Faculty Senate President's Report

Faculty Senate meeting October 22 2026

1. Campus news and upcoming dates

Travel information privacy: Access to Travel Authorization dates, narratives, and MoCodes will be restricted to direct reporting lines. This addresses the concern referred to Personnel that employees' travel information was visible too broadly. Thank you to the Faculty Ombuds and Personnel Committee for bringing it forward.

Town hall and student success: The October 6 town hall provided an opportunity to raise questions about enrollment, academic breadth, compensation, and campus initiatives. Written responses to submitted questions were circulated on October 12.

Enrollment information for departments: The recruitment target is 1,600 deposits, approximately 16 percent above last year. Chairs have access to a live recruitment dashboard with department filters and exports. An interface showing transfers into and out of departments remains in development.

Teaching opportunities: The Teaching and Learning Center, formerly CAFE, offers course-design, active-learning, mentoring, and instructional support. The Instructional Technology and Learning Conference (ITLC) at S&T is March 11, 2027; proposals are due November 23. Topics include AI, teaching technology, active learning, well-being, and PK–12 connections. Work in progress is welcome. Conference details and proposals.

Date	Faculty reminder
October 26–November 6	Annual benefits enrollment for the 2027 plan year.
October 28	Faculty/staff Spooky Trivia, 3–5 p.m., University Commons Multi-Purpose Room. Join a team of up to six or register individually; questions to Alex Hutson at alexanderjhutson@mst.edu.
October 29	S&T Movies on the Green: Hocus Pocus. Activities 6–7 p.m.; movie at 7 p.m., Havener Arrival Complex oval green. Admission is free; bring chairs or blankets.
October 30	Fall Staff Appreciation Day. Check Staff Council for the event schedule and locations.
November 2	Spring and Summer 2027 registration appointments begin; advising is underway.
November 5	STEM Day; faculty, staff, and student volunteers are requested.
November 11 and 12	Veterans Day holiday November 11; next Faculty Senate meeting November 12.

Academic dates. STEM Day volunteer information. Movies on the Green details.

2. UM System news and updates

Benefits enrollment: Annual Enrollment runs October 26–November 6 for 2027 coverage. Please review the plan comparisons and premium changes in the official materials. Flexible Spending Accounts require re-enrollment each year; most other existing elections continue if no change is made. UM System enrollment information.

AI and faculty authority: At the October 5 Intercampus Faculty Council meeting, President Choi supported AI literacy in undergraduate education while affirming that curricular proposals must follow normal faculty approval processes.

Enterprise systems: Faculty Information System vendor review continues, with Paul Runnion serving as S&T's faculty participant. Keep an eye out for opportunities for faculty input.

Budget planning and consultation: System and campus leaders continue to plan for uncertain state support and enrollment pressure. I continue to emphasize early consultation with affected faculty and the Budgetary Affairs Committee while options remain open. Further details will be discussed at the November meeting.

3. Ongoing incomplete referrals

The following work remains with committees or in consultation. A referral initiates evaluation; the resulting recommendation returns through the appropriate approval process.

Admissions: Academic Freedom and Standards is reviewing the long-term test-optional admissions policy.
Academic regulations: Academic Freedom and Standards and the Registrar are working toward clear proposed language on Latin Honors and the Student Academic Regulations package, including voluntary medical withdrawal.
Student appeals: The Student Appeals Committee is consulting the relevant administrative offices about its relationship to the Committee on Academic Retention and Dismissal (CARD).
Administrative review: Administrative Review is evaluating possible staff participation, including confidentiality and verification of survey participants.
Bylaws: Consultation and adoption remain ahead.
Academic reorganization: Work on an academic-unit reorganization process continues. I am seeking early affected-faculty consultation, clear documentation, a defined Senate role, and a written response to substantive concerns. The current documentation approach aligns with the process recently established by UM System for describing unit changes, their rationale, and their effects on personnel and resources. That alignment does not settle the remaining campus questions about decision rights and objections.

4. New referrals

Academic Calendar: Adding fall and spring career fairs to the official Academic Calendar.

5. Decisions required from Faculty Senate

Parking Committee vacancy: Senate must elect a replacement member to the Parking, Security and Traffic Committee.