



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2026

11:00am

Attendance: Vanessa Godfrey, Darrel Malamisura, Julie Orr, Kristin Hicks, Vincent Mateescu, Betty Nash, Bonnie Reece, Rodney Montague, Dharshana Araracchi, Jack Sheffler, Dr. Sarita Rhonemus, Dr. Amanda Matoushek, Dr. Bill Bennett, and Dr. Angela Lambert.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am By Senate President Darrel Malamisura.

Approval of Minutes: A quorum was established and a vote was taken on the minutes from January 2026 meeting. Vanessa made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jack seconded the motion. All were in favor with none opposed. Motion carried.

Provost Report (Dr. Rhonemus): Lengthy discussion on the ability to move in-seat courses to Virtual Learning when inclement weather closures take place. Sarita states we need to develop a policy and have it in the handbook. She also stated that the syllabus can change if you have the clause in your syllabus that it is subject to change to have a statement related to virtual learning. This cant be mandated to students but can be posted on Moodle for students to view at their convenience. However, you can ask students to notify instructor via email if it is not possible for them to log on. The discussion was related to a GOOGLE MEET instruction by the faculty responsible for the course. There is also conflicting schedules on the website for late schedule related to classes. This led to discussion on 8 am and 9am classes being cancelled if on a late schedule and adding a statement of those classes meeting virtually. Which will also be dependent on when the change in campus status is announced.

Related to inclement weather, there are also issues on how timely the transit runs on bad weather days because of students running late for class who depend on the Transit. Dr. Rhonemus stated that would be a Dr. Lewis question.

Old Business: Darrel organized the old business per administrations request. Red items are top priority for resolution, Orange needs clarification and the process added to the handbook, Yellow for answered/addressed but still needs follow up assure it is completed, and Green for items having been answered or addressed but is not a high priority for the Senate.

It was suggested by Vanessa that we add in the need for a campus wide safety plan. Darrel says they keep saying “it’s almost done”, but we have been requesting this for a year now. Discussion to add it in the red as an urgent need. None opposed.

New Business: RSI for online classes was discussed related to criteria for an effective online class that was sent out by Dr. Rhonemus and the Deans. Virtual Office hours were also discussed and the most effective way to have virtual office hours.....phone calls or virtual meeting online, and student initiated vs faculty initiated. Then an in-depth discussion took place with Darrel and Dr. Rhonemus on varying opinions related to “regular substantive interaction” for online classes. This discussion/debate took up the remainder of the meeting time with no resolution reached. There will be a committee formed to develop a policy/process for all faculty to abide by. The committee members will be: The Deans, Cody Chambers, Darrel Malamisura, and Kristin Hicks.

P&T committee: They have been meeting and the link to apply for promotion will go out on March 1st and stuff from applicants will not be due until 1 month after.

Meeting Adjourned: Darrel had to go to class so Julie made a motion to adjourn, Kristin Seconded and all were in favor with none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 13th, 2026 at 11:00 am.