FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2026

Meeting Location: Hybrid (Grupe Center and Zoom)

Call to Order: 3:10 PM

ATTENDANCE

Senators and Alternates: Allyson Rogan-Klyve, Amanda Obery, Amy Claridge, Ana Freire, Bernadette Jungblut, Brita Williams, Bruce Palmquist, Chad Wassell, Chong Eun Ahn, Christopher Schedler, Cristina Bistricean, Donald Davendra, Emilie Hancock, Eric Cheney, Eric Hougan, Eun Young Lee, Gabrielle McNeillie, Gary Bartlett, James Johnson, Jason Irwin, Jill Perillo Clark, Jim Johnson, John Bowen, John Choi, John Durham, John Michel, Julia Stringfellow, Kate Reynolds, Ke Zhong, Keith Lewis, Kyung Hee (Kate) Im, Liane Pereira, Lila Harper, Mary Radeke, Natashia Lindsey, Nathalie Kasselis, Nikki Jastremeski, Nicole Stendell-Hollis, Peter Klosterman, Philip DeRise, Ruthi Erdman, Timothy Englund, Timothy Hagen, Todd Weber, Trye Price, Upakar Bhatta

Guests: Arturo Torres, Aylin Parrazal Bravo, Chris Redfearn, Christina Denison, Elvin Delgado, Emilio Gonzalez, Heidi Perez, Hondo Acosta-Vega, J. Hope Amason, Joey Thornton, Joy Fuqua, Julie Baldwin, Kara Gabriel, Kurt Kirstein, Meg Selbig, Mike Harrod, Mike Gimlin, Patrick Pease, Rodrigo Renteria-Valencia, Selena Castro, Sydney Thompson, Timothy Melbourne, Todd Kroll

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Natashia Lindsey. Meeting procedures, participation expectations, and voting protocols were reviewed. The meeting was recorded and live-streamed.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was completed via QR code and sign-in sheet. A quorum was confirmed.

CHANGES TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was distributed on May 1 with a revised version on May 5. No additional changes were proposed. The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion No. 25-21: Approval of the April 8, 2026 minutes. No corrections were proposed. The minutes were approved as presented.

PRESENTATIONS

State of ASCWU update

ASCWU President Hondo Acosta-Vega provided a State of ASCWU update, outlining current student government priorities and initiatives. He discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen student engagement across campus, including outreach to student organizations, participation in institutional committees, and collaboration with university leadership. The President emphasized the importance of ensuring that student voices are represented in decision-making processes, particularly in areas related to affordability, campus climate, and academic experience.

He also highlighted continued advocacy efforts at both the institutional and state levels, noting that student leadership remains actively involved in discussions impacting higher education policy. These efforts include collaboration with other student governments and participation in broader legislative and advocacy initiatives. The President underscored the importance of maintaining open lines of communication between students, faculty, and administration to support shared goals related to student success and institutional improvement.

CourseLeaf, CAT/CIM

Arturo Torres and Mike Gimlin presented an update on the implementation of Courseleaf, the university's new curriculum and catalog management system. The presentation outlined the transition from existing systems to Courseleaf, including anticipated improvements in workflow efficiency, transparency, and data accuracy.

The presenters explained that the new system is designed to streamline curriculum proposal processes, reduce redundancies, and provide a more user-friendly interface for faculty and administrators. They discussed how Courseleaf will integrate curriculum management (CIM) and catalog updates (CAT) into a more cohesive platform, allowing for improved tracking of proposals, clearer communication between stakeholders, and more consistent documentation of curricular changes.

The presenters also addressed the expected timeline for implementation, noting that training and support resources will be provided to faculty to facilitate the transition. They emphasized the importance of faculty engagement during the rollout to ensure the system meets instructional and governance needs.

General Education CAT Team

Erin Craig-Ricketson and Peter Klosterman provided an update on the ongoing work of the General Education Curriculum Assessment Team (GECT). They reported that the team continues to focus on evaluating and refining the general education program, with particular attention to simplifying program structure, clarifying learning outcomes, and improving assessment processes.

The presenters noted that recent work has involved identifying a smaller set of program-level learning outcomes intended to provide greater clarity and cohesion across general education courses. This approach aims to address concerns that the current system includes too many outcomes, making assessment difficult to implement effectively and consistently.

