

# LX No. 13

## Faculty Senate Minutes

### March 4, 2026

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, in the UC Redhawks Room. The following Senators were present: Michael Bezushko, Larry Bohannon, Christopher Bradley, Corrie Dudley, Erin Fluegge, Pam Gershuny, Arusha Ijaz, Courtney Kisat, Hayley Love, Kelly McEnerney, Joe Murphy (Chair-Elect), Josh Newth, Tomoaki Nomi, Peter Oman, Anthony Scherer, Kyle Schneider, Robin Smith, Mike Taylor, Misty Tilmon, David Yaskewich. Interim Vice Provost Michelle Brune was also present. The following alternates were present: Missy Nieveen-Phegley, Hannah Kilburn, and Chris Haug. The following proxies were present: Juefei Yuan

#### Call to Order

Chair-Elect Joe Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

#### Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from February 18, 2026, were approved without corrections.

#### Guests

##### **Scheduled Guest: Angela Meyer, Director of Facilities Management**

- Angela Meyer had to cancel due to a last-minute conflict.
- She will attend the **March 25, 2026** Faculty Senate meeting.

#### Old Business

**Bill 26-A-15 — Three-Year Academic Calendar (Second Reading)** Motion to approve; Senator Taylor, seconded; Senator Bohannon

## Presentation & Context

- The updated three-year academic calendar was submitted by the **Provost's Office**.
- A primary note of concern was the **fall break date**, which remains **variable** each year due to:
  - Athletics and football scheduling,
  - Homecoming scheduling,
  - Existing contracts with the UC that limit flexibility.
- Senators were reminded that this variability is effectively **non-negotiable**, regardless of Senate recommendations.

## Discussion

- One senator asked whether the **OVC provides set scheduling deadlines**.
  - Response: Typically, OVC schedules are submitted in **January or February**, though fall football schedules are often released earlier.
- No additional questions were raised.
- This bill passed with a unanimous vote
- Per procedure, the Senate's official **three-year academic calendar webpage will be updated** to reflect this approval.

## New Business

### Resolutions Introduced (First Readings)

Because two previously introduced items were incorrectly categorized as bills, they were corrected into **Resolutions 26-5 and 26-6**. Senate leadership recommended introducing both simultaneously for first reading.

#### **Resolution 26-5: Revising Duties for Faculty Senate Chairperson**

#### **Resolution 26-6: Revising Duties for Faculty Senate Chairperson-Elect**

#### **Summary Presented by Governance Committee (Josh)**

- These resolutions are identical in substance to what senators saw two weeks earlier.

- Governance Committee revisited the responsibilities of the **Senate Chairperson** and **Chairperson-Elect**, particularly their roles on legislative committees.
- Two possible models for non-voting membership were examined:
  1. Non-voting membership on **all legislative committees**, OR
  2. Non-voting membership on all committees **except the Membership Committee**.
- After discussion, Governance Committee unanimously recommended **non-voting membership on all legislative committees**.

## Discussion & Questions

- A senator asked whether the change would require **additional updates elsewhere in the bylaws**, as other sections refer to the Chair or Chair-Elect specifically in context of the Membership Committee.
  - Senator Newth will verify whether additional amendments are needed.
- Senators were encouraged to **take the resolutions back to their departments** for input.
- Clarification:
  - **Resolutions require one week of notice**, even though they do not require a motion to be introduced.
  - Thus, no vote will occur this session.

**No vote was taken.** Voting will occur at the **next meeting**.

## Reports

### Chair's Report — Delivered for Dr. Moore

#### Guest Speaker Updates

- **Angela Meyer** will now attend **March 25**.
- **April 8** Senate meeting will feature guest speaker **Sarah Craig**.

#### Board of Governors Update

- Dr. Moore presented on Faculty Senate processes.

- Board members asked substantive questions about:
  - Senate responsibilities,
  - Governance structure,
  - Program review workflow.

### **Academic Program Review**

- Committee is finalizing recommendations for **regular review programs**.
- Extraordinary review programs continue on a **separate timeline**; faculty should watch for updates.

### **Academic Restructuring Concerns**

- There is widespread concern among faculty regarding:
  - The pace of restructuring,
  - Timing relative to summer,
  - Clarity around definitions of “schools.”
- Academic Affairs and Professional Affairs Committees were charged to:
  - Review structures at comparable institutions,
  - Develop potential definitions or models of “schools,”
  - Report back to Senate **April 8**.

### **Budget Review & Administrative Council**

- Meetings after spring break should clarify:
  - Strategic investment processes,
  - Committee-level financial implications.

### **End-of-Year Committee Reports**

- **Due April 17** from all Senate committee chairs.
- Reports will be included in materials for the **April 22 split session**.

### **Potential Need for Additional Senate Meeting**

- A senator raised concern that delaying structural decisions until August would allow administration to finalize plans without Senate input.

- Discussion concluded:
  - The **next Senate (after the split session)** is the body empowered to schedule additional meetings.
  - Senators who may continue next year were encouraged to **hold the Wednesday following the split session** as a potential meeting date.
  - Senate leadership will explore **reserving space** proactively.

## Administrative Liaison Report — Dr. Brune (for Interim Provost Koch)

### Budget Review Questions

- The senator's question about strategic investment funding was clarified:
  - Decisions are now with **executive staff and the President**,
  - Not returning to Budget Review Committee.

### Funding Opportunities

- **Undergraduate Research Grants and Faculty Mentor Research Grants:**
  - Reopened for spring due to low fall submissions.
  - **Deadline: March 16.**
  - Applications and instructions now housed on **mySEMO** due to ADA website accessibility adjustments.
  - Faculty were encouraged to promote applications to students.

### VRIP (Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program)

- Application deadline: **March 13.**
- Notifications: **March 23–27**, per the mySEMO portal.

### Midterm Grades Deadline Issue

- Multiple senators questioned a confusing email stating grades are due at **9:00 a.m.**, earlier than usual.
- Dr. Brune committed to:
  - Contact Registrar's Office,

- Confirm whether this was an error,
- Report back promptly.

### **SupportNet Roster Issues**

- Senators reported missing student entries for second 8-week classes, complicating:
  - Attendance verification,
  - Early alerts,
  - SupportNet documentation.
- Faculty urged to check rosters carefully; updates may lag after add/drop activity.

## SGA Report — Layne Collier

### **Funding Allocations**

SGA approved funding for several student groups to attend conferences:

- FBLA – State Leadership Conference (St. Joseph)
- SEMO Cheer – NCAA Nationals (Daytona Beach)
- Communication Disorders students – National Black Association for Speech-Language-Hearing Conference (Atlanta)
- Chemistry/Physics student – Bruker Symposium at MIT

### **Additional Activity**

- Revised bylaws for scholarship committees.
- Approved funding for a **new illuminated Redhawk photo-op sign** at the Rec Center.
- Held “Dinner with the Deans” to set remaining semester goals.

No questions were posed to Mr. Collier.

## Committee Reports

### **Academic Affairs — Kyle Schneider**

- Did not meet last week.
- **March 16** Academic Council meeting expected to be lengthy; will address extraordinary review and restructuring.
- Graduate Council created an **ad hoc committee** to review issues involving:
  - 500-level courses,
  - Accelerated master's credit,
  - Graduate credit not automatically granted to undergraduates in 500-level courses.

#### **Compensation — Erin Fluegge**

- Did not meet last week.
- Will meet after spring break to review research findings regarding committee charges.

#### **Documents — Michael Bezushko**

- Committee reviewed existing charges and identified areas requiring refined language.
- Aiming to complete work before April due to member travel constraints.

#### **Governance — Joshua Newth & Robin Smith**

- Reviewed the resolutions presented earlier in the session.
- Next topic for exploration:
  - Whether a **dean may serve as a department chair**,
  - Including governance and structural implications.

#### **Professional Affairs — Corrie Dudley**

- Met with GRFC representatives to discuss the **GRFC Guidelines** (last fully updated in 2018).
- Identified necessary revisions:
  - Clear rubric for scoring applications,
  - Conflict of interest policy,
  - Explicit process for partial funding decisions,
  - Structural updates to bring the document in line with committee practice.
- Requested a Word file of the current guidelines to streamline editing.
- Aim to present all updates to Senate **before end of session**.

#### **Membership — Hayley Love**

- Distributed a sign-up sheet for senators to select dates for acting as the SGA liaison and attending a SGA meeting.

#### **Johnson Faculty Center — Joe Murphy**

- Working to secure arrangements for an **April Faculty Social Hour**.
- Concerns noted about capacity and refreshments.

### **Announcements**

- Vandiver Hall: Trivia & pizza event from 3:30–8:00 p.m.
- Fault Line Film Festival:
  - **March 18 & 19** – SEMO student film nights
  - **March 20** – Awards ceremony
  - All events at Rose Theater.
- Student Nurse Association:
  - Campus charity walk raising funds for Children’s Advocacy Center.

- Bone marrow registry drive in April—seeking partner organizations.
- **Moving Perspectives Dance Concert**
  - March 19–21, 7:30 p.m.
  - Rust Flexible Theatre; features student choreographers and designers.
  
- Observatory viewing event on **March 17** after weather-related cancellation of earlier session.
  
- AstroSEMO program at 6:30 p.m. followed by 7:30 p.m. observation.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn; Senator Taylor, seconded Senator Schneider

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM