

Agenda for the September 2026 Session of the Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERS (For Action)

ALL FACULTY MEMBERS (For Information)

The Faculty Senate will meet on **Thursday, September 10, at 3:30 p.m.** The agenda is as follows:

A. Approval of the Minutes of the May 2026 session

B. Chair's Report

- **5/6 ALC meeting:** FSEC raised frequent comment in Faculty Concerns Surveys regarding unequal service distribution between senior and junior/NTT faculty (in which the latter groups often find themselves overburdened). Deans will continue to think of ways to improve this situation, which may include better-defined types of service and more clearly articulated expectations in annual reviews.
- **5/18 meeting with President Williams:** FSEC requested information about the changes in merit-based scholarships as part of the new enrollment management plan. FSEC also requested faculty representation on decision-making bodies of the university, like the President's Cabinet. Continued discussion about the lack of raises and the new CUPA data released this week.
- **5/19 meeting with Provost Phillips:** Chair Backes and Chair-Elect Sandel met with Provost Phillips to discuss the transition in the CASO position, as Ken Brown is leaving. This role will be changed into an Associate Provost for Faculty Success, and will be a liaison for faculty with the Provost's Office. A national search will occur in the spring semester.
- **6/8 meeting with Dawn Medley:** New strategies for recruitment going into effect. More scholarships in smaller amounts will be awarded, and students will know their total amount earlier in the application cycle.
- **6/12 and 7/10 meetings with President Williams:** Continued discussion about faculty representation on decision-making bodies and role in policy changes; FSEC requested that faculty be included as an automatic step in policy approval process so that we always know when policy changes are underway and have an opportunity to give input. Discussed Child Development Center discount and other campus-wide benefits. Began discussion of the creation of a Faculty Appreciation Week.
- **8/14 meeting with President Williams:** Worked to finalize a policy change to require faculty reps on all university-level search committees (including positions in the President's Cabinet and University Council). Also finalizing the policy to automatically include faculty in approval process of new university policies to allow time for input on said policies and to be aware of changes before they occur. Continued discussions of budget (including deferred maintenance, new buildings, and faculty wages), and further discussed plans for a new Faculty Appreciation Week.
- **8/20 meeting with Provost Phillips:** FSEC requested information about the status of equity adjustment requests for this academic year. Also requested faculty representation on the new AI Guidelines group led by Associate Provost Tinkler, and on the future search committee for the new Associate Provost of Faculty Success. Discussed faculty concerns regarding workload, especially related to unpaid overloads and underenrolled courses. Requested clarification about the COE travel funding policy, and asked for this clarification to be communicated to COE faculty.
- **9/2 ALC meeting:** SOAR has been moved to Enrollment Management as of 9/1 and they will be looking for reps from each college to help reimagine the orientation programs. There will be A/V upgrades to replace laser projectors with LED walls in certain rooms, and Cheek and Siceluff will have their outdated equipment replaced. FSEC raised student complaint about distance ed students being charged the full service fees when they do not have access to on-campus services.

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C. 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
- 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

D. Report on Senate Action Summary—Heidi Backes, Faculty Senate Chair (Attachment 1)

E. Parliamentary Report—Mike Hudson, Faculty Senate Parliamentarian (Attachment 2)

F. Public Affairs Conference—Stacey Trewatha-Bach

G. Ph.D. Planning Process—Dean Strobel

H. Response to Faculty Concerns Survey—President Williams and Provost Phillips (Attachment 3)

I. Faculty Appreciation Week—Chair Backes

J. Unfinished Business

K. New Business

L. 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