Sent for Senate Approval: 2/11/2026

Senate Approved: Click or tap to enter a date.

Official Minutes
Senate Academic Technology Committee Meeting
02/05/2026

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: ATC Chair George Zhao called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The December 4, 2025 ATC meeting minutes were approved electronically on January 2, 2026.

Reports and Announcements

George Zhao, ATC Chair

- **Canvas Course Accessibility Update:** CIIA is working with Libraries to update 15,000 .pdf files for accessibility. Whatever solution is developed hopefully will be available for faculty to use. Training opportunities currently include presentations and open lab Zoom sessions on February 20.

Discussion Items

- **Canvas AI Features Investigation:** Michael Wilder, Assistant Director of ATUS, reported that Canvas has recently released three free IgniteAI tools, Smart Search, Discussion Summaries, and Translations. The features were demonstrated for ATC members. The features are currently disabled at the University level.

  The Discussion Summaries tool analyzes discussion posts for relevance and provides student names and evaluation notes, and is available only for faculty. If turned on by WWU, it can be enabled on a course-by-course basis. Students would not be able to see whether it is activated.

  The Search tool adds a way to search via course navigation menu for faculty and students to use. This also would be opt-in on a course-by-course basis if enabled at the University level. There was a discussion about what types of AI are part of the tool, as it seems like a straightforward tool.

The Translations tool allows students to translate discussions, announcements, and inbox items into a preferred language. This feature would automatically be enabled for all courses if enabled at the University level. Support was expressed for the need for the tool, though it might be confusing with immersive reader already existing as a Canvas tool.

The ASWWU representative reported that AI is the number one concern that is reported by her constituents and fellow senators. She is concerned that using these tools would encourage more AI use among students (behavior modeling). She wonders who is asking for the tool, whether there is a problem to be solved, or if it is being used for the sake of using the technology.

A member of the Student Technology Fee committee reported that there have been requests for AI-related funding. He believes that the University needs to develop a University-wide policy on AI use.

Given faculty concerns regarding AI use, ATUS is seeking faculty feedback to review and recommend whether these tools should be made available to faculty. Based on concerns raised during the discussion, especially regarding the Discussion Summary tool, the Chair will contact the Senate President regarding bringing this issue to the full Senate with a presentation by ATUS and ATC.

- **STF Field Trip Planning:** ATC members reviewed the list of previous STF award recipients and discussed which ones to include during this year's site visits, to be conducted in lieu of the March Committee meeting.

  Committee members discussed visiting the following previous grant awardees: WCE Wonderbooks (audio books for accessibility), STC 3D printers that have been used to create WWU maps for visually impaired students in collaboration with DAC, Anthropology Ray Gun, and Audiology Clinical Equipment. The Chair will reach out to all of the suggested sites and will schedule visits to the ones that are available.

  The April ATC meeting will be devoted to reviewing this year's ATC applications and providing feedback on the awardees.

Items from the Floor

There were no items from the floor.

Adjournment

Committee members adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

ATC Attendance
02/05/2026

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Derek Moscato	CHSS-HUM	x	Chuck Lanham	VP for IT/CIO	--
Paul Chen	CHSS-SBS	x	Michael Wilder	Asst Dir, Teaching, Learning, & Tech	NA
Derek McCroom	CFPA	x	Colin Hanson	IT Professional	x
Jiexun Li	CBE	x	Michael Wilder	Assistant Director, ATUS	x
Claudia Johnson	Fairhaven	--	Vacant	Student Affairs Purchasing Professional	NA
Andy Bunn	CENV	--	Andrea Rodger	BFA Purchasing Professional	--
George Zhao (Chair)	WCE	x	Halle Bauer	ASWWU Senate	--
Sid Devarenne	Libraries	x	**Recorder**		
Wala Saadah	CSE	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Rob Berger	CSE	x			
Vacant	Faculty Senate	NA	**Guests**		
Heather Curfman	ASWWU Senate	x			
Lauren Nicandri	OCE	x			

Voting Attendees	10
Non-Voting Attendees	3
Total Attendees	**13**