Sent for Senate Approval: 5/14/2026

Senate Approved: Click or tap to enter a date.

Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
05/04/2026

For Approval

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

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

Prior to proceeding with the regular order of business, a motion was made by Senator Ernest Hartwell (and seconded) to move the remainder of the meeting outdoors. The motion did not carry.

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

- April 14, 2026 ACC Minutes (Motion Log: Presidential Strategic Enrollment Initiative)
- April 16, 2026 SOCEC Minutes
- April 20, 2026 Faculty Senate Minutes
- April 21, 2026 SLC Minutes

Reports and Announcements

Erika McPhee-Shaw, Senate President

- The application deadline to serve as next year's Faculty Senate Deputy Budget Representative was last week. There was one applicant. This week, Becky will email all voting senators his nomination form and an electronic confirmation poll.

- There is one information item on the agenda, which shows the unanimous approval of a motion during last Monday's Senate Exec meeting to bring the Faculty Handbook changes to the full Senate.

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President

- There were no reports or announcements.

Ginny Dawson, UFWW Vice President

- Faculty should have received a UFWW email with information regarding elections (nominations are open), the May 15 Spring Meeting, the May 18 candidate and elected official Labor Town Hall, and the UFWW Spring Party on May 29. Faculty are urged to RSVP to the May 29 event.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative

- There were no reports or announcements.

Tesla Monson, Faculty Senate Budget Representative

- The next University Budget Committee meeting is Monday, May 11. A report will be provided to the Senate at the May 18 meeting. Next UBC meeting next Monday

Information Item

- **Senate Executive Council Motion on Minor Edits/Technical Corrections to Faculty Handbook:** At the April 27, 2026 Faculty Senate Executive Council meeting, a motion made by Secretary Jim Cooper (and seconded) to bring minor edits and technical corrections to the Faculty Handbook for a vote as a motion from Senate Executive Council/

Action Item

- **Minor Edits/Technical Corrections to Faculty Handbook:** A motion was made by Secretary Jim Cooper on behalf of the Senate Executive Council to make minor edits and technical corrections to the Faculty Handbook. A summary of the changes follows.
    - Preface IV. Creation, Elimination or Merger of a School, College, Academic Department, or Degree Program: Language clarifies that, under existing Board of Trustees delegation of authority policy, the Board approves new full, stand-alone degrees, such as BA/BS/MS degrees. Under this policy, the Provost approves programs that are a sub- degree of an existing program, a minor, or a certificate on behalf of the Board and President.
    - Article 3.3 Terms of Office: Language resolves the discrepancy between the three consecutive/six-year term limit when appointments are made to fill a vacancy left by a sitting senator/committee member. In these cases, the Senate Executive Council recommends that a full term is at least one year of

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service.

- BL 3.2 Vacancies: Language clarifies the process to fill vacancies to align with the current Senate election process under BL 4.4, which stipulates that college governance bodies are responsible for electing and forwarding one nominee for Senate certification.

  During discussion, Senators adopted a friendly amendment by consensus to clarify that the language applies to the Faculty Senate and its standing committees and to clarify that, in cases of multiple candidates for a position, the faculty governance committee of the relevant college shall forward a single nominee to the Senate for confirmation.

- BL 7.1 Academic Coordinating Commission: Minor corrections are needed to reflect current Senate and University organization.

- BL 7.5 Senate Outreach and Continuing Education Committee: On November 19, 2025, SOCEC members unanimously approved motions to recommend roster corrections based on University reorganization changes. At its April 16, 2026 meeting SOCEC members voted to recommend minor changes to the reporting requirements to reflect standard report timing and practices

  During discussion, Senators adopted a friendly amendment by consensus to modify the reporting requirement to "by beginning of spring quarter."

The motion, as amended, to approve the technical corrections to the Faculty Handbook passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

- **NTT Service Pool Policy Revisions:** Ginny Dawson, UFWW Vice President, reviewed proposed revisions to the NTT Service Pool policy that are designed to close a current gap in NTT service opportunities at the department level and to update the policies compensation structure. During discussion, senators raised questions and concerns about whether the compensation provisions in the current policy should be removed prior to bargaining and about the appropriate methodology to determine compensation levels. There was suggestion that the UFWW could explore a MOU for next year to address this issue. There was support expressed for increased opportunities for NTT voices at all levels of service.

  The Senate unanimously approved a motion by Senate Vice President/President-Elect James Ray (and seconded) to revise the discussion draft to:

  - *Incorporate the suggested changes that would make funds available to NTTs serving at all levels*

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- *Tie compensation to a base rate of not less than $41.46 per hour as a stopgap measure until further discussion regarding compensation occurs.*

A revised draft policy will be presented to the Senate at the May 18, 2026 meeting.

- **Faculty Oversight of University Funds for Consultant Services:** The Senate *unanimously approved a motion from Senator/Budget Representative Tesla Monson (and seconded) to table the discussion*, which was originally tabled by the Senate on April 20, 2026. This will allow for additional information-gathering.

Items from the Floor

- **AI Attitudes and Use Survey:** Senator Brianna Delker (CHSS-SBS-Psychology) is working with several faculty members across different colleges on a campus-wide survey on AI attitudes and use. She requested that senators share the following announcement and linked flyer with constituents:

  > We are undertaking a research study on AI Use and Attitudes among the WWU Community (HRPP Study Number: 14712EX26). The 5–10 minute survey asks you about your experience with AI at WWU, if and how you use AI tools, and what your attitudes are towards AI in education. This research will help us understand how the use of artificial intelligence is impacting learner and educator experiences at Western. You can find the survey here.

- **Career Services Center:** Senator Johann Neem (CHSS-HUM-History) raised concerns regarding impact of cuts at Career Services on students, including the use of technology rather than staff and the effects on students in the arts & sciences and first-generation students. He recommended that the Senate address this issue in the Fall.

- **Quarters to Semesters Transition:** Senator Dawna Drum (CBE) raised concerns regarding transition to semesters raised during the University Budget Committee report during the last Senate meeting. She cited cost concerns regarding such a transition and stated that this issue should be a point of shared governance involving all key stakeholders.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

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Faculty Senate Attendance Senate
05/04/2026

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Brianna Delker	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	x	Laura Free	ASWWU Senate	--
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	x	Sabah Randhawa	President	--
Catherine Clark	CSE-Chemistry	--	Brad Johnson	Provost	x
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	x	Christopher Bianco	Council of Deans	x
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	x	Ginny Dawson	UFWW VP	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	x
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	x	**Recorder**		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-ELIT	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Margarita Ruiz Guerrero	WCE-ECE	--			
Maura O'Leary	CHSS-SBS-Linguistics	x			
Patrick Buckley	CENV	x	**Guests**		
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	--			
Melissa Osborne	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x			
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	--			
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x			
Tarek Algeddawy	CSE-Engineering & Design	x			
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	x			
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	--			
Yanara Friedland	Fairhaven	--			

Voting Attendees	24	**Non-Voting Attendees**	8	**Total Attendees**	**32**