

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2026

Meeting Location: Hybrid (Grupe Center and Zoom)

Call to Order: 3:10 PM

ATTENDANCE

Senators and Alternates: Amy Claridge, Ana Freire, Astrid Vidalon Shields, Bernadette Jungblut, Brita Williams, Bruce Palmquist, Chong Eun Ahn, Christopher Schedler, Cristina Bistricean, Eun Young Lee, Gabrielle McNeillie, Gary Bartlett, Jason Irwin, Jill Perillo Clark, Jim Johnson, John Bowen, John Choi, John Durham, Kate (Kyung Hee) Im, Kate Reynolds, Ke Zhong, Keith Lewis, Liane Pereira, Lila Harper, Mary Radeke, Naomi Petersen, Nathalie Kasselis, Natashia Lindsey, Nikki Jastremeski, Nicole Lamartine, Peter Klosterman, Philip DeRise, Richard Marsicano, Ruthi Erdman, Sarah Sillin, Tafere Belay, Timothy Englund, Timothy Hagen, Todd Weber, Upakar Bhatta

Guests: Aylin Parrazal Bravo, April Binder, Arturo Torres, Christina Denison, Elvin Delgado, Eric Foch, Erin Craig Ricketson, Hope Amason, John Neuroh, Joy Fuqua, Julie Baldwin, Kara Gabriel, Kurt Kirstein, Mike Gimlin, Patrick Pease, Patti Miles, Rodrigo Renteria-Valencia, Sathyanarayanan Rajendran, Sydney Thompson, Tishra Beeson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Natashia Lindsey. 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

There were no issues expressed with the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion No. 25-27: Approval of the May 6, 2026 minutes. No corrections were proposed. The minutes were approved as presented.

PRESENTATIONS

No formal presentations were given. A brief informational announcement was shared by the Office of Health Promotion regarding a faculty well-being survey. Senators were encouraged to complete the survey via a link provided during the meeting, with follow-up distribution to occur after the meeting.

SENATE CHAIR REPORT

Chair Natasha Lindsey provided a closing report reflecting on the academic year and key Senate activities. She expressed appreciation to faculty for their continued engagement, particularly in completing multiple surveys and assessments, noting that the results will directly inform ongoing work by the Evaluation and Assessment Committee and the Curriculum Committee, including efforts related to reduced-credit degrees and SEOIs. She also shared that feedback from the attendance survey has already informed proposed revisions to the class attendance policy under consideration at this meeting.

The Chair highlighted the work of the General Education Committee in reviewing a proposal to increase Academic Writing course caps. The committee determined that increasing caps beyond current levels—already among the highest in the state—would negatively impact student learning and faculty workload and reaffirmed that course caps for these courses fall under General Education Committee authority.

Updates were also provided on shared governance efforts. The Executive Committee continues to meet with the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee and is working with an external consultant from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), Dr. Steve Bahls. The consultant will conduct interviews across campus constituencies and develop a faculty survey to be distributed in the fall, followed by a workshop and recommendations to strengthen shared governance practices.

The Chair noted that faculty leadership groups will hold a final meeting with university leadership to support leadership transitions and continue discussions on the structure and purpose of these meetings.

Chair Lindsey offered an extended personal reflection on her experience serving as Faculty Senate Chair during the academic year. She described the role as requiring her to consistently advocate for faculty concerns while navigating challenging and, at times, adversarial interactions with university leadership. She noted that the position often

required careful communication, emotional restraint, and sustained effort to maintain professionalism in situations where she felt disrespected, misrepresented, or dismissed.

She shared that the role involved significant emotional and intellectual labor, including representing faculty concerns in both formal and informal settings, often under conditions of tension and disagreement. The Chair indicated that these experiences were not unique to her, but reflected broader patterns reported by faculty across campus, including concerns raised in forums, conversations, and direct communications throughout the year.

Chair Lindsey also acknowledged the impact of these challenges on faculty morale and emphasized that some colleagues—particularly those from historically underrepresented groups—have experienced even more significant difficulties, contributing to faculty departures and ongoing concerns about campus climate.

Despite these challenges, she emphasized the importance of continued advocacy, shared governance, and collective responsibility in improving institutional culture. She expressed appreciation for the support she received from colleagues and reiterated her commitment to ensuring that faculty voices are heard and respected within university decision-making processes.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF FACULTY SUCCESS REPORT

A written report was provided.

FACULTY ISSUES

Updates on Previous Issues:

The Chair acknowledged that follow-up updates to faculty issues raised at the May meeting were available but, due to time constraints and the length of the agenda, would be provided in writing following the meeting. Senators were informed that these updates would be included in the post-meeting communication.

