Sent for Senate Approval: 1/26/2026

Senate Approved: Click or tap to enter a date.

Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
01/12/2026

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President Erika McPhee-Shaw called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The following minutes were approved by consent:

- November 18, 2025 ACC Minutes
  - Direct Admit to Major Catalog Language
- November 19, 2025 SOCEC Minutes
  - Action Items Approved
    - Approval of a motion to recommend changes to the committee roster under Senate bylaw 7.7 to reflect University reorganizational changes and to add the Vice Provost for Outreach and Continuing Education as a non-voting member
    - Approval of a motion to recommend deletion of Senate bylaw 7.7 provision that requires off-campus faculty representation on SOCEC.
- November 24, 2025 Faculty Senate Minutes
- November 25, 2025 SLC Minutes
- December 2, 2025 ACC Minutes
- December 4, 2025 ATC Minutes

Reports and Announcements

Erika McPhee-Shaw, Senate President

- She provided a Faculty Senate report to the Board of Trustees at its December meeting.

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President

- There is a pilot project this quarter related to the student retention initiative which will use Canvas metadata to determine whether students are logging into

their courses during the first few weeks of classes. Student Advising will reach out to those who have not done so. The Provost said that the pilot is not intended to be intrusive and that he may reach out to faculty during the pilot with any course-specific questions. In response to a question, he stated that the pilot program will be able to identify courses that have zero Canvas activity.
- Based on conversations with Senate Exec on the Provost's AI Task Force, he has been looking at how the Task Force might be more narrowly focused. One idea is for the proposed group to look at best practices on AI use in the classrooms (including academic honesty) and to develop an institutional statement on AI use in the classroom. Based on the activity that is happening in the colleges, he also has been speaking with deans about work that might occur at the college, rather than the university, level. A concern was raised regarding AI records, such as ChatGPT transcripts, being part of public records requests. In response to a question, he stated that he is aware of the Critical AI Literacies Collective, but has not had a conversation with the group.

Theresa Warburton, UFWW President

- UFWW has been supporting faculty on public records requests.
- A UFWW representative is available to support the departmental hiring process. UFWW will be developing support materials for this, and individuals who are interested in providing design support are encouraged to reach out.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative

- The Legislative session began on January 12. Two bills that are being monitored are SB 5828, which would expand the Washington college grant and college bound scholarship program to students attending private four-year not-for-profit institutions, and SB 5909, which would require public baccalaureate institutions to annually identify and compile a list of low enrollment programs that would after three consecutive years would be subject to a discontinuance review by the institution's governing board
- She will send biweekly legislative reports beginning next week.

Tesla Monson, Faculty Senate Budget Representative

- The first University Budget Committee meeting of the quarter is scheduled for later this week.
- Governor Ferguson has proposed a 1.5% cut to public regional institutions in his supplemental budget request.

John Hardgrove, ASWWU Senate

- AS will send students to Lobby Day in Olympia, which is scheduled for the first weekend of February. The main priorities are budget issues and protections for undocumented students.

For Approval

- Due to schedule conflicts, there are three ASWWU Senate vacancies on Faculty Senate committees. These will be filled soon.

Gabe Gossett, Appointments and Elections Officer

- The CUE GUR Reform: PEJ Task Force is seeking additional faculty members from non-CHSS departments. Senators are urged to encourage constituents to apply.

Action Items

- **Certification of Margarita Ruiz Guerrero (WCE-ECEM) to Faculty Senate (filling remaining term of Maria Timmons-Flores):** A motion by Senate Appointments and Elections Officer Gabe Gossett to certify the appointments of Margarita Ruiz Guerrero (WCE-ECEM) to the Faculty Senate for Winter-Spring 2026 and Steven Sehman (Fairhaven) for Winter 2026 (and seconded) was approved unanimously.

- **Authorizing the Concurrent Appointment of Bidisha Biswas as Faculty Legislative Representative and Faculty Senate Budget Representative for AY 2026-27:** The Senate unanimously approved a motion on behalf of Senate Executive Council by Senate Appointments and Elections Officer Gabe Gossett to approve the appointment of Bidisha Biswas to serve in a dual capacity as Faculty Legislative Representative and Faculty Senate Budget Representative for AY 2026-27.

Discussion Items

- **Direct Admission to Major Catalog Language:** ACC Chair Melissa D'Eloia provided information about the Revision of "declaring a major" catalog language approved by ACC on November 18, 2025 (background information and ACC motion log). Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Shelli Soto reported that 2,000 applicants for Fall 2026 have declared direct admit to major. She stated that she will be working over the coming months with departments to determine which of their programs should go into each category. described. Vice Provost for Enrollment Of the 10,000 applicants for fall 2026, 2,000 have declared direct admit to major.

