

## CMU Faculty Senate MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 2, 2026, 3:30 – 5:00pm

Venue: Center for Teaching and Learning

### 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

### Senators/Representatives Absent:

Leilani Domingo

### Guests:

Holly Oberle, Kelly O'Connell, Margot Beckett, Jeremy Hawkins, Blake Bickham

Renae Phillips- Recorder

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call by Sign-In
  - a. President Merino calls meeting to order at 3:32pm
  
- II. Committee Minutes and Reports to Approve
  - a. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee meeting minutes from November 20, 2025  
**Motion: to approve Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee meeting minutes from November 20, 2025**  
**(Sherbenou, Seconded Hall); Motion Carried**
  
  - b. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from February 26, 2026  
**Motion: to approve Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from February 26, 2026**  
**(Gilles, Seconded Castleton); Motion Carried**
  
  - c. Graduate Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from March 4, 2026  
**Motion: to approve Graduate Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from March 4, 2026**  
**(Weinzimmer, Seconded Schreiner); Motion Carried**
  
  - d. CMU Tech Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from March 10, 2026  
**Motion: to approve CMU Tech Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from March 10, 2026**  
**(Sherbenou, Seconded McKim); Motion Carried**
  
- III. Approve Faculty Senate Minutes from March 5, 2026  
**Motion: to approve Faculty Senate Minutes from March 5, 2026, as amended.**

**(Fenton, Seconded Weinzimmer); Amend spelling of David Weinberg's name (McKim, Seconded Weinzimmer); Motion Carried**

IV. Information Items

- a. Invitation to participate in CMU Assurance Plan Review

V. Continuing Business

- a. Recommended changes to student course evaluations from Faculty Success Committee

- i. Discussion: Holly Oberle shared the Course Evaluation Reform: Executive Summary for Faculty Senate. Weinzimmer asked when the evaluations would begin to roll out. Oberle believes that Institutional Research would roll out in Spring 2027. Merino asked if it would be best to roll out the beginning of the academic year. McKim recommends rolling out beginning of the calendar year to match faculty evaluation process. Weinzimmer asked if there was a subgroup in the surveys for graduate students? Aimed to survey 10% of all student groups, including graduates.

**Motion: to accept the Faculty Success Committee's Course Evaluation Reform: Executive Summary for Faculty Senate report (Schreiner, Seconded Hall); Motion Carried**

- b. New Faculty Senate priorities

- i. Discussion: Merino will keep on continuing business

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

- i. Discussion: Radomski asked if we are discussing committees as well. Health Sciences wanted to know those on the Tenure and Promotion Committee make decisions on promotions, etc. Middleton shared that the Academic Affairs office is looking into creating a separate Non-Tenure Track Promotion Committee, however more work is still needed on this. No final decision has been made. Weinzimmer shared that on a policy/procedure process, we shouldn't copy/paste from another source into the Policy and Procedures Manual but should reference where information on other committees is located. Recommend keeping first two paragraphs of C, but deleting everything else listed up to D. Merino will send out the updated document to all faculty and will send out a targeted email to Department Heads on what changes have happened to discuss the shifting of the committees. Schreiner recommended having any questions sent to their departmental Senator.

**Motion: to approve the Policy and Procedure Manual for Faculty Senate Standing Committees in its entirety as it has been updated and presented.  
(Reitenbach, Seconded Castleton); Motion Carried**

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

- i. Discussion: Merino has tracked changes on the change to the Faculty Senate's Constitution and Bylaws, and it is in the folder for review. Merino will remove the tracked changes, so that the next meeting can be finalized.

## VI. New Business

a. Potential charge for Academic Policies Committee regarding "double-counting" Essential Learning courses

- i. Discussion: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee had a discussion on the potential "double counting" of essential learning courses. Bickham shared an example for an Art degree, how they are required to take numerous Art courses, but potentially none of those courses for essential learning. Bickham shared that Scott Andrews is interested in at least exploring the idea. Schreiner asked if there are any negative aspect for "double counting" would be in doing this. Merino shared that class sizes may be decreased by using this process and decrease enrollment in those programs/minors. Maybe a compromise would be that one course could be used as double counting (i.e. SBS), but not both.

**Motion: to charge the Academic Policies Committee to investigate the feasibility of double counting courses for essential learning and majors  
(Weinzimmer, Seconded Noel); Motion Carried**

## VII. Reports

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

- i. Hendricks is on leave from now until May 31<sup>st</sup>. She will return until June 30<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy Hawkins will be serving as Acting Provost.
- ii. Student Showcase is May 1<sup>st</sup> 12-3pm. There are 421 abstracts and 939 unique students approved.
- iii. Working on what it will look like for Promotion. There are also updates that are expected on the Tenure and Promotion forms with them being available May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- iv. Faculty Colloquium is Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>: Steve Merino will be presenting on Race and College Sports

- b. Faculty Trustee Report, Stacie Schreiner
  - i. Open Forum with President Marshall Summary:
    1. State budget: looking at relatively flat instead of a decrease.
    2. “Nimble” with strategies on cutting budgets if needed.
    3. Return on investment: if there is a report that the ROI is not doing well. President Marshall stated that if students are enrolling in programs, they will run. He emphasized that ROI is not always financial.
    4. Not interested in cutting core operations and will not cut anything that cuts student enrollment.
    5. There has been an increase in student concerns (two weeks prior to fall break and two weeks prior to spring break). Talked about if there is a need for training.
    6. Adjunct pay: there is statistical analysis happening now.
    7. Another open forum on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-5pm in CTL
  
- c. CFAC report, Christine Noel
  - i. Reduced credit discussion. Merino will send out another email reminder to respond.
  
- d. VP report, Christopher McKim
  - i. Will be discussing committee positions
  
- e. Student Government Report, Leilani Domingo
  - i. Not present
  
- 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  
(Hall, Seconded Weinzimmer); Motion carried 4:47p**