

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2026

Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 1:03 PM – adjournment

Location: Microsoft Teams / Hybrid

Presiding Officer: Jackie Johnston, Faculty Senate President

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jackie Johnston at approximately 12:33 PM. Audio confirmation was completed for in-person and Teams participants.

Approval of Minutes

Previous meeting minutes were made available on Blackboard prior to the meeting. Senators were asked to review the minutes. Minutes were approved with the following corrections: Kevin Frost was appointed as Vice President to replace Zach Strawbridge. Remove the statement: “Chantel was nominated and accepted the Vice President Role, replacing Zach.”

Committee Reports – Safety and Security

Amanda Smith reported that the tornado drill scheduled for Monday was canceled due to weather conditions. No additional updates were reported.

Committee Reports – Faculty Awards / Professional Development

No changes or new updates were reported.

Committee Reports – Student Scholarship Committee

Seven completed student scholarship applications were received, and the committee is proceeding with review and selection.

Student Awards

Dr. Melissa Fulgham reported that some student award recipients have not yet RSVP'd. Reminder emails were sent, and faculty were asked to encourage students to RSVP, even if unable to attend.

Student Awards Ceremony Updates

Judge Angela Saucier was confirmed as the alumni speaker. The ceremony's start time was adjusted to 6:30 PM. Great Western Dining will provide catering, and existing floral inventory will be used to reduce costs.

Elections – Officers

Ballots were distributed for President-Elect (Kevin Frost), Vice President (Chantel Sokol), Secretary (Rebecca Gardner), Treasurer (Doug Richey), and Parliamentarian (Julie Ratliff). Write-ins were permitted, with Teams participants emailing votes to Dr. Reagan. Results to be tallied and posted.

Senate Membership Updates

New or continuing senators include Kristi Newland, Drew Murphy, Chad Henry (pending), Necah Posey (pending), James McGregor (accepted), and Tom Seabourne (pending), Paige Petrucka (pending). Adjunct faculty are now eligible to serve as senators per updated bylaws.

Bylaws and Policy Discussion

A proposal was discussed to remove the mandatory two-year sit-out period between Senate terms while retaining two-year terms and annual re-elections. The proposal will advance to the Board of Trustees.

Committee Appointments

Follow-up communication regarding committee assignments will be sent. Faculty were encouraged to review committee needs in Blackboard.

Announcements

Foundation applications close April 28. A campus theatre production runs Thursday through Saturday at the Black Box Theatre.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Julie Ratliff and seconded by Dr. Doug Richey. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Faculty Senate Secretary