

Montana Tech Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

September 3rd, 2025 • Mill 201 • 2:00 p.m.

Senators Present: Scott Risser, Scott Juskiewicz, Janet Cornish, Dave Gilkey, Chris Roos, Alan English, Gary Wyss, Matt Egloff, Charie Faught, Courtney Young, Atish Mitra, Sebastian Perduss, Glen Southergill, Jason Herndon, Bryce Hill, Foued Badrouchi, Sue Schrader, Brahma Pramanik, and Andrew Traut

Guests included Chancellor Johnny McClean; Michele Hardy, Dean of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences; John LaFave, Interim Director of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology; Tammy Burke, Dean of Highland College and Shihua Brazill, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

- I. Welcome and Minutes – The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m., and it was established that a quorum had been achieved. A motion was made and seconded to amend the minutes of April 21st, 2025. The amendment revises *Section II CRC Recommendations* to read as follows:

“II CRC Recommendations – A motion was made and seconded to reject the proposed changes to the Data Science curriculum. Discussion of this item focused on the proposed removal of the Advanced Writing course requirement in order to allow for more flexibility in this interdisciplinary degree program. The motion failed. Senate members acknowledged the need for more opportunities for consultation and professional dialog in determining curriculum requirements in all majors.”

The motion to amend the motion was approved. It was then moved and seconded to approve the amended minutes of the April 21st, 2025 Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was approved.

- II. Campus Introductions and accolades – The following information regarding promotions, tenure and new hires at Montana Technological University and Highlands College were announced:

Michele Hardy, Dean of the College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences:

- a. Alysia Cox promoted to Full Professor in Chemistry and Geochemistry
- b. John Kirley, Associate Professor in Chemistry and Geochemistry awarded tenure
- c. Stacey Corbitt, Instructor II in Writing awarded tenure
- d. Hilary VanFleet, Visiting Instructor in Writing welcomed to the Writing Department

Tammy Burke, Dean of Highlands College – New Hires:

- a. New Welding Instructor
- b. New Lineman Instructor
- c. New Civil Engineering Tech Adjunct
- d. New Radiology Tech Instructor

Scott Juskiewicz, Library Director: We are at the final stage of hiring an instruction and outreach librarian and will have information once the search is complete.

John LaFave, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology:

- a. New Hire: Dr. Skyler Mavor, Geologist, Assistant Professor
- b. Promotions:
 - i. Jackson Quarles – Professional Practice Faculty/Assistant Professor
 - ii. Sara Edinberg – Professional Practice Faculty/Associate Professor
 - iii. Luke Buckley – Professional Practice Faculty Professor

David P. Gilkey, Department of Safety, Health and Industrial Hygiene noted that Dr. Ryan Bellacov joined the faculty for the Fall 2025 semester.

- III. Scott Risser and Chris Roos discussed the upcoming changes to the Curriculum Review Committee. The Committee's paperwork/documentation must be updated to meet the requirements of the Northwest Accreditation Commission. Input regarding these changes must be submitted no later than February of 2026. Department heads should be notified by their senators of this schedule.
- IV. Montana Tech Culture Statement – Chancellor Johnny McClean presented a draft Culture Statement for Faculty Senate consideration. He explained that he follows a "shared governance" model and emphasized the importance of leadership as defined by culture, strategy and operations. The draft statement reads as follows:

"At Montana Tech, we:

- Support each other through empathy and care.
- Encourage open dialogue and professional communication.
- Strengthen collaboration and interconnectivity.
- Embrace collective responsibility and personal accountability."

Chancellor McClean asked the Faculty Senate to review the statement and discuss it at our meeting on September 17th, 2025. The Chancellor will come to our meeting on October 1st, 2025 to hear the Senate's input. He is encouraging the Senate to be *aspirational rather than descriptive*. The Chancellor is also seeking comments and input from the Staff Senate and the Student Senate.

- V. Senator Nominations – The Senate members were asked to submit nominations for Senator seats on several committees. The specific committees and associated nominations are as follows (all nominations were accepted with no opposition:
 - a. Curriculum Review Committee – Glen Southergill
 - b. Employee Relations Committee – Courtney Young (for Fall 2025 semester only - Foued Badrouchi offered to serve Spring 2026 semester) and Scott Juskiewicz
 - c. Faculty Service Committee – Chris Roos (Note: This committee is charged with reviewing cases where a faculty member has been fired for cause and the senator

nominated must be tenured. There was some concern regarding conflicts of interest and the need for a recusal policy. Matt Egloff offered to send a recusal statement.)

d. Research Advisory Committee – Alan English

VI. Faculty Nominations – The Senate members were asked to submit nominations for Faculty Committee seats. This information will be forwarded to the Provost. The specific committees and associated nominations are as follows (all nominations were accepted with no opposition):

- a. Advising Steering Committee – Dr. Melissa Holmes, Computer Science; Dr. David Rathsgeber, Computer Science; Nikole Kelly, Nursing
- b. AI (Artificial Intelligence) Task Force – Susan Schrader, Petroleum/Computer Science; Dr. Felicia Karas, Writing Program; Lance Revenaugh, Business; Sebastian Perduss, Business
- c. Center for Academic Innovation – Dr. Foued Badrouchi, Petroleum Engineering; Dr. Shihua Brazill, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (IAS)
- d. University Budget Committee – no nominations

VII. For the Good of the Order – Janet Cornish asked Senators to encourage adjuncts to contact Janet as the representative of the adjunct faculty, regarding issues that may be brought to the Faculty Senate.

Sebastian Perduss suggested that Faculty Senate meetings be recorded so those interested are able to hear all discussion that occurred during a meeting (in addition to the regular minutes). Foued Badrouchi suggested the use of microphones to facilitate the recording process.

VIII. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 3:00 p.m.