

Minutes of the April 2026 Session of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate held the first meeting of the April 2026 session on Thursday, April 9, 2026, in PSU 313. Chair Mike Foster called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. Mike Hudson served as parliamentarian.

Substitutes: Sarah Barber for Sarah Jones, Clinical Faculty Rep; Beth Walker for Adam McGee, Plant Science, Natural Resources & Animal Science; and Miranda Myrick for Jennifer Yates, Occupational Therapy.

Absences: Keely Scott, Instructor Rep; Jenifer Roberts, Merchandising & Fashion Design; Jamie Grigsby, Marketing; and Andrew Wasserman, Art & Design.

Guests: William Harwood, AAUP President; Jamie Atkinson, Committee on Rules; April Phillips, COE/Bear Power; Chris Craig, COE; Kyler Sherman-Wilkins, SAG/RCASH; Sherry Elkins, Bear Power Career Center; Tim Pfeil, Greenwood Lab School; Monica Lewis, Registrar; Cindy Fiedler, Registrar; Jason Jolley, RCASH; Alan Schick, Grad Council; and Rachel Besara, Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 2026 minutes were approved as posted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If necessary, a carry-over meeting will be held on April 14, at 3:30 p.m. (location TBD).
- Chair Foster read an email from Alex Johnson, director of community engagement, regarding his gratitude for the Senate's contributions to the Bear Pantry.
- Chair Foster announced Dr. Lanya Lamouria as the 2026 recipient of the Eric Shade Memorial Faculty Governance Award.

CANDIDATE FORUM FOR THE 2026-27 CHAIR-ELECT AND SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY

Bill Sandel, Chair-Elect Nominee

Tracy Stout, Secretary of the Faculty Nominee

ACTION ON CURRICULAR PROPOSALS

Senator John Rose/Defense and Strategic Studies

New Program: Cyber Conflict and International Security – *GRADUATE*

APPROVED: SA 17/25-26

Senator John Rose/Defense and Strategic Studies

New PhD Program: Defense and Strategic Studies – *GRADUATE*

APPROVED: SA 18/25-26

Senator Razib Iqbal/Computer Science

New Program: Data Science – *GRADUATE*

FAILED

Senator James Sottile/School of Special Education, Leadership and Professional Studies

New Program: Bear POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Work, Education and Resilience) – *UNDERGRADUATE*

APPROVED: SA 19/25-26

REPORT FROM FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISION COMMITTEE

Heidi Backes, ex officio member of the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee, presented the report in the absence of Andrea Miller, committee chair.

RESOLUTION FROM SCHOOL OF MENTAL HEALTH & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Senator Whisenhunt read the resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. A carryover meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14th.

Kim Finch
Secretary of the Faculty

The Faculty Senate held the second meeting of the April 2026 session on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in LIB 101. Chair Mike Foster called the session to order at 3:32 p.m. Mike Hudson served as parliamentarian.

Substitutes: Tracy Stout for Kim Finch, Secretary of the Faculty; Indira Palacios for Gabriel Ondetti; and Conner Wilkinson for Andrew Albritton, Information Technology & Cybersecurity.

Absences: Sarah Jones, Clinical Faculty Rep; Tasnuba Jerin, Assistant Professor Rep; Shurita Thomas-Tate, Associate Professor Rep; James Keaton, Anesthesia; Ami Rohr, Nursing; Jennifer Yates, Occupational Therapy; Shannon Hauschildt, Physician Assistant Studies; Allan Liggett, Public Health & Sports Medicine; John Rose, Defense & Strategic Studies; Alejandra Cerdas Cisneros, Languages, Cultures & Religion; Adam McGee, Plant Science, Natural Resources & Animal Science; Andrew Wasserman, Art & Design; Jenifer Roberts, Merchandising & Fashion Design; Aaron Sauer, Technology & Construction Management; Razib Iqbal, Computer Science; and Mike Reed, Physics, Astronomy & Materials Science.

Guests: Kyler Sherman-Wilkins, Sociology, Anthropology & Gerontology; Cindy Fiedler, Office of the Registrar; Jamie Atkinson, Rules Committee; Clarendia Phillips, Office of the Provost; and Nathan Hoff, Office of the Registrar.

RESOLUTION FROM SCHOOL OF MENTAL HEALTH & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Senator Whisenhunt requested to withdraw the resolution. The resolution was withdrawn by unanimous consent.

REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY BUDGET & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Beth Walker was unable to attend. A link to the report will be provided.

REPORT FROM CGEIP

Jacob Schneider, Committee Chair, presented a report from CGEIP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

An inquiry was made about the application process for sabbaticals. A brief discussion followed regarding experiences with the process.

A concern was raised on faculty being informed that student athletes cannot take morning classes. Provost Phillips clarified that this pertained to football students due to football practice having been shifted to mornings. Discussion and concerns continued regarding student athletes and ability to choose certain majors due to the timing of course offerings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Tracy Stout
Senator

Senate Action 17-25/26

Adopted by Senate April 9, 2026

Faculty Senate Chair Must Be Notified of Intent to Challenge By: April 24, 2026

Right of Challenge Expires May 11, 2026

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