Sent for Senate Approval: 1/27/2026

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Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
01/26/2026

Not Approval

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President Erika McPhee-Shaw called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

- January 6, 2026 ACC Minutes
- January 12, 2026 Faculty Senate Minutes

Reports and Announcements

Erika McPhee-Shaw, Senate President

- During its 2026-26 subscription review process, Western Libraries will be identifying $102,000 in journals, databases, and other subscriptions to cancel. There is information about why this is happening on the Libraries' subscription review webpage. The Libraries is holding a Subscriptions Open Forum on Zoom on Thursday, February 12 from 4-5:15pm. The Forum will provide an overview of the current subscriptions landscape, give people an opportunity to ask questions, and serve as a jumping-off point for the winter subscriptions feedback period. The forum will be recorded.

- She is expecting to hear an Item from the Floor regarding ICE and has been thinking about broader federal issues and communicating with students and each other. It feels like civil society is cracking, and it is important for faculty to maintain their role as leaders in a bastion of civil society.

Sabah Randhawa, University President

- The Governor and the Attorney General issued statements on ICE today.

- He was in Olympia most of last week meeting with legislators. The takeaway is that he is somewhat encouraged regarding budget.

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President

- The Canvas data pilot regarding student retention reported on at the last Senate meeting resulted in a list of approximately 47 students after feedback from faculty.

Ginny Dawson, UFWW Vice President

- UFWW will be holding a Know Your Rights training for the WWU community by Dulce Gutierrez from the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) later this quarter.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative

- Due to meetings in Olympia, a written report on the current legislative session was submitted to the Senate. Questions and comments on the items in the report can be directed to the Faculty Legislative Representative.

Tesla Monson, Faculty Senate Budget Representative

- The University Budget Committee held its first meeting of the quarter last week. The Governor's supplemental budget calls for $1.9 million in cuts to WWU. In addition to these proposed cuts, there are $2.6 million in recurring reductions that will need to be determined by the University. Enrollment modeling shows guarded optimism.

John Hardgrove, ASWWU Senate

- Lobby Day is next week, with 50 WWU students expected to attend. Priorities include budget-related and affordability issues, student privacy concerns (especially regarding undocumented students, OSE collective bargaining rights, and sustainability, particularly regarding AI and data centers.

Action Items

- **Approve Revision of "Declaring a Major" Catalog Language:** A motion by Vice President/President-Elect James Ray to approve the revision of "declaring a major" catalog language as approved by ACC on November 18, 2025, and discussed by the Faculty Senate on January 12 was passed by a vote of 23 yes, 1 no, 6 abstain.

  Prior to approval, a senator made a statement regarding appreciation for the shared governance process being followed and his concerns regarding the broader issues raised for liberal arts education when first-year students are encouraged to declare a major.

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- **Support Proposed Revisions to English Language Proficiency Test Scores in Undergraduate International Admissions:** A motion was made by Secretary Jim Cooper on behalf of Senate Executive Council to support the proposed revisions to English Language Proficiency Test Scores in Undergraduate International Admissions as presented to the Faculty Senate on January 12, 2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion Item

- **AI at WWU:** President McPhee-Shaw shared information provided today on behalf of ATC Chair George Zhao regarding the AI Hub Discussion Group, which is led David Bass, Justina Brown, AJ Barse, and Justin Revelstoke of CII and ATUS. The group is open to anyone at WWU, with an emphasis on membership to show a commitment to engage in the conversation discuss various perspectives, practices, possibilities, and limits of AI in teaching and learning.

  The following series of presentations on AI at WWU were given, followed by Senate discussion/Q&A.

  - **Critical AI Literacies Collective:** Xi Wang, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies/Institute for Energy Studies, and Emily Spracklin, Teaching and Learning Librarian/Subject Teams Coordinator, Western Libraries, gave a presentation on the Critical AI Literacies Collective (CALC).

  - **How AI is Transforming Computer Science (CS) Practice and Faculty Perspectives:** Kameron Harris, Associate Professor, Computer Science, provided an overview of how society got to where it is at. In computer science, things are changing faster than in other fields, and people are using AI in their jobs every day. Using AI tools can accelerate science. Efficiency and energy use are a current problem, but there may be some hope in terms of improvement. In terms of CS education, there are the same issues as other programs in terms of issues such as homework and exams. He does not believe there is a one-size-fits-all policy for WWU but does like idea of thinking about AI as it related to WWU's values. He stated that WWU should double down on its in-person strengths in the face of "AI universities" and develop better connections with all kind of industries.

