



General Faculty Meeting Minutes

November 7th, 2025

Attendance: Darrel Malamisura, Vanessa Godfrey, Julie Orr, Charlie Chen, Vincent Mateescu, Young Kim, Shelia Sargent-Martin, Ashish Patel, Sudhakar Jamkhandi, Jack Sheffler, Alisha Anderson, Darshana Arachchi, Kristin Hicks, Ainur Kenshetayeva, Niranjana Warnakulasooriya, Bill Bennett, Adrian Ayersman, and Amanda Matoushek.

Administrators Present: Dr. Darrin Martin- President, Dr. Sarita Rhonemus- Provost, And Josh Grubb.

Call to order: Meeting was called to order and went straight to the President's report due to only having 18 members (needed 20 for quorum) and not being able to approve minutes from previous meeting.

President's report: Comments related to the information on how well Students were able to present to the Legislatures on Monday. Stated it was a testament to the faculty who have educated these students. Dr. Martin then took questions. He was asked about a potential partnership with Engineering department and a business called Oak Ridge. He explained the background behind this proposal but stated nothing was a done deal, but we are looking at the potential and feasibility of the potential partnership. He stated, "We are just at the start of the conversation." Additionally, it is unknown what the financial cost may be.

Another question related to the Gift Officer Position: Rebecca Peterson was hired for this position and started on Monday November 1st. She is no longer on the Board. This has not been formally announced as of yet.

Faculty has requested that horizontal communication continue to be improved upon so all are informed.

Provost's Report: Dr. Rhonemus stated that Cody Chambers is currently working on having course evaluations on the Moodle shell so students will have them pop up when they log onto their Moodle account. She is hopeful this will provide a greater return on evaluations and also solve the problems we have had in the past with faculty not receiving the data for their courses. Faculty should be getting emails related to uploading evals on their Moodle shells.

Registration Days showed an increase of being up 200 continuing students from last year.

College of Arts, Education, and Social Sciences were not left out of the presentations to the Legislatures by the University. The program's that were visited were selected by the Legislatures specifically.

BOG Report: Jack Sheffler stated that he does not have any report at the moment. There was discussion related to the Honors Cottages and student placement.

Another issue is the fire and safety training for BSU in the meeting and the response is that "we are working on it". This has been being worked on for over a year with no tangible results.

Vanessa shared a way that another local University is handling allowing faculty, staff and student reps. to have some voting privilege on sub-committees. Which would provide valuable input from those representatives which can be conveyed to the Board.

Old Business: Post Tenure Review: Darrel was told the Board will not entertain an increase in the one-time fee offered for PTR. Faculty will not participate in this evaluation process for the minimal fee that was offered.

Upward Evaluations: This is being worked on to hopefully begin soon.

Master Schedule and Calendar: Is also still being worked on.

Committee Meetings: At this point no committee meeting updates.

HLC Update: Aside from communication issues and transparency, it looks like we are ok in all other areas.

Financial Aid delays: Students are filing their paperwork way too late in addition to the department being terribly understaffed.

Faculty Emeritus: We need to let our Deans to re-submit their nominees as far back as 7 years. The Procedure is now in the Handbook.

Hiring Shortages for Classes being taught/ overload: There is not a formal policy on the way this is handled. It is a process that was created a few yrs. ago. Sarita and Darrin will be meeting on how to work this out and/or calculate load for faculty members who are not making load or teaching overloads. Contracts should come prior to the semester starting for Adjuncts or faculty teaching overloads not after attendance verification and not based on the number of students in the course.

Institutional Effectiveness and Research Position: Still vacant. Search failed.

Fundraising Position: Filled

MBA Handbook: Finished and available online

Enrollment Reported: Question related to students still showing up on faculty rosters that have completed no work nor attended any classes. Apparently, Marviene (the Registrar) is not

involved in dropping any students. John Spencer is only cross referencing to drop students if they have not paid their bills. No one is taking students off rosters for non-participation in classes. Faculty request the right to drop students.

Live Text: New system is supposed to be ready in Spring. At this point there is no definitive date.

Notification of Health Concerns on campus: There is no process in place for any kind of health outbreak on campus. This is something faculty feels should be an item of importance.

Coaches are not supposed to promise to pay for books: Faculty have no power to fix this issue.

Faculty not getting athlete absence notifications in a timely manner: The provost is still not receiving them all in a timely manner from coaches to send them to faculty properly. Faculty has their hands tied on this.

Budget: Accrediting bodies need more detailed information than a general budget. Cynthia will be meeting with Deans to inquire as to the needs of specific accrediting bodies related to budget.

Strategic Plan: The BOG voted on this yesterday and it is now out for 30- day comment along with 3 other policies. Faculty need to review these.

Fundraising Monies going to the Foundation- This is used for oversight of the accounts but is not to be controlled by the foundation as to what or how much of the money is spent on.

Transportation issues for students on Holidays: Ron Shidlemantle stated this has been addressed and taken care of.

Faculty hiring/ pay priorities: Related to an article that was circulated relating to faculty pay and burnout. It was stated that Faculty are a high priority at BSU. We did ask for details related to how many admins have been hired this fall vs. full- time faculty. There has been no correspondence related to the request.

Job Posting related to One Stop Shop: This was a posting that holds multiple responsibilities related to financial aid, registration, and business office duties. No recent information on this posting.

Faculty Athletic Rep.: Dr. Jamkhandi has agreed to take this position. And potentially can keep this position even if moved into administrative position according to NCAA regulations. The AD suggested that we do move a faculty member as co-chair once Dr. Jamkhandi becomes an admin.

BSU Christmas: Dr. Jamkhandi reminded faculty about the Christmas Luncheon on November 19th from 11am-2pm. There is a 5.00 per person charge as part of the Meals on the Hill as scheduled.

Honors College: Cottages are not necessarily being assigned to Honors College Students.
Meeting on Dec. 1st to be held virtually to discuss this issue. Faculty are invited to attend the meeting. This needs to be addressed and corrected by the Spring semester.

New Business: There was no New Business to discuss.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 pm. Vanessa Made the motion and Jami seconded the motion. All were in favor.