

Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2026

3:10 – 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Attendees

Voting Members Present: Paul Ballard (Chair), Elizabeth Brown, Lacy Ferrell, Sayantani Mukherjee, Erika Pazian, Tim Sorey

Non-Voting Members Present: Mike Gimlin, Kurt Kirstein, Selena Castro, Mike Pease, Rachel Kirk, Gayle Young-Dohrman

Guests: Chris Schedler, Erin Craig Ricketson, Bruce Palmquist

1. Call to Order

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

2. Review: Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

3. Approval of May 21, 2026 Draft Minutes

Motion to approve the May 21, 2026 draft minutes – APPROVED

4. Discussion: CiHS Graduate Certificates, guests Chris Schedler, Erin Craig Ricketson

The committee continued discussion of proposed College in the High School (CiHS) graduate certificates.

Erin Craig Ricketson and Bruce Palmquist provided additional context regarding the proposed Physics certificate. They explained that the certificate was developed to support qualified high school instructors, particularly in rural areas where instructors often teach across multiple STEM disciplines. The certificate would consist of existing graduate-level

coursework and is intended to provide focused pedagogical and content preparation while maintaining instructional quality standards.

Chris Schedler discussed the proposed English certificates and explained that they are intended to provide a pathway for College in the High School instructors to obtain provisional approval while working toward a master's degree. The certificates were designed to be stackable toward graduate degree programs and to support instructors serving underrepresented and rural student populations.

Committee members discussed several concerns, including transferability and value of the certificates outside of CWU, consistency of instructor qualifications, the relationship between the certificates and existing master's degree programs, provisional teaching status, and whether the certificates provide sufficient benefit compared to direct enrollment in a master's program.

Additional discussion centered on departmental autonomy in determining instructor qualifications, accreditation requirements, and the need for consistent and trackable approval processes for College in the High School instructors.

The committee agreed that the proposed Teaching Introductory College Physics Graduate Certificate could move forward, while the proposed English certificates would remain on hold pending further discussion and clarification of policy, admissions, and credit-transfer questions.

5. Approval of June 4, 2026 Approval Agenda

Motion to approve all proposals marked “Ready for FSCC Approval” in the FSCC SharePoint – APPROVED

6. Chair’s Report/updates

Chair Ballard reported that the committee had completed review of the remaining curriculum proposals scheduled for the academic year and thanked committee members for their work throughout the year. Additional curriculum items not completed before the end of the academic year would move forward into fall review processes.

7. HyFlex Update / Discussion

Elizabeth Brown provided an update from the HyFlex subcommittee regarding revised modality definitions and recommendations.

The committee reviewed draft language intended to clarify that students should be able to choose and move between instructional modalities throughout a course rather than being locked into a single modality at the beginning of the term. Discussion focused on distinguishing true HyFlex instruction from courses offered as separate sections using different delivery formats.

Kurt Kirstein provided background on the request, explaining that the definitions originated from efforts to standardize modality terminology and were referred through the Provost's Office and Executive Committee for faculty review.

Motion: Approve the revised HyFlex language and definitions and forward them to the Executive Committee - APPROVED

8. 3-Year Degree Update/Next Steps: Erika/Lacy

Erika Pazian and Lacy Ferrell presented results from the faculty survey regarding proposed three-year degree programs. The survey received approximately 130 responses, with roughly 72% of respondents indicating they did not support or strongly did not support implementation of three-year degrees.

Committee members discussed common themes from survey comments. Supporters cited reduced student costs and the potential to attract new student populations. Opponents raised concerns regarding academic rigor, reduced-credit degree models, student access to required coursework, university reputation, and equity implications.

Discussion also addressed the need for additional evidence regarding student demand, workforce needs, financial impacts, and outcomes at institutions currently offering similar programs. Committee members expressed interest in receiving additional data before making recommendations.

Kurt Kirstein suggested exploring whether existing Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) programs could serve as a pilot for testing reduced-credit degree models. Committee members expressed concerns regarding the applicability of BAS programs as a proxy, potential impacts on students, academic rigor, and the lack of supporting data regarding student demand and outcomes. No action was taken, and members agreed additional information would be needed before further consideration.

9. Other Items / Adjournment

Committee members expressed appreciation for Chair Ballard's leadership during the academic year and acknowledged the contributions of committee members and Administrative Assistant Alysia Owlsym in improving curriculum review processes and committee operations.

Additional curriculum items not reviewed during the academic year will move into fall review processes.

Motion to adjourn – APPROVED

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM