Bylaw updates clarifying procedures related to public comment during Senate meetings.
 - A resolution recognizing the twentieth anniversary of MOLLI.
 - Termination of four inactive centers.
 - The faculty Senate meeting schedule for the 2026-2027 academic year.
 - **Approved**
- Executive Session
 - Graduation List
 - Provost Lawrence presented the degree candidate list.
 - **Approved**
- Reconstitution of the Senate
 - [Outgoing Senators](#)
 - Outgoing Senators were recognized and thanked for their service to Faculty Senate.
 - Seating of [New Senators](#)
 - Newly elected Senators were seated for the upcoming academic year.
 - Chair Election
 - Due to the vacancy created by the Chair-Elect transition to an administrative role, the Senate conducted an election for Faculty Senate Chair.
 - Following nomination and discussion, Paul Kirgis was elected Faculty Senate Chair for the 2026-2027 academic year.
 - Caucus for new ECOS members
 - Following caucus meetings, Senators elected representatives to serve on the Executive Committee of the Senate (ECOS).
 - Professional Schools
 - Kim Reiser
 - **Approved**
 - Humanities and Sciences
 - Clint Walker
 - Kelly McKinnie
 - **Approved**

Good of the Order (4:55pm – 5:00pm)

- The Media Arts Game Festival will be held on Friday from 12:00pm – 4:00 pm in the University Center.
- The annual Media Arts student showcase will be held on May 6 at the Roxy Theatre.

Adjournment (4:02 PM)