New Issues:

The following new faculty issues were raised:

- **Ana Freire (Health Sciences): SPSS Software License** – Concerns were raised regarding the expiration of the university-wide SPSS license in December. The software is widely used in coursework and research, and faculty requested clarification on whether the license will be renewed, noting that failure to do so would require significant course and research redesign.
- **Ana Freire (Health Sciences): Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) Funding Model** – Concerns were raised about changes to OUR grant processes requiring

students to pay research expenses upfront and be reimbursed later. Faculty noted that many students cannot afford these upfront costs, resulting in faculty personally covering expenses, which was described as unsustainable.

- **John Bowen (Geography): Shared Equity and Belonging Initiatives** – Concerns were raised on behalf of interdisciplinary and identity-based programs regarding insufficient faculty consultation in initiatives led by the Office of Faculty Success and Student Development and Belonging. Requests were made for increased faculty involvement, reinstatement of college-level committees, and greater use of faculty expertise in future efforts.
- **Chong Eun Ahn (History): Travel Reimbursement Documentation Requirements** – Faculty raised concerns about new requirements to submit images of personal credit or debit cards as part of travel reimbursement authorization. Questions were raised regarding the legal basis, necessity, and increased administrative burden associated with this requirement.
- **Chong Eun Ahn (History): Graduate Certificate Programs** – Concerns were raised about the value and ethical implications of certain graduate certificate programs, particularly those perceived as non-transferable or limited in applicability outside the institution.
- **Chong Eun Ahn (History): Three-Year Degree (Reduced Credit) Proposal** – Faculty expressed concerns regarding the proposed three-year degree model, including lack of supporting data, potential impacts on educational quality, and insufficient faculty consultation, emphasizing that curriculum decisions fall under faculty governance.
- **Chong Eun Ahn (History): President’s Performance Survey Access** – Concerns were raised regarding inconsistent distribution of the President’s performance survey and lack of clarity around eligibility and access.
- **Naomi Petersen (CSEL): Travel Reimbursement Process (Follow-Up)** – Additional concerns were raised regarding burdensome documentation requirements and potential risk of denied reimbursement, particularly given timing constraints at the end of the fiscal year.
- **Bernadette Jungblut (Political Science): Washington State Board of Education “Future Ready” Initiative** – Faculty raised awareness of proposed changes to high school graduation requirements, including potential removal of arts requirements, and encouraged faculty to review the potential impacts on academic programs and student preparation.

STUDENT REPORT

The ASCWU Senate Speaker was invited to provide a student report. The Speaker noted that there were no updates to report but expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the meeting and engage with the Senate.

REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

I. Executive Committee

- a. **Motion No. 25-28:** Election of the 2026–2027 Faculty Senate Chair-Elect – Nominee: Dr. Hope Amason. The nomination was presented to the Senate. No discussion was raised. The motion proceeded to a vote and passed.
- b. **Motion No. 25-29:** Amend CWU 501-20(39) Class Attendance policy to clarify university-sponsored events and the roles of students, sponsors, and faculty as outlined in Exhibit A. The motion was presented, building on prior discussion and survey feedback regarding attendance practices. No additional discussion was raised. The motion proceeded to a vote and passed.

II. Bylaws and Faculty Code Committee – A written report was provided. The Senate considered the following motions, all of which had been previously introduced in earlier readings:

- a. **Motion No. 25-19 (Third Reading of Three):** Revise Faculty Code Section IV regarding assigned time and workload units (WLU) for Senate activities. No discussion was raised. The motion proceeded to a vote and passed.
- b. **Motion No. 25-20 (Third Reading of Three):** Revise Faculty Code sections related to college budget committees. No additional discussion was raised. The motion proceeded to a vote and passed.
- c. **Motion No. 25-25 (Second Reading of Two):** Revise Faculty Senate Bylaws addressing the Executive Committee Chair-elect position. No discussion was raised. The motion proceeded to a vote and passed.
- d. **Motion No. 25-26 (Second Reading of Two):** Revise Faculty Senate Bylaws to add a process for disbanding a standing committee due to changed circumstances. No discussion was raised. The motion proceeded to a vote and passed.

