



Volume XX, Number 1  
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting  
18 September 2025

- I. Call to Order (2:00 PM) P. Runnion
- II. Roll Call F. Han
- a. Present (In-Person) were: S. Baur, A. Belfi, J. Burken, Y. Zhou, K.C. Dolan, W. Fahrenholtz, D. Finke, D. Fischer, D. Forciniti, M. Gosnell, G. Grubbs, W. Hu, B. Kania-Goche, K. Krishnamurthy, B. Lea, J. Mauer, W. Meeks, P. Runnion, J. Schlegel, W. Schonberg, S. Sedigh Sarvestani, P. Shamsi, J.C. Wang, H. Wen, D. Westenberg, A. Yamilov, V. Yu, M. Zawodniok, J. Porcel
  - b. Present (Proxy) were: S. Corns, K. Homan, A. Krolikowski, P. Lindler, K. Liu, S. Puri, R. Schneider
  - c. Online were: J. Winiarz
  - d. Absent were: S. Frimpong, U. Koyle, M. Ringhausen, B. Weir, D. Williamson
- III. Consent Agenda (2:05 PM) P. Runnion
- Curriculum Committee Report
  - Approval of the 26 June 2025 Minutes
  - Approval of the 23 July 2025 Minutes
- Motion to approve the consent agenda passed by voice vote.
- IV. President's Report P. Runnion
- a. Faculty Senate Officers for AY 2025-2026 were introduced
  - b. Resolution of Thanks and Appreciation presented to D. Westenberg
  - c. General Goals for AY 2025-2026
    - i. Bylaws revisions
      - 1. Need to align bylaws with revised CRR 420.010 (Research Misconduct)
      - 2. Potential Areas of Improvement includes 1) NTT roles/membership/voting privileges; 2) Number of annual General Faculty meetings; 3) Town Halls; 4) Committee Structure
    - ii. Improve communication
    - iii. Looking for "wins"
  - d. IFC Updates: chaired by D. Westenberg; HR updates regarding mandatory training modules and new benefit plan options; Digital Accessibility with CAFÉ resources; Honorary Degree process; AI policies; Government Relations
  - e. COACHE Survey: There was a COACHE Strategy Workshop Aug. 7-8; Survey will deploy in Feb. 2026; NTT Librarians will now be included in survey pool
  - f. Academic Unit Reorganization: A proposal for reorganizing ALP is under development; need to address issues with CRR 300.030.D.1.b vs. a process passed by FS in March 2019, which will be discussed and voted in Oct FS meeting for adoption as official policy



- g. Academic Advising: Changes in late Spring 2025, effective June 1; next Advising Input Summit on September 24, Noon
- h. Personnel Changes: four high profile individuals on campus were relieved of duties recently (Dean of Students; Director of Residential Life; Vice Provost and Dean of Library; Registrar). An unsigned statement from admin was sent to FS on 9/17/2025
- i. Changes to Grad Studies: FS Officers first informed in early July, followed with more discussions with Provost Harris who will be presenting at this meeting later
- j. Faculty Senate Budget worked out with Provost Harris' support, enabling a new location of meetings (Innovation Lab)
- k. New Faculty Senate Website thanks to Josh Schlegel and Misty House:  
<https://facultysenate.mst.edu/>

V. Campus Reports (2:18 PM)

- a. Staff Council E. Evans
  - i. (no show)
- b. Student Council A. Pickett
- c. Council of Graduate Students
  - i. (no show)

