MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
—— ROLLA, MISSOURI ——

Volume XIX, Number 8
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
26 June 2025

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), J. Burken, S. Corns, K. Dolan, D. Fischer, M. Gosnell, S. Hercula (online), M. Hilgers (proxy), A. Hurson, B. Kania-Goche, K. Krishnamurthy, A. Krolikowski, B. Lea, K. Liu (online), J. Mauer (online), W. Meeks (online), J. Porcel (proxy), P. Runnion, C. Sabharwal (online), S. Sedigh Sarvestani, P. Shamsi (online), S. Usman (proxy), J. Wang (online), D. Westenberg, M. Zawodniok.
   b. Absent were A. Belfi, W. Fahrenholtz, D. Finke, K. Homan, W. Hu, U. Koylu, E. Park, M. Ringhausen, W. Schonberg, L. Sotiriou-Leventis, B. Weir, H. Wen, J. Winiarz, D. Williamson, A. Yamilov.
3. Consent Agenda   D. Westenberg
   a. Motion to approve the consent agenda passed by voice vote.
4. President's Report   D. Westenberg
   a. IFC
      i. Defined Contribution Opt-In: Will be voluntary, pending curator's approval (Voting today).
      ii. Benefit managers: RFPs ongoing for medical and pharmacy.
      iii. Digital Accessibility: Title II, deadline of 24 April 2026. Campus-wide effort to ensure compliance.
      iv. Chair: Dave Westenberg will chair IFC next year.
   b. Campus matters
      i. See Miner Momentum <http://minermomentum.mst.edu> for topics discussed at leadership meetings
      ii. Enrollment Workshop: Melt reduction, K-12 engagement, communication strategy, etc.
      iii. Regional Innovation Ecosystem: Update on what Kummer College is doing to support innovation and the community
      iv. Christine Karslake: Associate VC for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Commercialization. Five-year plan for training and support for disclosures, patents, and startups.
      v. TalkCampus: Student support app, positive feedback from other campuses.
      vi. Instructor Badging System: Strategies in response to Student Council requests for more information prior to course registration.
      vii. Advising Structure Updates: Some support for new advising model, Stellic rollout is ongoing.
   c. Proposed changes to Faculty Senate meetings
      i. Attendance: Requiring in-person attendance for a quorum.
      ii. RP&A: Will take place two weeks prior to the Faculty Senate meeting
      iii. Elections: Voting will take place online. Per CRR, committees must select new chairs prior to 30 April.

     iv. Calendar: Committee meeting schedules, minutes will be made available through Faculty Senate web page. We will be requesting annual reports.

     v. Location: Trying to improve our meeting location. Discussions are ongoing.

  d. New Provost: John Harris

  e. Retention: Up significantly over last year.

5. Campus Reports

  a. Staff Council   K. Walkup

     i. Training conference: Week of 10 July

     ii. New President: Term starts 1 July

  b. Student Council   A. Pickett

  c. Council of Graduate Students

6. Special Topics

  a. Digital Accessibility   S. Murray

     i. Deadline: 26 April 2026

     ii. Training:

- CAFE: One-hour training is available, see eConnection or Percipio for dates, details. Eight Essential Steps for Digital Accessibility is available <http://sites.mst.edu/digitalaccess>.
- Academic Technologies: Missouri Online has been renamed, online training opportunities for anyone in UM System <https://teaching.missouri.edu/accessibility>.

     iii. Software

- Color contrast: Checking software is available on AppsAnywhere. MS Office does not accurately evaluate color contrast for accessibility.
- MathPix: For writing formulas, $40/year/user, coming soon. Converts handwritten formulas into a digitally accessbile form. Please remember to only provide level 1 data (publicly available) to AI tools.
- Ally: Review your Canvas site, coming soon.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

  a. Administrative Review   K. Erickson

     i. Seven administrators were reviewed this year. The results have been provided to each individual and their supervisor, and were summarized for Faculty Senate. Each individual was provided with a few positive comments and a few suggested actions to take to improve.

  b. Budgetary Affairs   B. Lea

     i. Salary and hiring trends: Meeting with Deans and Provost on 27 August to review salary and hiring trends considering maintaining R1 status, and the division leaders' plans for maintaining a healthy faculty balance.

     ii. Indirect Recovery: New allocations to IT, allocation to campus GRA to reduce volatility in funding OSP personnel. Monitoring the Joint Associations Group presentation of models for indirect cost recovery and still collecting input.

<https://www.cogr.edu/sites/default/files/JAG%20June%2012%20Informational%20Webinar%20Slide%20Presentation.pdf>.

    iii. Salary and Wage Guidelines: Detailed guidelines shared via eConnection. There will be no exceptional performance pool for FY26; a limited number of lump sum merit awards will be available, for up to 10% of staff, allocated proportionally to divisions. Increases for unsatisfactory performance are not permitted.

    iv. Bookstore: Barnes & Noble was selected to operate the S&T bookstore. VitalSource remains the digital material publishing and delivery platform. Students can opt-in or opt-out of the inclusive textbook offer (per credit hour basis). Faculty who still need to submit their course material adoptions can reach out to sm8580@bncollege.com, kbendle@bncollege.com, or emedalis@bncollege.com. There will be more information on the transition process available over the next few weeks.

    v. FY26 Budget: Reviewed. State appropriations bill is currently on the Governor's desk for signature and includes a 3% increase to base appropriation, $3M for Small Modular Reactor science and development, Protoplex, ARC, Schrenk East, and geothermal expansion. $1.8M set aside for merit program, $3.5M for strategic investments. Required a $2.9M budget reallocation. Student visa appointments resumed on June 18 after a pause. Also on the Governor's desk are that Veteran's Day (11 November) may be added as a UM Holiday, minimum wage exemption for public employers may be removed, as of 1 January 2026 minimum wage will be $15/hr.

    vi. Provide feedback <https://tinyurl.com/SandTBudget>.

c. Information Technology and Computing   D. Stutts

    i. Survey: Final report is available, with plans to repeat twice a year to track progress and update goals <https://mailmissouri.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/itcc-ogrp/EcNVMfQBdq1Onhs3-6BtGx8BlBgZp2kRPAEwZGz_LxqHeQ?e=kpHAZH>.

d. Personnel   D. Westenberg

    i. Teaching Improvement Plans: Personnel has worked with CAFE and others to better support faculty by developing a teaching improvement plan, to help chairs who elect to use the document promote faculty development. The document will be housed at CAFE. The Personnel Committee moves to endorse the use of the proposed Teaching Improvement Plan to facilitate discussions between chairs and faculty to improve teaching. Motion passes 12-0-2.

    ii. Campus Climate Survey: Will be presented this fall, with a focus on providing action items to improve campus climate. The frequency of the surveys will be reduced in the future to accommodate other surveys such as COACHE.

e. Public Occasions   A. Behrendt

    i. The Public Occasions Committee moves to combine the Master's and Doctoral graduation ceremonies so that, beginning with the Fall 2025 term, both take place at the Friday evening commencement ceremony. Motion passes by voice vote.

8. Unfinished Business   D. Westenberg
   a. None
9. New Business   D. Westenberg
   a. None
10. Q&A   D. Westenberg
   a. None
11. Announcements   D. Westenberg
   a. None
12. Adjourn (3:34 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Schlegel
Secretary | Faculty Senate