

Minutes of the September 2026 Session of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate held the September 2026 session on Thursday, September 10, in PSU 313. Chair Heidi Backes called the session to order at 3:30 p.m. Mike Hudson served as parliamentarian.

Substitutes: David Zimmerman for Leslie Echols, Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences; Kewman Lee for Elizabeth King, Teaching, Learning & Developmental Science; Ralph Shain for William Harwood, Political Science & Philosophy; and Joshua Lambert for Andrea Miller, Library.

Absences: Alex Hamwi, Marketing.

Guests: Richard Williams, Office of the President; Clarendia Phillips, Office of the Provost; Johannes Strobel, Graduate College; Stacey Trewatha-Bach, Public Affairs Conference; Leslie Seawright, Education Abroad Advisory; Lauren Jones, SHLP/MCHHS; Rachel Moore, SLP/SHLP/MCHHS; Melanie Carden-Jessen, EPPC Screening; Tonia Tinsley, LCR; Kayla Robinson, SELPS; Nathan Hoff, Office of the Registrar; and Angela Young, Office of the Registrar.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 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, September 15, 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.
- Senator Attendance and Placards
 - If you are attending as a substitute, place your name next to the person you are substituting for.
- Honorary Degrees Applications-open now through November 1
- DCOA College Council meeting times changed for fall: 2:00 pm on 8/31, 10/5, 11/2
- Rules Committee charge for fall semester

REPORT ON SENATE ACTION SUMMARY

Chair Heidi Backes presented the report.

PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT

Parliamentarian Mike Hudson presented the report.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

Stacey Trewatha-Bach presented information about the Public Affairs Conference planning committee and an overview of the conference.

PH.D. PLANNING PROCESS

Dean Strobel presented the current planning for Missouri State University PhDs.

More details can be found on the [Graduate College website](#).

RESPONSE TO FACULTY CONCERNS SURVEY

President Biff Williams and Provost Clarendia Phillips provided a summary of their written response to the Faculty Concerns Survey. A question-and-answer period followed.

FACULTY APPRECIATION WEEK

Discussion regarding Faculty Appreciation Week. Opinions were divided and various ideas were suggested.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

Announcement of the Defense and Strategic Studies PhD program gained approval from the state.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Tracy Stout

Secretary of the Faculty