CMU Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Date: May 7, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00pm
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, Jeremy Hawkins, Richard Scott, Elijah Lorica (on behalf of Leilani Domingo)

Senators/Representatives Absent:

Guests:
Mary Jo Stanley, Jeremy Bergen

Renae Phillips- Recorder

I. Call to Order and Roll Call by Sign-In
   a. President Merino calls meeting to order at 3:30pm

II. Committee Minutes and Reports to Approve

   a. Graduate Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from April 1, 2026
   Motion: to approve Graduate Curriculum Committee meeting minutes from April 1, 2026
   (Castleton, Seconded McKim); Motion Carried

III. Approve Faculty Senate Minutes from April 16, 2026
   Motion: to approve Faculty Senate Minutes from April 16, 2026
   (Hall, Seconded Gilles); Motion Carried

IV. Information Items
   a. Ratification of amendments to Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws

      i. Discussion: 386 faculty members could vote, they were ratified.

V. Continuing Business

   a. New Faculty Senate priorities

      i. Discussion:
         1. Financial side
            a. Increase dependent waiver for tuition

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b. Increase in pay, BOT will be voting next week on a potential 1% increase.

2. Non-financial side
   a. Merino would like to be proactive on the non-financial portion of the priority list.
3. Castleton shared that adjunct pay is the Faculty Senate's 2nd priority, but that President Marshall feels "cooled" on the topic. McKim stated he plans on continuing the conversations on that topic into next year.

b. Charge for APC regarding policy for graduate courses for both undergraduate and graduate degree credits

i. Discussion: Bergen shared the charge for APC regarding utilizing credits toward both undergraduate and graduate degrees for accelerated graduate programs (3+2, 3+3, 4+1). Noel confirmed that the 3+2 program in Business is not accelerated. Bergen stated that it would still fall under an "accelerated program" while pursuing it. Merino asked if the policy that is being proposed would mirror other institutions. Bergen shared that there was not a consensus on the policy to utilize. Weinzimmer shared that Health Science degrees are well above credit requirements as other graduate programs.

Motion: to accept the APC's recommendations
(Sherbenou, Seconded Gilles); Motion Carried

c. Faculty Senate involvement with LMS evaluation process

i. Discussion: Merino shared that the committee is open to having a Faculty Senate representative

Motion: to appoint Karl Castleton to the Stakeholder Committee and provide regular reports back to the Faculty Senate
(Hall, Seconded Noel); Motion Carried

VI. New Business

a. Faculty Senate officers for 2026-2027 AY

i. Discussion: Merino listed those who have shared interest in offices and will send a Qualtrics for final election. Merino confirmed on 5/8/26 that all listed below has been voted in favor to serve 2026-2027.
   1. President; Rachel Weinzimmer
   2. President Elect: Steve Merino
   3. Vice President: Christopher McKim
   4. Secretary: Megan Sherbenou
   5. Faculty Trustee: Stacie Schreiner

VII. Reports

a. Acting Provost Report, Jeremy Hawkins

i. Provost Search Committee has been formed to be posted shortly.
   1. President Marshall asks Faculty to share the posting with those who they believe would be strong candidates for the position, as CMU will not be utilizing a service to seek candidates.

ii. Will be proposing to the Board of Trustees an adjustment to the responsibilities of instructors to provide service. McKim shared that his concern that instructors would not be compensated. Hawkins shared that the service portion would not be required (0-15% weight toward evaluation), based on the department's needs.

iii. Implementation of the course evaluation process, in Spring 2027.

b. Faculty Trustee Report, Stacie Schreiner

i. Human Scale University Award: presented to Taylor Wagner, head coach of the CMU Women's Basketball program.

ii. Centennial Celebration Conclusion: After a full year of campus and community events celebrating CMU's 100-year anniversary, the centennial celebration officially concluded with the Decades Gala.

iii. State Budget Update: The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) finalized a flat higher education budget for the upcoming fiscal year. As part of the budget agreement, tuition increase caps were established for Colorado institutions:
   1. Resident undergraduate tuition increases for four-year institutions are capped at 3.5%
   2. Community college tuition increases are capped at 5%

iv. Additional budget-related updates of note include:
   1. A previously identified budget data error was corrected, resulting in $190,059 being returned to the General Operating Fund
   2. The JBC voted to continue support for the Rural Healthcare Workforce Initiative, which will continue to receive $65,000 annually

v. Employee Handbook Updates
   1. Section III, IV, and VII of the Employee Handbook have been approved.
   2. Section IX is scheduled for review and vote in May.
   3. Of particular note, the current proposal within the Tuition Waiver section includes an increase in spouse and dependent tuition waiver eligibility from 6 credits per academic year to either 12 or 15 credits per academic year.

vi. Enrollment Update" May 1 marked the national college decision day for incoming students. Early enrollment indicators suggest that enrollment may be trending approximately 2% higher compared to the previous year.

vii. Beyond Town Hall Meetings with President Marshall Recap: Three opportunities were provided for faculty to participate in open forum discussions with President Marshall through the "Beyond Town Hall" meetings.

1. Provost Search: Current plans are for a search committee of approximately seven members or fewer, with strong faculty and academic representation. The position announcement is nearly finalized and will soon be distributed and marketed nationally. If the search proceeds successfully as anticipated, the goal is for the new Provost to being in January 2027.
2. Artificial Intelligence and Academic Programming: Conversations focused on:
    a. How academic programs may need to adapt to AI-related workforce changes
    b. Ensuring course content remains current and relevant
    c. Positioning CMU to remain competitive and forward-thinking in curriculum development
3. CMU Tech Facilities and Capital Planning: Discussion also included future planning related to CMU Tech. The CMU Tech Board of Trustees will be reviewing capital requests and long-term facility planning considerations. Topics under consideration include:
    a. Whether some CMU Tech programs may eventually be integrated onto the main CMU campus
    b. Which programs may remain at CMU Tech
    c. Potential renovations to existing facilities
    d. Consideration of future new facility development

viii. Upcoming Board Action

1. The proposed increases for:
    a. Tuition
    b. Student fees
    c. Room and board
2. The Board is expected to discuss and make decisions regarding:
    a. Additional campus housing
    b. The proposed new parking garage project

c. CFAC report, Christine Noel

i. No Report

d. VP report, Christopher McKim

i. Working with department heads to fill positions for next year's committees. About 30% have done so far and still working through needs.
ii. Working on a plan for better recording keeping moving forward.

e. Student Government Report, Elijah Lorica (on behalf of Leilani Domingo)
   i. Elijah is the newly elected Student President for 2026-2027 and Jessalyn Gallegos has been elected as Student Vice President.
   ii. Will be taking a closer look at the student fee process
   iii. Will uphold requirements to the constitution and bylaws and thus will be committed to being present at meetings, such as Faculty Senate.

f. Executive Committee Report, Markus Reitenbach
   i. President Marshall stated that he wants to move forward with the parking garage. Schreiner shared that the BOT has not voted on the request.

g. President's Report, Stephen Merino
   i. No Report

VIII. Adjourn
Motion: to adjourn the meeting
(Hall, Seconded Meuwly); Motion carried 2:49p