



Volume XIX, Number 5

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting

27 February 2024

1. Call to Order (2:00 PM) D. Westenberg
2. Roll Call J. Schlegel
  - a. Present were L. Alagha (online), V. Allada (online), S. Baur (online), A. Belfi (Proxy), J. Burken, S. Corns, K. Dolan, W. Fahrenholtz, D. Finke, D. Fischer, M. Gosnell, S. Hercula, M. Hilgers (proxy), A. Hurson, B. Kania-Goche, K. Krishnamurthy (online), A. Krolikowski, B. Lea, K. Liu, J. Mauer (online), W. Meeks, E. Park (proxy), J. Porcel (proxy), P. Runnion, W. Schonberg (online), C. Sabharwal (online), S. Sedigh Sarvestani, P. Shamsi, L. Sotiriou-Leventis (online), S. Usman (proxy), H. Wen, D. Westenberg, J. Winiarz, A. Yamilov (online), and M. Zawodniok.
  - b. Absent were K. Homan, W. Hu, U. Koylu, M. Ringhausen, J. Wang, B. Weir, and D. Williamson.
3. Consent Agenda D. Westenberg
  - a. Approved by acclamation.
4. President's Report D. Westenberg
  - a. IFC: Next meeting on 11 March. Will discuss IT/AI updates, government relations, and impact of executive orders on budgets. The new executive order on Compliance with Law Enforcement Investigations, shared with Senators last week, formalizes existing guidance.
  - b. Campus:
    - i. Bioplex: groundbreaking on 17 April.
    - ii. Curators visit: **Please recommend students to attend the reception with the Curators on April 17** <<https://forms.office.com/r/JAdCrjMs27>>. The link will also be emailed to Senators.
    - iii. Provost search committee: Ad is posted, **please submit your recommendations**.
    - iv. General Listening Sessions: Finance & Operations will have virtual and in person, schedules and topics are available on Percipio. **Next session on construction updates will be 4 March at 10 AM (Virtual) and 1 pm (115 Innovation lab)**.
    - v. Leadership meetings: Discussed concerns about the impact of executive orders on budget and campus mission. We are doing the right things, so keep doing what you are doing. **More at Miner Momentum** <<https://minermomentum.mst.edu>>.
    - vi. Other topics: Undergraduate enrollment is looking strong, and we are enrolling qualified non-thesis MS students. Campus is promoting well-being and success, including reaching out to students with flags from week 5 reporting. If you see a student in need, please reach out. Shared governance summit was this morning and went well, some action items came out of the meeting to help improve shared governance.
    - vii. Upcoming open forums: Emeritus office/lab policy, campus closure policy, qualifications for academic ranks.
    - viii. Good news: We are R1, Men's Basketball are conference champions, Women's Basketball are in the conference championship, and it's Girl Scout cookie season.



- ix. Scouting For Food: **collecting food donations at Havener Center and Faculty/Staff Lounge until tomorrow** (28 February).
  - x. Be Involved, Be Engaged, Do Something.
5. Campus Reports
- a. Staff Council K. Walkup
    - i. Giving days: Posts start tomorrow <<https://www.givecampus.com/7qzh16>>
    - ii. Spring 2025 Staff Appreciation Week: 19-22 May, located in the Innovation Lab. Theme will be 'game show.'
  - b. Student Council M. De La Hunt
    - i. Current projects: Referendum next week, with voting and information tables starting tomorrow <<https://stuco.mst.edu/vote>>. All current students may vote. One candidate for student body president but must get 50% affirmative votes. Also voting on proposed student fee increase of about \$30 approved by student council to support major projects including hiring new well-being staff and renovations to the rec center and Student Council Constitutional amendment proposed to update terms and make some situational changes. Student Council and Greek Life are holding RESPOND training, and a bill is in progress to require RSOs to have an executive member responsible for well-being. The syllabus bank has passed the equivalent of the Faculty Senate at UM, Student Council has nearly finished drafting their presentation.
    - ii. Academic Information Availability: Student survey result for desired improved academic resources was presented for faculty to use as a suggestion on which resources to provide for students.
    - iii. Points of Contact: VP of Engagement and Outreach is Aiden Pickett, Public Relations Lead is Sydney DuBois. Student Council is working with the new Involvement Office Director Josh Gruenke.
  - c. Council of Graduate Students
    - i. No report.
6. Special Topics
- a. Missouri S&T Financial Outlook A. O'Neil
    - i. University budget: A summary of the University's funding sources and budgeted expenses for FY25 was presented. S&T uses an incremental budget process, such that the next year's budget is based on the previous year's with changes determined by consultation with division leads. The University has prepared several draft scenarios and budgets for different enrollments and state funding changes in FY26. There is a budget 'scorecard' that VCFO is working with BAC on developing that will help with budget planning.
    - ii. Indirect Rate Changes: University is monitoring the situation. Potential impact of a reduction to 15% recovery rate will be up to \$6M if all federal awards are affected. Costs funded directly by indirect recovery are under review and VCR s working with research centers to identify



- potential alternate revenue sources and reduce costs, and indirect recovery allocation policy is under review.
- iii. Strategic Reallocation: A summary of the planned strategic investments and committed funds was presented.
  - iv. More Information: **Budget 101 & FY26 Outlook, April 2 (in person) and 3 (Virtual)**  
<<https://umsystem.percipio.com/channels/40e064fb-aba8-4c8b-9797-c69d83f3862b?sharelink=KV33NSnD9>>
7. Reports of Standing Committees
- a. Academic Freedom and Standards L. Jiang
    - i. Committee moves to continue test-optional admissions for one more year. No discussion. Motion passes with 18 in favor, 6 against.
  - b. Budgetary Affairs B. Lea
    - i. Referral on IT budgets: S&T's budget is similar to other campuses, all saw drops from FY23 to FY24.
    - ii. Referral on F&A Distributions: Distributions follow Policy Memorandum III-30. 70% goes to VCRI, 20% to the colleges, 2% to the Library for journal subscriptions, and 8% to Facilities for research M&R. Just over \$10M was recovered last year. This will be affected by recent executive orders. Should IT be part of the distribution framework? Should this framework be considered along with the strategic budget reallocation? Referred to Department Chairs Council for feedback. It was noted that F&A recovery must support research, so including IT costs for education may violate the negotiated rate agreement.
    - iii. Referral on GRA tuition funding: Sources of GRA tuition funding were discussed, totaling about \$4.0M. Most (\$3.0M) is from grants and contracts.
    - iv. Referral on bookstore RFP: S&T store has been operated by leadership at UM for many years, looking at other options to turn deficit into revenue. Finalists are Akademos (Vital Source), Barnes & Noble, Follett.
    - v. Financial Position Update: At next BAC meeting topics will include review of the strategic budget reallocation, salary trends of faculty vs. administrative personnel, program health BI reporting. Budget reallocation update will be provided to Faculty Senate at next meeting.
  - c. Campus Curricula P. DeWitt
    - i. General Education: Newly approved policy will be up for a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
  - d. Information Technology and Computing D. Stutts
    - i. Survey on IT performance: Published on 25 February for faculty and staff, and emails were sent <[https://mst.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_e3rQr9dCkuKV8Fg](https://mst.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3rQr9dCkuKV8Fg)>. Survey ends 21 March and report will be presented afterward. Plan to distribute the survey twice each year to track progress.
  - e. Public Occasions A. Behrendt



- i. Motion to adopt 3-4 October 2025 as Homecoming and 18 October 2025, 1 November 2025, 16 February 2026, and 3 April 2026 as Open House dates. No discussion. Motion passes with 19 in favor, 0 against.
  - f. Rules, Procedures, & Agenda K. Dolan
    - i. Motion to remove Steve Robers from the list of administrators to review this cycle. Some discussion clarifying the motion and why it is presented by RP&A. Motion fails with 0 in favor, 19 against.
    - ii. Motion from the floor: Change the beginning of the review period from March 3-21 to March 10-21, to allow Dr. Roberts time to prepare his accomplishment report. Motion passes with 19 in favor, 0 against.
- 8. Unfinished Business D. Westenberg
  - a. None
- 9. New Business D. Westenberg
  - a. None
- 10. Q&A With Provost C. Potts
  - a. Timeliness in reviewing graduate student applications: Long wait times for applicants can result in reputation damage and loss of potential students. The current plan favored by administration is that Enrollment Management will review MS non-thesis applications based on published criteria of departments and make a yes/no decision. It is also desirable to accelerate admission for thesis MS such that, if a student meets admission requirements but it does not seem like there is a good fit with the faculty, they would be admitted as a non-thesis MS student but could switch to a thesis-based MS later if they found faculty support. This will also apply to online non-thesis MS. This is not a system that is being implemented, but something the administration would like to improve and is looking for faculty input on.
    - i. A question was asked regarding department-specific requirements for prerequisite knowledge needed for particular MS programs and whether this would also apply, especially for online students. The fact that different cultures use different GPA scales was brought up. Grade point conversion criteria exist for other countries, but a lack of confidence was expressed. These issues can be worked out. The need for a clear timeline and process for implementing these changes and ensuring that important department review criteria are correctly considered was emphasized. One option is to give departments some timeline, i.e. 7 days, before applications move to this new process. A presentation on the state of graduate admissions will be given to the Chancellor's leadership team next week.
- 11. Announcements D. Westenberg
- 12. Adjourn (3:40 PM)

Respectfully submitted,  
Joshua Schlegel  
Secretary | Faculty Senate



## Faculty Senate

Dave Westenberg, President  
Paul Runnion, President-Elect  
Joshua Schlegel, Secretary  
Michael Gosnell, Parliamentarian

# Faculty Senate Meeting Consent Agenda

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Location	Computer Science 221 – in-person attendance required for voting Zoom – for non-voting attendees <a href="https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/92775992200?pwd=MQ4y1kWiAGtGp5qHXPRyPThlVJltz4.1">https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/92775992200?pwd=MQ4y1kWiAGtGp5qHXPRyPThlVJltz4.1</a> Passcode: 0000
Date	27 February 2025
Time	2:00 PM

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1. Curriculum Committee Report
2. Minutes from 30 January 2024

P. DeWitt  
J. Schlegel

**Motion from the Academic Freedom and Standards Committee:**

Following discussion and a vote of AF&S, the committee moves that Faculty senate endorse continuation of test optional admission for one more year.

**Motion from the Rules, Procedures, & Agenda Committee:**

Since Steve Roberts's duties as the Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives have changed significantly in the past year, the RP&A Committee recommends that Steve Roberts be removed from the list of administrators to be reviewed by the Administrative Review Committee.