III. Curriculum Committee – A written report was provided. The Senate considered a series of curriculum proposals, all of which were presented without discussion and proceeded to a vote:

- a. **Motion No. 25-30:** Approval of the new Biology, MAS as outlined in Exhibit F. The motion passed.
- b. **Motion No. 25-31:** Approval of the new Emergency Medical Technician Certificate as outlined in Exhibit G. The motion passed.
- c. **Motion No. 25-32:** Approval of the new Personal Financial Planning Minor as outlined in Exhibit H. The motion passed.
- d. **Motion No. 25-33:** Approval of the new Primate Behavior, MAS as outlined in Exhibit I. The motion passed.

The following motions were presented with the understanding that final approval is contingent upon Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee (FSCC) review at its June 4, 2026 meeting. No discussion was raised. All motions proceeded to a vote and passed:

- e. **Motion No. 25-34:** Approval of the new Geology Shared Core as outlined in Exhibit J, pending FSCC approval.
 - f. **Motion No. 25-35:** Approval of the new Kinesiology Core as outlined in Exhibit K, pending FSCC approval.
 - g. **Motion No. 25-36:** Approval of the new Kinesiology BS, Human Performance, Strength, and Conditioning Specialization as outlined in Exhibit L, pending FSCC approval.
 - h. **Motion No. 25-37:** Approval of the new Kinesiology BS, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences Specialization as outlined in Exhibit M, pending FSCC approval.
 - i. **Motion No. 25-38:** Approval of the Teaching College Creative Writing – Graduate Certificate as outlined in Exhibit N, pending FSCC approval.
 - j. **Motion No. 25-39:** Approval of the Teaching College English – Graduate Certificate as outlined in Exhibit O, pending FSCC approval.
 - k. **Motion No. 25-40:** Approval of the Teaching Introductory College Physics – Graduate Certificate as outlined in Exhibit P, pending FSCC approval.
- IV. **Evaluation and Assessment Committee** – A written report was provided
- V. **Academic Affairs Committee** – A written report was provided. The Senate considered the following motion:
- a. **Motion No. 25-41:** Update to CWU 501-22 Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) Policy for Online Instruction as outlined in Exhibit Q. The motion was presented without discussion and proceeded to a vote. The motion passed.

PROVOST REPORT

Provost Pease provided an update regarding upcoming federal compliance requirements related to verifying student participation in courses for financial aid eligibility. He explained that while institutions have long been required to confirm student engagement, federal expectations and enforcement are increasing, requiring more timely and documented verification.

The Provost noted that failure to verify student participation will result in students losing financial aid for courses in which engagement cannot be confirmed. For in-person and synchronous courses, attendance will serve as sufficient verification. However, for asynchronous online courses, verification will require evidence of active participation, such

as submitting assignments, completing assessments, participating in discussions, or engaging in other instructor-defined academic activities. Logging into a course alone will not meet federal requirements for participation.

Faculty will be required to complete a participation verification process early in the term, typically within the first week and no later than the end of the add/drop period. This process will involve confirming, through class rosters, that students have demonstrated academic engagement. The Provost emphasized that timely verification is critical, as financial aid disbursement is tied to confirmed participation, and failure to verify even a single course may result in a reduction of a student's overall financial aid.

During discussion, faculty raised concerns about students potentially circumventing participation requirements, such as attending only the first class session or submitting minimal or incomplete work to appear engaged. Additional concerns were raised about students submitting blank assignments or demonstrating only nominal activity while remaining enrolled.

In response, the Provost acknowledged that such challenges exist and noted that there are processes in place to address students who stop attending after initial participation. These include reporting last date of attendance, which may result in prorated financial aid adjustments or repayment requirements. He also noted that early alert systems and advisor communication play a role in identifying and addressing disengaged students, though faculty expressed uncertainty about how consistently these follow-up processes are implemented.

Faculty emphasized the need for stronger coordination between instructors, advisors, and financial aid offices to ensure that lack of meaningful engagement is addressed more effectively and that students are not able to exploit gaps in the system.

The Provost noted that additional guidance and detailed instructions will be provided prior to implementation in the fall, with further efforts planned to streamline the process and reduce administrative burden on faculty. He reiterated that while the requirement itself is not new, the consequences of non-compliance are increasing and may directly impact student financial stability and success.

CHAIR-ELECT REPORT

Chair-Elect Amy Claridge announced that the next Open Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, from 3:00–4:00 PM in the same location. She encouraged Senators and faculty to attend and bring forward any questions or concerns for discussion.

Chair-Elect Claridge then introduced a motion recognizing Chair Natasha Lindsey for her service as Faculty Senate Chair during the academic year. The motion acknowledged her

leadership, advocacy, and contributions to shared governance throughout a challenging year. The motion was received with appreciation, and most attendees in the room responded with a standing ovation.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair invited any new business from the Senate. No new business was raised.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2026.