Sent for Senate Approval: 3/10/2026

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Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
03/09/2026

For Approval

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President Erika McPhee-Shaw called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

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

- February 17, 2026 ACC Minutes
- February 23, 2026 Faculty Senate Minutes
- February 24, 2026 SLC Minutes

Reports and Announcements

Erika McPhee-Shaw, Senate President

- She met with VPs/Senate of other WA universities today and one issue that came up coincidentally was three-year degrees. She sent an email to senators summarizing the discussion.

Sabah Randhawa, University President

- There were no reports or announcements.

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President

- He attended a DC conference of regional provosts focused on AI. The three themes were operations, teaching and learning, and student support. The conference helped him to narrow down areas for future conversations at WWU. He suggests that a more substantive discussion be scheduled with Senate, including policy vs governance, AI literacy models, and work by nonprofits that are developing internal, custom AI tools that would be housed within institutions.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative

- A written report was provided to senators in the meeting materials.
- The Legislative session is winding down pending agreement on the "millionaires' tax." She is hopeful that the budget will not have cuts to higher ed.

Telsa Monson, Faculty Senate Budget Representative

- The University Budget Committee met this morning. There is a push to increase yield to meet the fall enrollment. The audit is complete, and no issues were identified. New FAST indexes will be sent to financial managers soon. There will be ongoing discussions regarding tuition for non-resident students, including the question of sticker price versus waivers.
- A written report will be sent before the end of winter quarter.

John Hardgrove, ASWWU Senate

- Student government candidate filing will be opening soon.
- ASWWU has approved the athletics referendum to be included on the ballot.
- He had a valuable meeting with Senate President McPhee-Shaw Erika that included a conversation about the future of shared governance. He hopes to continue these discussions next quarter.
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Discussion Items

- **Follow-Up Discussion on IgniteAI/Canvas AI Tools:** President McPhee-Shaw described the three Ignite AI/Canvas tools – Discussion Summaries, Search, and Translation – that were presented at the February 23 Senate meeting. Constituent feedback was noted and it was stated that the Senate will need to decide whether the features should be enabled.

  There was a question and follow up discussion about whether a vote on the tools would be separated into three individual votes.

  Senators raised concerns regarded the translations tool being enabled for all courses, its accuracy, including language subtleties and whether students would be responsible for inaccurate translations. A concern was raised about the discussion summaries not being visible to students. A constituent comment that the search tool could threaten Canvas course design, which is sometimes part of learning process, was raised.

  Several senators expressed support for postponing action on the tools in order to keep them disabled until faculty has more time to consider them.

Not Approved

A motion was made by Senator Brianna Delker (CHSS-SBS), and seconded, to delay a vote on enabling the IgniteAI/Canvas tools issue until Spring 2027. The motion was withdrawn.

There was additional discussion regarding whether the Senate could vote immediately to keep the tools disabled.

Senator Dennis Whitcomb (CHSS-HUM) moved that all currently proposed Canvas AI tools remain disabled unless a future Senate vote reverses the decision. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

Senators expressed concerns regarding the difficulty of making AI-related decisions on a case-by-case basis as a faculty body, as well as about the amount of time that the Faculty Senate has spent discussing AI this academic year. It was recommended that the Senate start thinking about creating a workgroup that would consider these issues through the lens of "how does this AI affect academic integrity." A concern was raised that ATUS currently cannot work with faculty on implementing tools because there is no institutional policy.

A motion was made by Senator James Ray (CFPA), and seconded, that the Senate Executive Council develop a charge for a Faculty Senate task force, workgroup, or ad-hoc committee to consider AI tools and issues through the lens of academic integrity. The motion was approved by a vote of 28 yes, 0 no, and 2 abstain.

It was further clarified that the workgroup is intended to provide first-line recommendations, with final action by the full Senate.

- **Update on Three-Year Baccalaureate Discussions in WA:** Provost Johnson gave a presentation about three-year degree programs in Washington State and beyond. NWCCU approved accreditation of three-year degrees in 2024, and the Council of Presidents initiated a discussion to create guidelines for WA colleges in that year. To date, CWU and WSU are working on three-year degree programs. At CWU, the proposal is for 135 credits. This would need to be approved by the CWU Senate, with a target of Fall 2026 so that it can be approved by NWCCU in Winter 2027. In the presentation, the following issues were raised to provide a discussion framework:
    - Workforce needs and acceptance? What credential is this?
    - Less 'exploratory' and broad education
    - Intersection with CTC's which have applied baccalaureate programs
    - Other unintended consequences, such as adding more time to degree in the long run?

During discussion, Senators raised the several following concerns and questions, including:

- CWU faculty opposition to the three-year degree proposal was raised. In response, the Provost said that depends on whom is being talked to, stating that the current issue is creating a framework for proposals to move forward rather than getting broad consensus in support of three-year degrees.
- Is the Legislature raising this issue? The Provost reported that he would not say there is pressure from the Legislature, but that there are questions about "what are you going to do about this" in response to what is happening in other states.
- What are the perceived benefits to WWU? The Provost stated that the main benefit is enrollment.
- Is there evidence that supports three-year degree programs? The Provost responded that the first programs appeared in 2024, which means that there is no data yet. A concern was raised that students might not be able to get jobs since there is no evidence that workforce needs will be met through three-year degrees (selling them on a promise).
- Is CWU looking at following the trend of online three-year degrees, and would this be something WWU would do? The Provost reported that he will know more after CWU develops its framework for proposals. A Senator said that the CWU framework seems like a Trojan Horse because it means the University is thinking about what programs could move through the framework.
- One issue that was raised are students who enroll as juniors having met most or all of their gen ed credits (transfer, CiHS, Running Start students). There are concerns that students would attend for only one year or extend time to graduation.
- Concerns were raised that three-year degree programs seem like a devaluation of the university, including the intersection of professional programs with the liberal arts mission and post-COVID discussions regarding online education.
- The ASWWU President stated that WWU should look internally with respect to retention and making students feel like they can complete a four-year program before thinking about three-year degree programs.

Items from the Floor

- CII and ATUS Student AI Messaging: Senator Maura O'Leary (CHSS) raised a constituent concern that the Center for Instructional Innovation (CII) and ATUS are sending messages to students that are very pro-AI and that they are using AI on their own website. The concern is that the messaging is not aligned with faculty concerns about AI use.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Faculty Senate Attendance Senate
03/09/2026

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	UFWW President	--
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	--
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	--	**Recorder**		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-ELIT	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Margarita Ruiz Guerrero	WCE-ECE	x			
Maura O'Leary	CHSS-SBS-At Large	x			
Patrick Buckley	CENV	x	**Guests**		
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	x			
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x			
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	x			
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x			
Steven Sehman	Fairhaven	x			
Tarek Algeddawy	CSE-Engineering & Design	--			
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	x			
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	x			

Voting Attendees	28	**Non-Voting Attendees**	8	**Total Attendees**	**36**

BOARD APPROVED