Sent for Senate Approval: 1/2/2026

Senate Approved: Click or tap to enter a date.

Official Minutes
Senate Academic Technology Committee Meeting
12/04/2025

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: ATC Chair George Zhao called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The November 6, 2025 ATC meeting minutes were approved electronically on November 20, 2025.

Reports and Announcements

- **George Zhao, ATC Chair**

  Committee members were reminded that Zoom's AI Companion will be used for documenting the November and December meetings, as approved by members at the October ATC meeting. Vice-Chair Paul Chen volunteered to record meeting notes to supplement the meeting summary.

Action Item

- **Appoint ATC Member to Student Technology Fee Initiatives Committee:** The STF Initiatives Committee will need an ATC representative for two different time periods during AY 2025-26. Committee members Rob Berger and Darren McCroom expressed interest in serving on the committee during the January and March phases.

  Since the service terms are still being discussed, the action item was postponed by consent. (Committee members will be polled electronically to approve the appointments.)

Discussion Items

- **CHSS AI Policy:** Betsy O'Donovan, Chair of the CHSS Faculty Affairs Council (FAC), discussed the rationale, scope, and implications of the recent AI policy amendment to the CHSS EPOP developed by the FAC. The policy was created quickly in response to faculty concerns about AI accessing tenure materials and intellectual property.

For Approval

Junior faculty were concerned about possibly having their materials/research uploaded for AI training purposes. The policy, which is intentionally broad and restrictive, has received positive feedback across the CHSS. She acknowledged a leadership gap at the university level regarding AI policy development and mentioned a recent meeting with the Critical AI Literacies Perspectives group, who offered to provide further education and discussion opportunities.

The discussion shifted to AI policy and its impact on faculty and students. O'Donovan explained that faculty concerns about data privacy were primarily preventive, as there was no evidence of widespread AI use. She emphasized that faculty were hired for their ability to analyze information and write, so using AI for these tasks seemed unnecessary.

Questions about student recording of classroom discussions and accommodations for students with disabilities were raised. O'Donovan shared that, while national data estimates that over 80% of students use AI, specific data on WWU usage is not available. The Committee discussed challenges in enforcing AI policies, including the limitations of AI detection tools and the need for transparency in policy implementation. O'Donovan stated that the policy was not enforceable, but that policies are still needed to establish standards and guidance.

Concerns about the broadness of the AI policy that might restrict the use of beneficial aspects of AI tools like Grammarly and Copilot during tenure and promotion reviews were discussed. There was support for a more narrow and precise AI policy that clearly defined appropriate and inappropriate use cases. O'Donovan explained that the policy was intentionally broad but acknowledged concerns about its scope, noting that FAC is considering a more restrictive posture on AI use due to concerns about corporate AI's impact on education and data security.

The meeting focused on the impact of AI on education, particularly the transition from K-12 to university and beyond. The Chair said that AI is already being taught in K-12 schools in Washington State and suggested that universities need to adapt to this changing landscape. O'Donovan highlighted concerns about students becoming dependent on AI for critical thinking, leading to potential challenges in assessing student work and ensuring educational integrity. AI literacy efforts in K-12, emphasizing a human-centered approach, were discussed. The group discussed the rush to integrate AI in universities, with a suggestion for a more measured approach., concerns expressed about the pervasive nature of AI and its implications for future generations, and the need for careful policymaking and consideration of AI's impact on academic freedom and scholarly inquiry.

ASWWU Senate representatives will continue to update ATC on developments from ASWWU Senate where similar discussions on AI policy are happening.

Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to continue the conversation in the future.

Links Shared:

- How the right to education is undermined by AI (to be discussed at upcoming CHSS FAC meeting)
- Inside Yale's Quiet Reckoning with AI | The New Journal
- AI Literacy in Teaching and Learning: Executive Summary | EDUCAUSE
- AI is Destroying the University and Learning Itself

- **Personal Devices for University Communication and Public Records:** Dolapo Akinrinade, Director of University Policy, Rules, and Public Records, and Darin Rasmussen, Assistant Vice President of Risk, Ethics, Safety and Resilience/University Ethics Advisor, gave a presentation on public records laws and their application to university communications, particularly concerning personal devices. All university communications, including emails and electronic records, are subject to public records laws, which aim to ensure transparency and accountability. Even casual communications can become public records, and individuals should consider retention practices, such as regularly reviewing and deleting unnecessary emails. Faculty names and date of birth are also part of public records. The discussion also touched on the implications of generative AI for public records, though no specific decisions or next steps were outlined.

  The process for handling public records requests, including the university's obligation to respond within five business days and the steps taken to locate and provide relevant records, was explained. The use of personal devices for work was addressed, and employees are advised to use university-provided platforms to ensure records are stored securely and can be accessed if needed for public records requests.

  Under the public records law requirements and exemptions, requests must be responded to within 5 business days. It is important to follow retention schedules to avoid unnecessary work. While there are legal exemptions like HIPAA and FERPA, these must be narrowly applied and cited, and there is no administrative process to challenge legislative requirements. In response to a concern about privacy that was raised, it was explained that, while there is limited privacy in university records, employees can request a third-party notice if they have concerns about the release of their records. Such requests are rare and typically unsuccessful in court.

  There was a review of the process for handling public records requests, including reviewing records for exemptions, redacting sensitive information, and the need to verify third party requests. The mandatory fine law and the potential reputational risks associated with non-compliance was discussed.

  The Chair clarifying that personal business on university devices is subject to public records laws, but university business on personal devices is generally acceptable and less risky.

Additional public records training is available for departments and colleges.

Items from the Floor

There were no items from the floor.

Adjournment

Committee members adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

For Approval

ATC Attendance
12/4/2025

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Derek Moscato	CHSS-HUM	x	Chuck Lanham	VP for IT/CIO	x
Paul Chen	CHSS-SBS	x	Michael Wilder	Asst Dir, Teaching, Learning, & Tech	--
Derek McCroom	CFPA	x	Colin Hanson	IT Professional	x
Jiexun Li	CBE	x	John Farquhar	Director, ATUS	x
Claudia Johnson	Fairhaven	--	Vacant	Student Affairs Purchasing Professional	NA
Andy Bunn	CENV	x	Andrea Rodger	BFA Purchasing Professional	x
George Zhao (Chair)	WCE	x	Halle Bauer	ASWWU Senate	x
Sid Devarenne	Libraries	x	**Recorder**		
Wala Saadah	CSE	--	George Zhao Paul Chen	Chair Vice Chair	NA
Rob Berger	CSE	x			
Vacant	Faculty Senate	NA	**Guests**		
Heather Curfman	ASWWU Senate	x	Betsy O'Donovan	Chair, CHSS FAC	x
Lauren Nicaandri	OCE	x	Dolapo Akinrinade	Director, University Policy, Rules, and Public Records	x
			Darin Rasmussen	Assistant Vice President, Risk, Ethics, Safety and Resilience/University Ethics Advisor	x

Voting Attendees	10
Non-Voting Attendees	8
Total Attendees	**18**

For ATC Vote