

Agenda for the October 2026 Session of the Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS (For Action)

ALL FACULTY MEMBERS (For Information)

The Faculty Senate will meet on **Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.** The agenda is as follows:

A. Approval of the Minutes of the September 2026 session

B. Chair's Report

- **9/11 meeting with President Williams:** FSEC continued the Senate's Q&A discussion about CUPA data and the different institutions used for salary comparisons. We also continued the discussion point about the messaging from the top to the bottom, where what faculty hear from AULs or deans sometimes is not the same message that the president or the provost shared in the Senate session on 9/10. We discussed problems that programs face when faculty do not have easy access to lines of communication with the Foundation and possible donors, leading some programs to languish despite concerted efforts by faculty in those areas. FSEC requested that every spring and fall semester, every AUL/program director will share with faculty detailed enrollment and budget information for their unit/program; President Williams will work with his team on creating a "starter pack" for each semester with information to be shared as a way to facilitate communication and enhance transparency.
- **Follow-up with Athletics Director Patrick Ransdell:** After the September Senate session, Chair Backes followed up with Ransdell regarding the questions Senators raised about the student athletics fees. He explained that very few expenses are earmarked as belonging to particular revenue sources, so there is no specific breakdown of each part of the athletics fee. Overall, most of the increased expenses from the move to CUSA have been related to "increased scholarship support for student athletes, increased travel expenses (especially getting back to campus to lessen missed classes) and increased nutritional support." He also shared comparable athletics fees at other institutions in CUSA and in G6. (MSU's fees are slightly less than the top CUSA schools, and significantly lower than the G6 schools.)
- **9/14 Budget & Priorities meeting with Associate Provost Egon Heidendal:** AP Heidendal explained how MSU's new benchmark groups were selected (12 variables like state appropriations, salary compared to expenses, grad/retention rates, research funding), leading to 15 institutions that perform like us. The aspirational peer group is a list of 15 institutions that each outperform us in one of those particular areas. Our CUPA peer group is a list of 100 institutions that are in the following categories: doctoral-granting (and master's and undergrad), research colleges and universities (not R1 or R2), mid-sized (10,000+ students), 4-year public, not part of a system, not a land grant. The data is adjusted for cost of living. Heidendal will work with President Williams to get the enrollment information for the "starter pack" discussed previously.
- **9/15 meeting with CFO Eric Schick:** FSEC asked about the overall budget picture and the current challenges to the budget. CFO Schick is still in an information-gathering phase, but has been tasked with pinpointing possible areas for improvement in budgetary processes and allocation of resources. Salary and benefits comprised 84% of the total operating budget in fiscal year 2026. FSEC explained the impact of the lack of COL adjustments and lack of merit pay, PSIP, and equity adjustments. FSEC requested a breakdown of budget information to be shared with every academic unit each semester, and a study of where course/program fees go. CFO Schick will work with President Williams to create the "starter pack" discussed previously.
- **9/17 meeting with Provost Phillips:** FSEC requested that the FHRC be given an interpretive charge in addition to revisions of the Faculty Handbook, since there is currently no interpretive body of the handbook on campus, and a recent question related to a section of the handbook led to the problem of determining who interprets the policies. The provost said she will think about this, and our conversation will be ongoing. FSEC raised more faculty concerns about workload issues, and requested guidance from the Provost's Office so that faculty understand how workload is calculated. The provost will review existing workload policies to see if greater clarity

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is possible at the college and/or university level. FSEC asked about the relationship between Experiential Learning and CASL (if they will be united under one office), and the provost said that this is yet to be determined. FSEC raised faculty concern about the new Course Dog system and problems with reserving classrooms; the provost said that they will figure out a workaround.

- **10/6 University Council:** [Please see the presentation materials here.](#) UC included an overview of benefits, the overall results of the Great Colleges to Work For Survey, and Enrollment Management's Staff Playbook.

C. Announcements

- If necessary, a carry-over meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 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.
- Upcoming Policy Change: 90-hour degrees (discussion and vote in November session) – (Attachment 1)
- President Williams will host a Town Hall on November 4 at 11:30 in the PSU Theater

D. Presentation on Behavioral Intervention Team—Ellen Currie, Coordinator of Student Care and Support (Attachment 2)

E. Report on Curriculum—Katrina Chavez, Director Curriculum Planning & Management (Attachment 3)

F. Report on Great Colleges to Work For Survey—Egon Heidendal, Assoc. Provost for Institutional Effectiveness; and Mary Bohlen, Director of Assessment & Accreditation

G. CUPA Report from the Committee on University Budget & Priorities—Michele Brown, Committee Chair (Attachment 4)

H. Report from the Committee on Rules—Joshua Lambert, Committee Chair (Attachments 5-8)

I. Unfinished Business

J. New Business

K. Adjournment

Sessions of the Missouri State Faculty Senate are open to members of the Missouri State University Board of Governors, administration, faculty, staff, and student body.

Heidi Backes, Chair