

CMU Faculty Senate MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 5, 2026, 3:30 – 5:00pm

Venue: Library 331

Senators/Representatives present:

Karl Castleton, Kathy Diehl, Cassie Fenton, Ann Gillies, Eli Hall, Yen-Sheng Lee, Christopher McKim, Steve Merino, Josh Meuwly, Christine Noel, James Perez, Jenny Radomski, Markus Reitenbach, Stacie Schreiner, Megan Sherbenou, Rachel Weinzimmer, Chad Middleton (on behalf of Cher Hendricks), Richard Scott, Leilani Domingo

Senators/Representatives Absent:

Guests:

Margot Becktell, Dave Weinberg, Mary Jo Stanley

Rena Phillips- Recorder

I. Call to Order and Roll Call by Sign-In

- a. President Merino calls meeting to order at 3:30pm

II. Consent Agenda

- a. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2025

Motion: to approve the Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2025

(Schreiner, Seconded Weinzimmer); Motion Carried

III. Approve Faculty Senate Minutes from February 19, 2026

Motion: to approve Faculty Senate Minutes from February 19, 2026

(Hall, Seconded McKim); Motion Carried

IV. Information Items

- a. Faculty Senate Officers for 2026-2027 AY

- i. Discussion: Need to confirm who will be President Elect, Vice President and Secretary for next year by the end of the semester.

V. Continuing Business

- a. New Faculty Senate priorities

- i. Discussion: Please think about non-financial items that we can work on in our body, to come up with opportunities. Recently Merino reached out to other Senate Presidents, i.e. Hendricks at UC Denver, and discussed that there is a faculty representative on all bodies across their campus, which he would like to see happen at CMU.

b. Assessing and improving the Policy and Procedures Manual for Faculty Senate Standing Committees

- i. Discussion: Merino has updated the document. McKim asked when we wanted to send out to the campus, Merino stated that we should approve a new manual by the second meeting in April to be able to send out to everyone by the end of the semester.
 1. Faculty Success Committee:
 - a. Made updates directly to the document Merino shared at the meeting.
 2. Library Advisory Committee
 - a. Silvia Rael really believes that the committee is necessary and valuable. Merino recommends that there is a need to have stronger communication with Faculty Senate. Conversations ensued about this committee and whether it should be a Faculty Senate Standing Committees or not. Weinzimmer suggested that the Library Advisor Committee could be combined with another Standing Committee, i.e. Technology Advisory Committee. Schreiner noted that the Library Standing Committee is written that it looks more like the Library Director's committee instead of a Faculty Senate Standing Committee that consults with the Library Director. If the committee is dissolved, then the participation of faculty on the committee may not continue into a separate Library Committee.
 3. Faculty Salary and Benefits
 - a. Weinzimmer gave updates to Merino after discussion with Fenton and Weinburg. Faculty Senate agrees with the updated wording suggested by Weinzimmer and noted on the document shared by Merino.
 4. Assessment Committee
 - a. Made updates to document shared by Merino.

c. Updating Faculty Senate's Constitution and Bylaws to reflect changes to PPEH/CHAPS and an opportunity for other changes and updates

- i. Discussion: Radomski shared that Health Sciences has many faculty who are on the clinical faculty track, not the tenured faculty track, thus it would be hard for their department to send representatives if the requirement is to be tenure track. Sherbenou shared that non-tenure track faculty may fear giving their input.

d. Report from Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee on Five-Year Review Cycle

- i. Discussion: The final report has been submitted to Merino.

Motion: to accept the Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee on Five-Year Review Cycle report.

(Reitenbach, Seconded Weinzimmer); Motion Carried

- e. Revised Graduate Catalog with input from APC and GCC

- i. Discussion: Merino shared that APC & GCC have provided input. There is a discussion on whether Faculty Senate needs to approve the revised graduate catalog. It was determined that this is informational.

VI. New Business

- a. Proposal to add honors recognition to graduate degrees

- i. Discussion: Merino shared that a student wrote a paper discussing the desire to see an added honors level recognition to graduate degrees. Does the Faculty Senate want to charge APC to investigate it, graduation with “Distinction” or “High Distinction”. The student identified that there isn’t anything like this in Colorado. Weinzimmer shared that their programs already have an internal process for OT, PT, PA. Reach out to your graduate faculty.

VII. Reports

- a. Provost Report, Chad Middleton (on behalf of Cher Hendricks)

- i. Hendricks’ husband passed away unexpectedly (Friday, March 20th is his celebration of life). Academic Affairs Office is doing their best to keep up. Jeremy Hawkins will take lead on Provost’s evaluation process on behalf of Hendricks, will rely heavily on the department’s feedback. Middleton is working with the Academic Council, discussing the promotions going live in fall and plans to work on instructor level to assistant or associate teaching faculty. Outlook for the state’s report is still undetermined at this point, but the outlook does not look very good. \$6 million shortfall is expected.

- b. Faculty Trustee Report, Stacie Schreiner

- i. Today was the first open forums, next will be on 3/24 at 4pm in CTL. There were only 10 faculty in attendance. Discussion on parking. Support around (or lack of support) for graduate faculty on the campus. What does graduate culture look like or mean on campus. Wayne Smith asked Schreiner to share questions about CMU Tech: such as what the growth looks like; will there be renovations, will programs be distributed or stay there, do we lobby for a new CMU Tech campus.

- c. CFAC report, Christine Noel

- i. No Report
 - d. VP report, Christopher McKim
 - i. No Report
 - e. Student Government Report, Leilani Domingo
 - i. ASGs work has been reviewing budgets and funding needs. Looking at where there can be restructuring in the fees. Investing in student life, campus safety, campus structure (parking garage), etc. Elections are happening now.
 - f. Executive Committee Report, Markus Reitenbach
 - i. No Report
 - g. President's Report, Stephen Merino
 - i. No Report
- VIII. Adjourn
**Motion: to adjourn the meeting
(Sherbenou, Seconded McKim); Motion carried 4:57p**