They also described ongoing research into general education models at peer institutions, as well as collaboration with the General Education Committee and other campus stakeholders. The team is continuing to gather faculty input through consultations and forums, with the goal of developing draft recommendations that reflect both institutional priorities and faculty expertise. Upcoming opportunities for faculty engagement were highlighted, with an emphasis on ensuring broad participation in shaping the future direction of general education.

SENATE CHAIR REPORT

Chair Lindsey provided a comprehensive update on ongoing shared governance efforts, recent interactions with university leadership, and Faculty Senate priorities. She reported that the Executive Committee continues to meet on a biweekly basis with the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee (BOT AAC), the Provost, and Board leadership. These meetings have focused on strengthening communication, clarifying roles within shared governance, and addressing faculty concerns raised throughout the academic year.

The Chair noted that discussions with the Board have included questions regarding the Faculty Code, particularly how revisions will be approached and whether those revisions will follow established shared governance processes. The Executive Committee has requested additional clarity on expectations placed on the President, including how those expectations are being evaluated and what accountability measures are in place. The Board indicated that certain aspects of these discussions remain confidential due to human resources policies, which has contributed to continued uncertainty among faculty.

The Chair reported that, while there has been progress in establishing more regular communication between faculty leadership and the Board, concerns remain regarding transparency, consistency of messaging, and the extent to which faculty input is meaningfully incorporated into decision-making processes. She emphasized that faculty have consistently expressed a desire for clearer communication, greater inclusion in institutional planning, and stronger adherence to shared governance principles.

In response to these concerns, the Executive Committee has continued to advocate for increased transparency and more structured opportunities for faculty engagement. The Chair noted that Senate leadership is now participating more regularly in institutional meetings, including the Academic Affairs Council, to provide faculty perspective and ensure that governance discussions are informed by academic priorities.

The Chair also provided updates on ongoing Faculty Senate work. She reported that the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee (FSCC) is continuing its work on three-year degree proposals and is developing a survey to gather faculty feedback on reduced-credit degree pathways. She noted that this work is intended to ensure that any proposed changes are informed by faculty expertise and aligned with academic standards.

Additional updates included ongoing discussions related to bookstore initiatives, specifically a potential Course Material Access Program, which is being evaluated in collaboration with students. The Chair also highlighted continued efforts within the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), including the development of new faculty support initiatives and assessment tools to better understand teaching practices across modalities.

The Chair further reported on ADA Title II compliance requirements, noting that the timeline for full compliance has been extended to April 2027. She emphasized the importance of continued efforts to improve accessibility across instructional materials and digital platforms, while acknowledging the workload implications for faculty.

Other updates included clarification regarding required syllabus language within Canvas, notification of increased law enforcement presence on campus related to an upcoming external event, and ongoing efforts to coordinate more regular communication between faculty leadership and academic deans.

The Chair concluded by emphasizing the importance of continued faculty engagement and collaboration during a period of institutional change. She encouraged faculty to remain involved in governance processes, participate in upcoming discussions, and support one another in navigating ongoing challenges.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF FACULTY SUCCESS REPORT

A written report was provided. Ongoing work includes development of an Online Education survey and continued engagement with faculty on teaching and learning initiatives.

FACULTY ISSUES

Updates

- **Non-Tenure Track (NTT) Representation:** Following concerns about limited NTT representation on Faculty Senate committees, Senate leadership met with current NTT senators to discuss potential solutions. While additional funding to support NTT participation was requested, it was not approved due to budget constraints; as an alternative, a liaison model will be implemented to ensure NTT perspectives are represented across committees, with plans to revisit the issue and engage newly elected NTT senators.
- **AI Use and Sustainability:** In response to concerns about the environmental and ethical implications of AI usage, consultation with Information Services and campus sustainability leadership indicated that institutional AI licensing is currently limited, with a focus on data privacy and risk mitigation. While AI-related energy consumption occurs off-campus, the university is addressing sustainability impacts through broader climate initiatives, and faculty development resources are available to support informed and responsible AI use.
- **Travel Processing Delays:** Updates from the travel office indicated that delays in travel authorizations and expense reimbursements are due to a combination of limited staffing, high processing volume, and incomplete or delayed submissions requiring revision. Efforts are underway to explore process improvements, including potential strategies to reduce the financial burden on faculty by enabling more advance payment options.
- **Bike Locker Access and Maintenance:** Concerns regarding locked bike lockers near Samuelson were addressed through consultation with Facilities, which confirmed that lockers were installed to support sustainability efforts but lacked a maintenance plan. A draft plan is currently being developed to establish proper monitoring and usage guidelines, with the goal of restoring access by fall.
- **Computer Replacement and Classroom Technology:** Information Services reported that a new computer replacement policy is being implemented through a leasing model, with phased distribution to administrative staff and faculty beginning this year. While no centralized funding exists for classroom technology replacement, there is potential for departments to reallocate funds and for end-of-year resources to support updates to aging classroom equipment.
- **Internship Policy and Course Alignment:** Concerns regarding the alignment of internship requirements with course outcomes were reviewed in consultation with Career Services, which clarified that the policy is governed at the provost and registrar level. Career Services expressed willingness to collaborate on future discussions to improve clarity, accessibility, and equity within internship processes.