VI. Special Topics (2:20 PM)

- a. Provost Introduction and Graduate Studies Discussion J. Harris
  - i. Provost introduced a proposal creating a Graduate School citing 5 major problems: 1) Ph.D. enrollment dropping; 2) MS enrollment dropping; 3) Graduate students don't feel the love; 4) postdocs don't get any love; and 5) five VP's for Graduate Education in 5 years
  - ii. A proposal creating a Grad School
    - Comparing with top engineering graduate programs, observations include Grad Studies always under Provost, most with a dean title along with Assoc/Vice Provost title, and usually grad admission and recruiting also under grad school
    - Propose to form a Grad School, combined with Office for Graduate Education; External search for a Founding Dean of the Graduate School and add title of Vice Provost of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies; and forming an International Affairs Office interfacing with UG/G admissions, study abroad, H1B for faculty, J-1 for visitors, etc.
    - On Retention and well-being for grad students and postdocs: pay ~\$5k insurance fee for PhD students; better pay models for PhD students and PDs
    - On faculty-engaged PhD recruitment
    - Q&A regarding: 1) tuition in grants; 2) faculty incentives; 3) "uniform" practices working with G students (such as BS to PhD credit hrs requirements for different PhD programs); 4) # of PhD for non-STEM majors; 5) reasons of PhD enrollment dropping; 6) cost of creating a grad school and FTE / position of external search; 7) goals and measures of such

a process (i.e., repeating of history?) 8) branding/reputation of MST vs. UMR and G students satisfaction survey; 9) status of Grad council / faculty in the process; 10) faculty feedback/input were never considered seriously before / culture of campus

VII. Committee Reports (2:57 PM)

- a. Budgetary Affairs B. Lea
  - i. Updates for FY 26, 10% budget reallocation; need feedback by 9/30/2025; F&A cost distribution model; Admin / faculty salary trends
  - ii. Referrals about capital construction projects and funding sources and BAC initiatives on faculty position and salary trends
  - iii. BAC seeking faculty input on strategic budgetary priorities by Monday Oct 6 through: <https://tinyurl.com/FS-referrals> for BAC Oct. 8 meeting discussion
  - iv. Q&A / Discussion: these budgetary issues are all “repeated / infinite loops” involving faculty departure and need actionable suggestions
- b. Effective Teaching J. Schramm
  - i. STAR (Supportive, Timely, Attentive, and Respectful) Certification
  - ii. To be recognized as a STAR Instructor, faculty must meeting at least 9 of 13 criteria
  - iii. Faculty participation is optional
  - iv. FAQ
  - v. Q&A: 1) Incentives would be a STAR symbol next to the course/section; 2) next step is to seek FS endorsement; 3) final decision with Provost; 4) not sure who will see info related to STAR Certification nor its impacts in P&T cases; 5) STAR Certification examples at other universities will be presented at next FS meeting; 6) priority course levels would be 1000s and 2000s; 7) No quota so in theory all course could get a STAR Certificate; 8) validity lengths: 3 yrs for on-campus and 5 yrs for online
- c. Information Technology (3:36 PM) D. Stutts / M. Zawodniok
  - i. LAPS update: now request once per 6-month; reviewed and approved by IT, with unlimited number of admin rights elevation during the 6 months: <https://laps.mst.edu>
    - ITCC seeking feedback of this updated LAPS system
  - ii. IT Performance Survey in Fall 2025; tentative Oct. 2025
- d. Library and Learning Resources (3:39 PM) M. Bruening
  - i. Library personnel changes history: before 2018, had a library director (not a dean), 2018-2023 (dean-level position and arrival of B. Gerlich) – Sept. 2025 Dean Gerlich’s employment was terminated citing budget constraints;
  - ii. Current understanding is no “Vice Provost and Dean of Libraries” in the future
  - iii. Q&A / Discussion: It is believed that MST is the only R1 university that does not have a Dean of Libraries.
- e. Personnel (3:42 PM) K. Northcut

**Faculty Senate**

Paul Runnion, President  
Joshua Schlegel, President-Elect  
Frank Han, Secretary  
Michael Gosnell, Parliamentarian

- i. STAR Certification referred to Personnel committee due to concerns for overlapping with faculty evaluations
- ii. Committee is now working on campus climate data report

VIII. Unfinished Business (3:44 PM) P. Runnion  
NONE

IX. New Business P. Runnion  
NONE

X. Announcements P. Runnion

XI. Adjourn (3:45 PM)

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank D. Han  
Secretary | Faculty Senate