



CMU Faculty Senate MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 3, 2026, 3:30 – 5:00pm

Venue: Library 331

Senators/Representatives present:

Evan Curtis, Cassie Fenton, Ann Gillies, Yen-Sheng Lee, Christopher McKim, Stephen Merino, Josh Meuwly, Christine Noel, Chris Penick, Laurena Davis (on behalf of James Perez), Jenny Radomski, Markus Reitenbach, Stacie Schreiner, Megan Sherbenou, Jill Van Brussell, Rachel Weinzimmer, Jeremy Hawkins, Richard Scott, Elijah Lorica

Senators/Representatives Absent:

James Perez

Guests:

Michelle Sunkel, Karl Castleton, Dylan Bowles, Tiffany King, Chad Middleton, Geoff Kelley, Jennifer Pacheco

Rena Phillips- Recorder

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call by Sign-In
 - a. President Weinzimmer calls meeting to order at 3:30pm
- II. Committee Minutes and Reports to Approve
 - a. End of year reports
 - i. Sabbatical Committee 2025-2026
 - ii. Library Advisory Committee 2025-2026
 - iii. Faculty Success Committee 2025-2026
 - iv. Assessment Committee 2025-2026
 - v. Distinguished Faculty Awards Committee 2025-2026
 - vi. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee 2025-2026
 - b. Committee Meeting Minutes
 - i. Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee - February 6, 2026
 1. Markus
 - ii. Assessment Committee – December 4, 2025
 - iii. Assessment Committee – February 6, 2026
 - iv. Assessment Committee – March 6, 2026
 - v. Assessment Committee – April 3, 2026

**Motion: to adopt the above minutes as a Consent Agenda
(Fenton, Seconded McKim), Abstention Davis; Motion Carried**

- III. Approve Faculty Senate Minutes from May 7, 2026



**Motion: to approve the amended Faculty Senate Minutes from May 7, 2026
(Noel, Seconded Gilles), Abstention Davis; Motion Carried with amendment**

- i. Discussion: Reitenbach found a missing word in the V. Continuing Business; c. Faculty Senate involvement with LMS evaluation process. In i. Discussion, the final word missing should be “representative”. The former minutes have been updated as such.

IV. Information Items

a. Reminder to review “Guide for Senators”

- i. Discussion: Please review the guide, as it is a representation of the responsibilities for senators on Faculty Senate.

V. Continuing Business

a. LMS Evaluation Update – Karl Castleton (Senate Rep) and Jennifer Pacheco

- i. Discussion: The LMS evaluation committee went through the initial set of proposals, and the two platforms moving forward are being considered are Canvas and D2L. The committee reviewed nine organizations and decided to invite the two platforms to campus for presentations on Friday, September 4th. The committee is asking everyone to attend the presentations, if possible, and to complete surveys on each platform by Thursday, September 10th. The recommendations will be passed along to Dr. Hawkins and Mike Means and will move forward from there. Cost for each, D2L has come back significantly lower than our current price with them, but they do have add-ons which will bring the cost to about the same as Canvas’ proposed costs. Thus, the difference in cost will be about equal. Please give feedback via the forms and evaluations. Sherbenou clarified, that someone can either attend the meeting in person or someone can review the recording that Jennifer Pacheco will send out via Teams, for those who cannot attend in person.

b. Faculty Senate Priority List

- i. Discussion: On campus housing with a meal plan, then dependent will receive half off housing. There are 12 credit hours per semester that employees/dependents can utilize. Looking at salary for the promotion, President Marshall believes that might be possible. Reviewing health care costs. Administration has heard the priorities and are working on the components that were top priorities. Sherbenou has talked with colleagues who believe that the information is limited on this benefit, and that the housing/meal benefit are on a first come first serve/space available process. Schreiner stated that the benefit was approved at May’s Board of Trustees meeting, so she understands that the communication may not

have been clear for those incoming this fall. Schreiner stated that she prefers a face-to-face communication opportunity. However, McKim recognizes the need for those items that need to be communicated quicker than a sit-down meeting/town hall needs to be communicated via email. Sherbenou suggests that there is a report after a town hall meeting to highlight and clarify what was discussed, which gives both the oral as well as documentation for clarity.

VI. New Business

a. Academic Policies Charge

- i. Discussion: Sunkle would like to ask to update the Academic Policies Committee in reference to foreign languages:
 1. The Faculty Senate is asked to charge the policy committee with updating the current policy to a more comprehensive Foreign Language Proficiency Testing Policy that establishes a standardized, equitable process for assessing languages not offered on campus.
 - a. Specifically, the policy should:
 - i. 1. Comprehensive Evaluation: Require that all foreign language proficiency assessments, regardless of language or vendor, evaluate all four core competencies: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
 - ii. 2. Select Approved External Testing Services with Language Department to Identify vendor-based testing services (or standardized frameworks) to replace the informal recruitment of external instructors.
 - iii. 3. Establish Clear Protocols: Define student cost responsibilities, scoring thresholds, and administrative procedures for recording earned credit or waivers.
 2. If a foreign language is currently offered on-campus, students can request a language evaluation from the relevant instructor. Based upon the student's proficiency level, the instructor will agree to waive the first and second semester of that language.
 3. If a foreign language is not currently offered on-campus, students need to show proficiency in the language by registering for and taking a proficiency exam through Language Testing International, sponsored by the American Council of Teachers in the Foreign Languages. Students are required to show proficiency in speaking, writing, reading, and listening to earn six academic credits. Students can find out more about this testing option [here](#)