New Issues

- **Farrell Hall Facilities (Lack of Air Conditioning):** Faculty raised concerns regarding the lack of air conditioning in Farrell Hall, noting that classroom and working conditions become increasingly difficult during warmer periods, potentially impacting both teaching effectiveness and student learning environments.

- **ICE Recruitment and Homeland Security Presence:** Concerns were raised regarding reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) recruitment activities and the presence of Homeland Security representatives on or near campus. Faculty expressed a need for clarification on institutional policies regarding external agency access and whether such activities are permitted or restricted.
- **Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEOI):** Faculty raised concerns about SEOI administration, including timing, communication, and response rates. Concerns were expressed about the impact of these factors on the reliability and usefulness of evaluation data, particularly in relation to faculty review processes.
- **Basic Needs Fee and Food Pantry Funding Allocation:** Faculty requested clarification regarding the basic needs fee, specifically how funds are allocated and distributed, including support for the campus food pantry. Questions were raised about transparency and how resources are being used to meet student needs.
- **Student Materials Proposal:** Faculty raised concerns regarding the proposed student materials model, including how course materials are selected, bundled, and delivered to students. Questions focused on faculty autonomy in choosing materials and the broader academic implications of centralized course material systems.
- **The Grupe Center Technology Equipment:** A request was raised for an additional monitor in The Grupe Center to better support presentations so that people are on one and the presentation is on another, noting that current technology limitations can impact visibility and effectiveness during presentations.
- **Bookstore Flat Fee and E-Book Usage:** Faculty expressed concerns about the bookstore's flat fee model and the increasing use of e-books within course materials programs. Discussion included concerns about cost transparency, student access, and the perception that digital materials are being prioritized or required without sufficient faculty input.

STUDENT REPORT

ASCWU Senate Speaker Aylin Parrazal Bravo provided a report on current student government activities and upcoming initiatives.

Preliminary election results indicate that Meg Selbig is expected to serve as the next ASCWU Senate Speaker, with official confirmation to follow once results are finalized. The CAP Referendum has passed.

The Speaker reported that the upcoming general ballot will include several items for student vote, including the Basic Needs Fee, a proposed Athletics Fee increase, presidential candidates, and a proposed ASCWU Constitution change. These items will be presented to students for final consideration.

ASCWU has also completed interviews for the Student Trustee position. Recommendations are expected to be finalized and forwarded to Dania Cochran following receipt later in the week.

Additionally, the Speaker announced that Sweecy Day will take place on May 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the SURC east patio. The event is intended to serve as a campus celebration and an opportunity to promote community engagement.

REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

- **Motion No. 25-22:** Ratification of the 2026–2029 committee nominees as outlined in Exhibit A. Context was provided that some positions, particularly from the Library and CLA, did not receive applicants, and staggered appointments were used to ensure committee coverage for the upcoming academic year. No discussion was raised. The motion passed by voice vote.
- **Motion No. 25-19 (Second Reading of Three):** Proposed revisions to Faculty Code Section IV regarding assigned time and workload units (WLU) for Senate activities were presented. No discussion was raised. Senators were asked to bring feedback from their departments prior to the next reading.
- **Motion No. 25-20 (Second Reading of Three):** Proposed revisions to Faculty Code sections related to college budget committees were presented. Discussion included a question regarding whether college budget committees are currently active across colleges. It was clarified that committee activity varies by college, with some actively meeting and others not currently functioning. Senators were asked to gather departmental feedback. No vote was taken.
- **Motion No. 25-24 (First Reading of Two):** Proposed revisions to Faculty Senate Bylaws addressing eligibility for Senators running for or elected to the Executive Committee near the end of their terms were introduced. Discussion included a suggested language correction to replace gendered pronouns with gender-neutral language. Additional concern was raised regarding alignment between the proposed bylaw changes and existing Faculty Code language limiting consecutive terms, with a question about whether corresponding revisions to the Code would be required. No vote was taken. Senators were asked to gather feedback.
- **Motion No. 25-25 (First Reading of Two):** Proposed revisions to Faculty Senate Bylaws addressing the Executive Committee Chair-elect process were introduced. No discussion was raised. Senators were asked to review and provide feedback.
- **Motion No. 25-26 (First Reading of Two):** Proposed addition of a process for disbanding a standing committee due to changed circumstances was introduced. No discussion was raised. Senators were asked to review and provide feedback.
- **Committee Reports:** Written reports were provided by the Curriculum Committee, Evaluation and Assessment Committee, and General Education Committee. Senators were asked to review these reports independently.

PROVOST REPORT

Provost Pease provided updates on three topics: a recent Canvas data breach, developments in higher education funding at the state level, and a campus-hosted tribal leaders engagement event.

The Provost first informed the Senate of a significant Canvas data breach affecting a third-party vendor, not CWU directly. Early reports suggest the breach may have impacted as many as 9,000 institutions globally. The data believed to have been accessed includes names, email addresses, institutional ID numbers (not Social Security numbers), and messages within the Canvas system. No passwords were compromised, and there is currently no indication that academic data, course functionality, or institutional systems have been disrupted. The Provost noted that this is preliminary information and that additional updates will be shared as they become available. A notification is expected to appear within Canvas, and the Provost provided this context in advance of that communication.

The Provost next provided an update on ongoing work by the Washington Roundtable to develop a more standardized higher education funding model for the state. He explained that the current funding process is largely decentralized, with institutions individually advocating for funding, and that the Roundtable's goal is to create a more unified and outcomes-driven model. The proposed framework includes three primary components: core operational costs, enrollment-based funding tied to access, and outcomes-based funding tied to degree and credential attainment.

He noted that earlier iterations of the model included a wide range of outcome metrics, but more recent versions have simplified this to focus primarily on the number of graduates produced. This shift reflects the state's broader goal of achieving 70% postsecondary credential attainment. The Provost emphasized that this approach places increased importance on student retention, persistence, and completion as interconnected factors that directly influence graduation outcomes.

The Provost cautioned that it remains uncertain whether the legislature will adopt this model, particularly given current state budget constraints. However, he noted that the Washington Roundtable holds significant influence and that the proposal is nearing a final stage before potential legislative consideration. He encouraged faculty to be aware of these developments, noting that CWU's current four-year graduation rate of approximately 36% may become increasingly relevant if such metrics are used in future funding decisions.

The Provost concluded by sharing information about a recent tribal leaders panel and listening session held on April 27. The event included approximately 180 participants representing multiple tribal nations, as well as members of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, educators, students, faculty, and staff. He described the gathering as a significant and well-received opportunity to begin strengthening relationships between the university and tribal communities.

Feedback from the event was collected and analyzed, with key themes highlighting the need for increased visibility and representation of tribal history and culture on campus. Tribal leaders emphasized the importance of moving beyond land acknowledgments toward meaningful, ongoing educational engagement with Indigenous history and culture.

In response, the Provost announced that the new North Academic Commons will serve as a central site for these efforts. The space will include a Tribal Knowledge and Culture Center designed to support learning, cultural engagement, language revitalization, and community connection. The center will be highly visible and accessible, integrated into student experiences, and developed in collaboration with tribal partners. Programming will include speaker series, cultural learning activities, and opportunities for engagement with tribal leaders, with leadership provided by Dr. Zoe Higheagle Strong.

CHAIR-ELECT REPORT

Chair-Elect Amy Claridge reminded Senators of the upcoming Open Executive Committee meeting and NTT Connect event and encouraged participation.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was raised.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned. The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2026.