

Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 5, 2026, 3:10 PM

Location: Zoom

Attendees

Voting Members

Paul Ballard, Elizabeth Brown, Lacy Ferrell, Dia Gary, Mengyu Ma, Sarah Oppelt, Erika Pazian, Tim Sorey

Non-Voting Members

Mike Gimlin, Kurt Kirstein, Selena Castro, Mike Pease, Rachel Kirk, Gayle Young-Dohrman

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ballard at 3:12 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 5, 2026 and February 19, 2026 draft minutes: APPROVED

4. Approval / Review Log

Motion to approve the 2.19.2026-3.5.2026 Curriculum Review-Approval Log: APPROVED

5. Chair Report/Updates

3-Year Degrees: The committee talked about what the provost shared at the Faculty Senate meeting on March 4, 2026.

Summary of presentation: Provost Pease presented an overview of exploratory planning related to potential three-year bachelor's degree programs, including national context and emerging interest in reduced time-to-degree models. The presentation outlined potential benefits such as improving affordability, accelerating completion, and supporting student progression, and described a proposed academic structure of 135 total credits with 45 upper-division credits, framed as a distinct program option rather than simply an accelerated version of a 180-credit degree. The presentation also identified key policy and implementation considerations requiring further review, including program naming, whether three-year and four-year versions of the same major could coexist, student ability to move between pathways, and potential impacts to areas such as financial aid, degree auditing, and accreditation. Proposed next steps included continued faculty governance discussion, development of guidelines, and potential identification of pilot programs for further consideration.

Discussion: A member noted that many universities referenced as offering “three-year degrees” are not actually reducing the total credit requirements for a bachelor's degree. Instead, these programs often allow students to complete a traditional credit load more quickly by applying incoming credits (such as AP or Running Start) and requiring summer coursework. The member suggested that while some reduced-credit programs do exist, the idea that there is a widespread national shift toward lower-credit bachelor's degrees may be somewhat overstated.

Committee members discussed concerns about the process and timeline for establishing a new type of academic program, noting that the current proposal seemed to require approving the program type before fully defining how it would function academically. Several participants questioned whether the committee should first determine clear criteria, outcomes, and evaluation rubrics that would demonstrate the program's equivalency to a traditional four-year degree structure.

The conversation emphasized that, for accreditation purposes, the program would need to show comparable learning outcomes, rigor, and assessment methods to existing degree programs. Members noted that Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) expectations would require clear documentation demonstrating that the program meets institutional and accreditation standards.

Overall, the concern was that moving too quickly could create compliance or quality assurance issues, and that the committee should ensure the framework—including learning outcomes, assessment methods, and accreditation alignment—is clearly defined before formally approving the new program type.

6. Proposals Discussed & Motions – Campus Review

Course Changes

14 Course Changes:

EDLT 520 – Course Change

Friendly amendment: change “communicates” → “communicate.”

MGT 394 – PRF required.

No prerequisite concerns. Recommend revising learning outcome verb (“understand”).

MKT 371 – PRF required.

No prerequisite concerns. Recommend revising learning outcome verbs (“demonstrate understanding/knowledge”).

SCM 320 – Friendly amendments: add Oxford comma; remove dash in “in-class.” Scheduling pattern clarification recommended. Description edits completed during meeting.

Motion to send course change proposals forward for campus review: APPROVED

New Courses

No new course proposals.

Program Changes

Elementary Education Major, BAEd – PRF required.

Question raised about repeated learner outcome language across Education programs; curriculum otherwise appropriate.

Motion to send program change proposals forward for campus review: APPROVED

New Programs

Biology, MAS (Proposal #1259) – Friendly amendments to graduation requirements wording and PLO punctuation completed during meeting.

Motion to send new program proposals forward for campus review: APPROVED

7. Next Meeting

March 19th meeting: everyone agreed that since it's finals week and a few people will be unable to attend, we will not meet on the 19th as originally planned but will hold email vote.

8. Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:13 PM