Motion: to charge the Academic Policies Committee to update based on the charge presented (Sherbenou, Seconded Merino); Motion Carried

b. Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Reviewer Appointment

- i. Discussion: Faculty Senate has not found an individual, but Weinzimmer will reach out to the curriculum committees to help encourage someone to take on this appointment. Curtis asked if they need to be tenure track and if there is a credit release for it due to the amount of commitment and work associated with the appointment. Middleton stated that there isn't a release, but it is a significant service opportunity.

c. Appointment of Senate Standing Committees

- i. Discussion: McKim stated that Faculty Senate must approve the individuals that the department has submitted. Pre-tenure and Promotion standing committee currently has Yen-Sheng Lee listed, but as a Faculty Senate senator, he cannot be on the committee. McKim stated that if there are any misspellings of names, please email him and he will update it before posting on the website.

Motion: to approve the individuals that the departments have submitted to represent each committee, except for Yen-Sheng Lee. (Noel, Seconded Sherbenou), Abstention Davis; Motion Carried

VII. Reports

a. Acting Provost Report, Jeremy Hawkins

- i. Discussed the working groups on campus. Academic Department Heads are using an L10 procedure. Looking at how we offer our courses, being spearheaded by Middleton. Provost search has been extended. Healthcare is an issue on the table that needs to be determined on how CMU will move forward with that benefit. Curtis asked if there are any membership model options being discussed, Hawkins has not heard of that at this time.

b. Faculty Trustee Report, Stacie Schreiner

- i. Human Scale University Award:
 1. Rick Adleman
- ii. Financial and Enrollment Dashboard:
 1. FY26 student FTE enrollment increased 2.2% (185 FTE)
 2. Total headcount is 10,979. The slight decline reflects fewer high school concurrent-enrollment students.
 3. Housing is expected to open at record occupancy, including the new Centennial Apartments

4. Preliminary FY26 revenue is trending just under \$274 million, a 16% increase over two years.
 5. Expenditures are trending just under \$247 million, a 25% two-year increase, driven largely by compensation, year-end bonuses, and higher healthcare premiums.
- iii. Continuous Strategic Planning
 1. The Board approved the Vision/Traction Organizer (V/TO) as the foundation for CMU's continuous strategic planning framework.
 - iv. Major Areas of Work:
 1. Employee health insurance: CMU currently spends approximately \$22000 per employee on health insurance premiums. Costs increased about 30% last year and are projected to rise another 30% this year. The University is exploring a self-insured model; more information will be shared as the work develops.
 - v. Campus Updates:
 1. Ember Eatery is now open.
 2. Centennial Apartments are complete and we've broken ground on two new critical additions to campus: Formation Commons student housing and a new Parking Structure.
 - vi. Faculty Engagement
 1. Faculty should watch their email for upcoming Town Hall events.
 - vii. Policy
 1. There was BOT approval of the following policies related to Graduate Credit for Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Credit, Academic Dishonesty Sanctions and Administrative Suspension and Dismissal, Academic Dishonesty Course Drop/Withdrawal, and Graduate degree to allow a C with overall specific GPA requirements.

c. CFAC Report, Christine Noel

- i. Meets next Friday. April 1st meeting there will need to have voted in someone to take over. Noel would like to continue but is open to encouraging others to share interest.

d. Student Government Report, Elijah Lorica/Jessalyn Gallegos

- i. Student fees that pay for Crit, Little Mavs, etc., ASG is looking at what the budget is covering. Trey Downey, Director of Student Life and Elijah Lorica have been looking at how to determine what is best for budget approvals. \$1.3 million budget needs to be determined and right now there are only five individuals who make those decisions, so Elijah, Dr. Montoya and Trey Downey are looking at best practices in this large endeavor. Schreiner asked if ASG is recommending an increase in student fees. Elijah stated that he is hoping not to do that, through good budget decision making. Gilles asked about how ASG is connecting to Montrose,



Elijah stated that there is a senator in Montrose and the connection is growing. Davis asked if there is a requirement to keep in reserves for student organizations. Elijah stated it must be 10%. Meuwly also asked about a senator from CMU Tech, which there isn't one, but Elijah wants to work on adding someone.

- e. Executive Committee Report, Rachel Weinzimmer
 - i. Reviewing the streamlining of the committee appointments. Merino is going to be reviewing the website to see how we can improve it.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion: to adjourn the meeting

(Schreiner, Seconded Sherbenou); Motion carried 4:32p