Missouri State University

Minutes of the November 2026 Session of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate held the November 2026 session on Thursday, November 12, in PSU 313. Chair Heidi Backes called the session to order at 3:30 p.m. Mike Hudson served as parliamentarian.

Substitutes: Jeff Loughary for Maria Cerdas-Cisneros, Language, Cultures & Religion; Liza Cobos for Albert Barreda, Hospitality & Agricultural Leadership; Ralph Shain for William Harwood, Political Science & Philosophy; Kewman Lee for Elizabeth King, School of Teaching, Learning & Developmental Science; Kristy Thomas for Michelle Harvey, Theatre & Dance; and Pam Sailors for Indira Palacios-Valladares, Political Science & Philosophy.

Absences: Alex Hamwi, Marketing; Leonard Horton, Communication, Media, Journalism & Film; and Cyren Rico, Chemistry & Biochemistry.

Guests: Christina Bowles, CAST; Tracy Glaessgen, CAST; Angela Young, Registrar; Kyler Sherman-Wilkins, SAG; Kara Wolfe, SHAL; and Clarenda Phillips, Provost.

Approval of Minutes
The October 2026 minutes were approved as posted.

Chair's Report
Chair Heidi Backes presented the report. Review agenda for full report.

Announcements
- If necessary, a carry-over meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. (location TBD).
- Please remember to share a summary of today's meeting with your colleagues; our goal is to enhance communication and transparency this year, and you play a vital role in that as elected representatives of your academic unit or rank.
- Updates on ad hoc committees.

Electronic Vote on Revision of Bylaws
Each revision passed.

Report from the Provost
Provost Phillips presented various opportunities and updates including two faculty fellow opportunities, a Student Success Quality Initiative proposal opportunity, and an introduction to focused bachelor's degree programs. The Provost addressed questions following her report.

Action on Curricular Proposals
Senator Jordan Riddell/School of Criminology & Criminal Justice
New Graduate Program: Nuclear Deterrence
APPROVED: SA 1/26-27

Presentation on Success Coaching
Presentation by Tracey Glaessgen and Christina Bowles.

Report from the Committee on Policy Review
Report presented by Senator Zimmerman, Chair of the Policy Review Committee, on a policy review regarding 90-credit hour degree programs. Discussion followed with the decision to continue discussion in Unfinished Business at the December Faculty Senate meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None**.**

NEW BUSINESS
None.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Tracy Stout
Secretary of the Faculty

Senate Action 1-26/27 **Adopted by Senate on November 12, 2026**

Faculty Senate Chair Must Be Notified of Intent to Challenge By: November 24, 2026
Right of Challenge Expires December 9, 2026

New Graduate Program: Nuclear Deterrence