  - **Writing, Research, and AI Fellows:** Shannon Kelly, Head of Writing Instruction Support/Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, and Neach Ingram-Monteiro, Teaching and Learning and Community Engagement Librarian, Western Libraries gave a presentation on the AI Writing, Research, and AI Fellows Program.

  - **Senate Discussion/Q&A:** Several senators expressed support for the idea of a WWU value statement on AI instead of a one-size-fits all policy. There was a

discussion about whether groups working on AI at WW are collaborating, and it was reported that they try to keep each other informed but there are no formal collaborations. CALC is working on ways to broaden its reach and increase faculty involvement.

President McPhee-Shaw led Senate attendees in a Think-Pair-Share exercise during which groups developed one question to ask presenters and/or determined a main goal regarding AI. Example share-out comments/questions by the groups included:

- Are the groups working on a common goal on how faculty should work on AI and how to inform regarding ethics?
- With teaching writing, where do you see yourself in five years given how fast technology is moving?
- How can a culture on AI use be created at WWU?
- How can tensions between departments/disciplines be responded to in order to create a cohesive university policy?
- The work of the different groups working on AI and keeping the dialogue going is inspiring. What is needed from WWU to keep the work going?
- This issue is not something to be solved, but to be discussed.
- What is AI role in the Western community and what is the value of a WWU education that includes AI?
- What AI skills do we want students to have?
- What concerns of the groups working on this should be addressed in terms of WWU values?

During a brief follow-up discussion, presenters responded to some of the comments and questions raised, including:

- Support for the idea that AI is something to discuss, not solve
- A single policy/top down devalues who we are as faculty
- Eagerness to follow-up with the AI Fellows regarding the issues raised at the Senate meeting and explore whether there is a way to connect them with the deliverables.

Items from the Floor

- **Campus ICE Response** – Senator Johann Neem (CHSS-HUM-History), a member of the AAUP Support Task Force, raised Task Force and constituent concerns and frustration about the slow movement by University Administration, specifically regarding providing rules/rights signage and creating ICE notifications as part of the emergency response process.

- **Canvas Retention Pilot** – Senator Stephanie Gomez (CHSS-Communication Studies/WGSS) raised constituent concerns regarding the emails received by faculty about student Canvas login. She stated that faculty are looking for more clarity about

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their role and raised a possible workload issue for large classes. Another issue is timing, citing a student who logged on to Canvas during the first week but has not attended class or logged on since then. Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Jack Herring stated that the emails to faculty had the names of one or two students, requested feedback from faculty about whether they should be reached out to by administration, and any faculty-related student contact was optional.

- **Student Academic Support** – Senator Patrick Buckley (CENV) asked whether funding has been set aside to support students who are going to be admitted but need additional tutoring and academic support services?

- **Parking Closure** – Senator Jason Query (CBE) raised constituent concerns about the closure 19G parking lot closure due to construction, particularly regarding communication, disability access, and equity. There was a comment that loading zones are also impacted.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

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Faculty Senate Attendance Senate
01/26/2026

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Brianna Delker	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	x	John Hardgrove	ASWWU Senate	x
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	x	Sabah Randhawa	President	x
Catherine Clark	CSE-Chemistry	x	Brad Johnson	Provost	x
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	x	Christopher Bianco	Council of Deans	x
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	x	Theresa Warburton (Ginny Dawson – Proxy)	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	x	Melissa D'Eloia	ACC	x
Jason Query	CBE-Economics	x	George Zhao	ATC	x
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	Xi Wang	CENV/IES	x
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x	Emily Spracklin	Libraries	x
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	x	Shannon Kelly	Libraries	x
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x	Neah Ingram-Monteiro	Libraries	x
Steven Sehman	Fairhaven	x	Jack Herring	AVP Academic Affairs	x
Tarek Algeddawy	CSE-Engineering & Design	x			
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	x			
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	x			

Voting Attendees	30	**Non-Voting Attendees**	15	**Total Attendees**	**45**