- **Public Records Requests and Higher Education:** Carolyn Nielsen, Professor, Department of Journalism, provided information about public records requests and higher education with a focus on intellectual property and best practices. She described the types of university records that are public, Washington's public records law, and protections for copyrighted materials. She stated that, while some states require syllabi to be available online, no states compel faculty to make their teaching materials public and that the California State University System has the strongest protections in place. She reported that Section 15 of the CBA protects faculty because it states that faculty own the copyright to their work. Copyright applies when work is "fixed in a tangible form," and faculty can include a copyright statement on syllabi. She said that the University may not take materials from a faculty member's Canvas site. Senators discussed best practices for email and meeting minutes. Mrsc.org is a

Approved

good resource. Information about the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) was provided as a resource.

- **Admission Standards for International Students:** - Shelli Soto, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, and Ryan Larsen, Executive Director, Office of Global Engagement gave a presentation on current and proposed admissions standards for international students. This issue was also discussed at the December 2, 2025 ACC meeting and is being brought to the Senate for further consultation and discussion. In response to a question, it was stated that there are expected to be additional conversations about modifying the admissions standards for graduate admissions. In response to a question from the Senate President, it was stated that the changes could go into effect for the 2026-2027 applications if the Senate supports them by the end of the month.

Items from the Floor

- **Critical AI Literacies Collective (CALC):** Senator Patrick Buckley (CENV) made a motion (and seconded) to include a 20-minute presentation by a faculty representative from the CALC at a future Faculty Senate meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and there will be follow-up communication with CALC about a date that works.

- **Disability Parking Issues:** Senator Ernest Hartwell (CHSS-HUM) read a constituent concern regarding the impacts of East College Way construction on disability access, including little notice, lack of assistance in finding accommodations, and limited parking availability. A request was made to discuss or pursue a policy regarding disability parking in future unforeseen situations.

- **Provost's AI Task Force:** Senator Greg Youmans (CHSS-HUM-English) raised a constituent concern regarding the Provost's AI Task Force. Issues included the importance of faculty voices, the need for faculty the lead on the task force, how to set up a process for the Senate to appoint its members, and that . faculty be included as ex officio members on all university AI-related committees. The Provost stated that he never had the goal to not include faculty in the Task Force and that it will be a faculty-driven process. He and the Senate President described the discussions occurring with Senate Exec about the Task Force, including having a faculty-led group first, with any broader discussions flowing from that. There was discussion about aligning AI policies to University values. There was a senator comment about CHSS discussions regarding "whether AI" instead of best practices for AI. There were questions and concerns raised regarding potential private funding for a task force. Senate President McPhee-Shaw requested that additional senator comments and thought be emailed to her or Becky Johnston, Faculty Senate staff.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Final Approval

Faculty Senate Attendance Senate
01/12/2026

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Brianna Delker	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	x	John Hardgrove	ASWWU Senate	x
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	x	Sabah Randhawa	President	--
Catherine Clark	CSE-Chemistry	x	Brad Johnson	Provost	x
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	x	Christopher Bianco	Council of Deans	--
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	x	Theresa Warburton	UFWW President	x
Erika McPhee-Shaw	President (At-Large)	x			
Ernest Hartwell	CHSS-HUM-LLC/Linguistics	x			
Gabe Gossett	Libraries	x	**Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives**		
Greg Youmans	CHSS-HUM-English	x	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	x
Heather Moore	CHSS-SBS-SLHS/HHD	x	Tesla Monson	Budget Rep	NA
James Ray	CFPA-Music	x	Michael Slouber	Past President	x
Jane Wong	CHSS-HUM-Ethnic Studies	--	Melissa D'Eloia	ACC	x
Jason Query	CBE-Economics	x	George Zhao	ATC	--
Jim Cooper	CSE-Biology	x	Kendra Dupuy	SLC	--
Johann Neem	CHSS-HUM-History	x	Shawn Knabb	SOCEC	--
John Gialanella	CFPA-Design	x			
Junaid Khan	EECE, Physics & Astronomy	x			
Kameron Harris	CSE-Computer Science	x	**Recorder**		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-ELIT	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Margarita Ruiz Guerrero	WCE-ECE	x			
Maura O'Leary	CHSS-SBS-Linguistics	x			
Patrick Buckley	CENV	x	**Guests**		
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	x	Shelli Soto	Vice Provost, Enrollment Management	x
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x	Ryan Larsen	Executive Director, GEO	x
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	x	Carolyn Nielsen	CHHS-Journalism	x
Stephanie Gomez (Betsy O'Donovan – Proxy)	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x			
Steven Sehman	Fairhaven	x			
Tarek Algeddawy	CSE-Engineering & Design	x			
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	x			
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	x			

Voting Attendees	29	**Non-Voting Attendees**	10	**Total Attendees**	**39**