

Montana Tech Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: March 27, 2026 1:00pm

Location: HPER 138

Attendance

Senators: Senators in attendance included Janet Cornish, Scott Risser, Scott Juskiewicz, Matt Egloff, Jason Herndon, Bryce Hill, Sebastian Perduss, Chris Gammons, Doug Galarus, Sudhakar Vadiraja, Charie Faught, John Kirtley, Brahma Pramanik, Andrew Traut, Naim Rashid, David Gilkey, Atish Mitra.

Guests: Guests attending the meeting included Johnny MacLean, Chancellor; Tim Elgren, Provost; Heather Skocilich; Registrar

Meeting Agenda

I. **Welcome and Minutes –**

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and a quorum was established. Senator Risser recognized new and returning Senators, per the agenda. He mentioned there are a couple of open seats and the sitting senators will continue to serve until the fall. Senator Gilkey moved, and Senator Perduss seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 11th, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion carried.

Action Items

II. **Reserved (CRC, GERC, GC) –**

Amendment of 1/30/26 Minutes

Senator Risser informed the Senate Melissa Kump, Director of Institutional Research, notified him that the Senate failed to approve item d from the CRC items of that meeting, items b and c were approved. Senator Roos moved and Senator Gammons seconded to approve the amendment. The motioned carried and was approved.

III. **Officer Elections –**

A. Secretary

Senator Hill nominated Janet Cornish to continue as Secretary. Senator Cornish respectfully declined. Senator Faught nominated Senator Perduss; Senator Perduss respectfully declined the nomination. Senator Faught nominated Senator Traut who respectfully declined. Senator Risser mentioned this would be a vacant position, but the Senate could revisit this position after the Chair and Vice Chair elections.

A. Vice Chair

Senator Traut self-nominated. Senator Hill nominated Senator Faught; Senator Faught accepted the nomination. A vote was called, each nominee received 7 votes. Senator Risser, as the Chair, asked Senator Faught and Traut if they had a real desire to serve as the Vice Chair. Senator Traut mentioned he would be fine not serving in this position. Senator Risser cast the deciding vote for Senator Faught. Senator Faught became Vice Chair with a vote of 8-7.

A. Chair

Senator Faught nominated Senator Hill for the Chair. Senator Hill accepted. Senator Gilkey nominated Senator Juskiewicz. Senator Juskiewicz respectfully declined. A vote was called and Senator Hill became the Chair.

After the elections of the Chair and Vice Chair, the new Chair asked if there were any nominations for the position of Secretary. There were none, Senator Juskiewicz self-nominated for the position. A vote was called and Senator Juskiewicz became the Secretary.

IV. **Presentation of the 2026 Spring Graduates –**

Senator Hill presented the Senate with a list of the Spring 2026 Graduates. He asked if there as any discussion, there was none. Senator Herndon moved to accept the list of graduates. Senator Perduss seconded, the motioned carried.

Information Items

V. **Revision of Grade Appeal (Accepted/Rejected Senate Recommendations) –**

Senator Risser presented the Senate with the Revision of Grade Appeal document. Senator Risser stated the Academic Standards Committee, Deans Council and Provost Office reviewed the document and accepted the changes that were in orange and did not accept the changes in grey. Senator Gilkey stated he supported the document. Senator Roos asked if there was any justification for not accepting the items in grey. Senator Traut stated he support Senator Roos's question. Should there be a written report to the Senate made by the Academic Standards Committee? Senator Risser mentioned the items in grey could cause issues between the Academic Standards Committee and individual faculty and their grading policies.

Senator Mitra mentioned he does not support the policy as read. Senator Kirtley asked what is the procedure now with this policy? Registrar Skocilich mentioned the Academic Standards Committee makes a recommendation to the Provost and the Provost makes a final decision. Senator Cornish mentioned there are varying academic dishonesty policies on campus and more may be forth coming due to A.I. Senator Egloff mentioned that decisions on campus need to have reason behind them. Provost Elgren then mentioned this is an information item and for the Senate to act on this item it needs to be presented as an action item at an upcoming Senate Meeting. Senator Perduss asked how can we understand a decision if a report or explanation is not provided. Senator Roos asked for this subject to be placed as on the agenda for the next Senate meeting.

VI. **All Faculty Meeting –**

Senator Risser asked the Senate if there were any recommendations for the date and time for the end of semester all faculty meeting? Senator Traut suggested the meeting be held the week of April 20th. Senator Perduss suggested the meeting be held on a Friday between 10:00am – 11:00am. Senator Egloff asked if the meeting could be held over lunch and if the Senate had a budget to provide lunch. Senator Risser responded the Senate has a budget of \$2000 that is used to fund Senators traveling to BOR meetings. Senator Hill mentioned Friday morning might not be the best time. Senator Risser mentioned a decision on the date and time would be made soon, and possibly an email poll would be used to assist in the decision.

VII. **Proposed change to non-union merit award Faculty/Staff Handbook –**

Senator Hill stated the vote to change the Faculty/Staff Handbook concerning the non-union merit award had not received enough votes to pass. He asked the Senators to ask their departments to vote on the item as it is not controversial and it needs 50% of Senators to approve for the item to pass. Senator Cornish asked Senator Hill if he as the Chair could email all faculty and ask them to vote. Senator Hill will do so once he receives permission to email all faculty

VIII. **Faculty satisfaction survey –**

Senator Risser explained on the last page of the current results of the Faculty Satisfaction Survey there are now suggestions on how to address the results of the survey. Senator Risser asked the Senate for feedback on the suggestions.

IX. Annual trainings and research compliance -

Senator Hill asked if individuals on campus could take a test each year instead of completing the annual trainings? Senator Perduss asked if the trainings were up to date? Senator Egloff asked if we had to complete the trainings each year? Senator Gilkey asked who requires employees to complete training each year? Is this coming from OCHE? Provost Elgren suggested the Senate ask Human Resources about trainings and an annual test might be a viable option. Senator's Hill and Egloff suggested the Senate ask the appropriate individuals to meet with the Senate and explain the trainings and if an annual test is possible.

X. For the Good of the Order –

Senator Perduss stated he is concerning with the appearance and cleanliness of the campus and that it could adversely impact enrollment. Senator Juskiewicz stated he support Sebastian's observations and that it is difficult to have the library properly cleaned on a regular basis. Senator Faught mentioned she notices the Auditorium is not always clean. Senator Egloff stated part of the problem is a staffing issue. Senator Hill asked if this could be an item for the next Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.