Meeting Minutes

Name of body: Faculty Senate

Date: October 8th, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Gilkey Auditorium, Room 105

Call to Order (3: 00PM)

- Roll Call:
  Present: P. Kirgis, L. Calderon-Garciduenas, A. Luis, N. Priestley, K. Geiger, M. Hritsco, G. Quintero, D. Salois, A. Metcalf, D. Macaluso, A. Carpoca, K. McKinnie, A. Duwell, D. Affleck, K. Reiser, D. Allen, J. Bunch, M. Heirigs, F. Sanchez, V. Moody, C. Walker, C. Van Kley, Z. Peng, S. Hirner, K. Werner, A. Belcourt, M. Stark, K. Kane, V. White, J. Musick, K. Loree, L. Hu, K. Jakob, J. Thomsen, C. Hansen, J. Olomi,
  Absent: M. Gerdes, G. Larson, M. Hamon, C. McKague, P. Anzollitto, D. Firth, M. Petersen-Rockney, E. Gren, C. Breuner, J. Bardsley
- Approve 9/10/2026 Meeting Minutes – Approved

Public Comment:

- D. Macaluso: A proposal to establish a faculty technology advisory group in collaboration with campus IT leadership was brought forward. Interested faculty, staff, and students were invited to participate in shaping a forum for input on technology decisions affecting teaching and research. A recruitment message was to be distributed through Faculty Senate channels.

Reports:

- Chair's Report
  - AI Survey Results
    - ASCRC was tasked with assessing whether an AI-use statement should be required in all course syllabi, extending the current requirement for new and revised courses.
  - BOR Policy 710.2.2
    - ECOS identified concerns regarding procedural protections and planed follow-up with OCHE, legal counsel, and human resources. Senators were invited to submit written concerns for consideration in that follow-up.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- President Jeremiah Shinn @3:10 PM
    - President Shinn provided an update on institutional priorities following the first 100 days. Six areas were identified to guide future planning and decision-making:
        - Enrollment Growth: The University will focus on increasing enrollment to better align student numbers with existing facilities and staffing. Recruitment strategies will target Montana residents, out-of-state students, and Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) participants, while continuing efforts to improve student retention.
        - Student Success: The administration will work toward a more coordinated, student-centered approach to services from recruitment through graduation. Efforts will focus on reducing administrative barriers, improving access to student services, and addressing challenges in financial aid operations.
        - Financial Stability: Improving financial flexibility will require increasing revenue, managing costs, strategically reallocating resources, and evaluating potential organizational restructuring. These efforts are intended to create greater capacity for investment in institutional priorities.
        - Academic Excellence: The University will identify opportunities to strengthen existing academic and research programs through strategic investment while maintaining its commitment to accessibility and its R1 research designation.
        - Institutional Visibility: University Marketing and Communications is developing strategies to better promote faculty research, academic achievements, and institutional successes to prospective students and the broader community.
        - Operational Effectiveness: The administration will evaluate administrative processes to improve coordination, accountability, and efficiency. Priorities include reducing organizational silos, establishing clearer expectations, and improving the student experience through more accessible and reliable services.
- Staff Senate Leadership @3:30 PM
    - President Carrie Elensky & Vice President Cale Patenaude
    - Staff Senate leadership introduced its current work to review sick leave and leave-sharing procedures, collaborate with People and Culture on career development initiatives under Playbook Objective 6, and support WellCheck refreshments through a campus partnership.
    - Leadership invited collaboration among Faculty, Staff, and Student Senates and encouraged participation in Staff Senate public meetings.
    - Faculty and staff were invited to the campus photograph on the Oval on October 14 at 11:45AM.
- ASUM Leadership @3:40 PM
    - President Chase O'Brien

    - ASUM leadership outlined efforts to recruit students from a wider range of colleges and disciplines for student government and University committee service.
    - Faculty were asked to identify and refer students interested in serving.
- Security Cameras @3:50 PM
    - Brad Giffin, Paula Short, & Austin Mahler
    - Campus safety, facilities, and technology representatives provided an overview of the campus security camera system and its development, including expansion from earlier installations and the use of departmental and project funding.
    - The security system was described as a University controlled platform, with access limited by role and activity logged. Facial recognition and person of interest features were reported disabled. The system was described as supporting incident response, event safety, and investigation rather than integration with external license plate or law enforcement databases.
    - Representatives outlines the existing controls for viewing, sharing, and retaining footage. Routine recordings are generally retained for 30 days, while footage preserved for investigations has a default two-year retention period, subject to extension where needed. Access to recordings and camera controls is restricted and vendor troubleshooting is time-limited and monitored. Camera placement, masking of private areas, and notices in recorded common areas were also addressed.
    - The Senate provided feedback concerning privacy, the visibility and placement of cameras, campus awareness, oversight, and the possibility of misuse. Campus representatives committed to continued consultation and development of clearer public-facing information, including frequently asked questions and policy or procedural guidance.
- TOEFL Scoring Matrix @4:15 PM
    - Deva Kemmis
    - Admissions presented proposed minimum TOEFL scores in response to the test's transition from a 0-120 scale to a 1-6 scale. The proposed minimums were 4.0 for full undergraduate admission and 3.5 for pathway admission. The existing minimums were identified as 70 and 52, respectively, on the former scale. The proposed full-admission threshold represents a slight increase. TOEFL score reports will show both scales during the transition through January 2028.
    - The proposal was considered in relation to the Global Engagement Office recommendation, peer institution requirements, international student access, and exemptions from English-proficiency testing.
    - A formal vote will be held at the November meeting.

Good of the Order:

- None

Adjournment (4:35 PM)