

# LX No. 14

## Faculty Senate Minutes

### March 25, 2026

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, in the UC Redhawks Room. The following Senators were present: Michael Bezushko, Larry Bohannon, Abram Book, Christopher Bradley, Jenny Cropp, Corrie Dudley, Pam Gershuny, Michael Holm, Arusha Ijaz, Courtney Kizat, Barbara Lamont, Hayley Love, Kelly McEnerney, Jenna Moore (Chair), Joe Murphy (Chair-Elect), Josh Newth, Tomoaki Nomi, Peter Oman, Anthony Scherer, Kyle Schneider, Robin Smith, Mike Taylor, Misty Tilmon. Interim Provost Doug Koch was also present. The following alternates were present: Hasan Birinci and Chen Wu.

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by **Faculty Senate Chair Jenna Lee Moore**.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from **March 4, 2026** were presented for approval.

- No corrections were offered.
- **Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.**

#### Guests

- **Angela Meyer**, Director of Facilities Management (outgoing)
- **Bill Hooper**, Interim Director of Facilities Management (effective April 1, 2026)

#### Facilities Management Presentation

##### Leadership Transition

Angela Meyer announced that her final day would be **March 31, 2026**, and formally introduced **Bill Hooper** as the Interim Director of Facilities Management beginning **April 1, 2026**. She emphasized the importance of continuity, given the volume of ongoing construction projects, deferred maintenance issues, and daily campus operational demands.

Bill Hooper provided an overview of his professional background, including:

- Facilities leadership roles at **Boeing, Washington State University–Vancouver, and Bryn Mawr College**
- Experience in managing large-scale, aging infrastructure
- Commitment to serving students, faculty, and staff

The Senate was informed that Bill Hooper will serve in this interim role **through December 2026**, while a permanent Facilities Director search is expected to occur after the hiring of a new **Vice President for Finance and Administration**.

## Building Status and Capital Projects

- **Brandt Hall** is scheduled for demolition over the summer.
- **Pacific Hall** remains offline and is slated for sale.
- **Cheney** and **Art** buildings are vacant, with no decisions yet regarding their future.
- Bids for the proposed **Athletics Building project** were scheduled to be opened on **March 26 at 2:30 p.m.**
  - Advancement of the project will depend on bid results and available funding.
  - No final decision has been made.

## Deferred Maintenance Overview

Angela Meyer reviewed deferred maintenance priorities across campus, emphasizing that much of the work is **infrastructure-focused and not highly visible**, including:

- Plumbing repairs in the University Center
- Electrical upgrades in the boiler plant (replacement of load banks)

- Tunnel system repairs, particularly an urgent water line between Brandt and Scully
- Roof and HVAC system assessments

She noted that Facilities Management regularly assesses evolving risks and prioritizes needs accordingly, often responding to emergent issues.

Bill Hooper added that tunnel assessments initiated under Angela Meyer’s leadership have resulted in a structured, risk-based maintenance plan. He stressed the importance of addressing “out-of-sight” systems that are essential to campus operations.

The Senate also acknowledged the positive impact of constructing a **new South chiller plant**, which significantly reduces long-term deferred maintenance liabilities.

## Classroom Condition Assessments

Facilities Management, in collaboration with Academic Affairs has begun **systematic classroom walkthroughs** to assess:

- Furniture condition
- Lighting
- Technology and IT capabilities
- Overall space usability

The goal is to create a prioritized list of classrooms for improvement, focusing first on heavily used spaces that currently limit teaching effectiveness.

## New Facilities Project Request Process

Angela Meyer introduced a **new project request workflow**, distinct from maintenance requests:

- Department chairs will submit **new project requests** through workflow.
- Requests will be reviewed **monthly**, rather than annually.
- Projects will be evaluated and prioritized by a cross-functional committee.
- Funding availability will determine project timelines.

She clarified that routine maintenance will continue through the TMA work order system.

Additional coordination improvements include integrating **grant-funded facilities modifications** into Facilities Management review using **Smartsheets**, ensuring compliance, safety, and code adherence.

## Old Business

Motion to update the agenda to include Resolutions 26-5 and 26-6; Senator Murphy, seconded; Senator Schneider

**Resolution 26-5 – Revising Duties of Faculty Senate Chairperson** Motion to consider: Senator Newth, seconded: Senator Kisat

- Significant discussion focused on:
  - Chair and Chair-Elect roles as non-voting ex officio members.
  - Potential inconsistencies between duties language and bylaws (specifically membership committee roles).
- **Motion to table;** Senator Murphy, seconded; Senator Moore
- **In favor:** 22
- **Opposed:** 1
- **Abstention:** 1
- Motion to table passed with a majority vote

**Resolution 26-6 – Revising Duties of Faculty Senate Chairperson-Elect**

- **Motion to table;** Senator Murphy, seconded; Senator Moore
- **In favor:** 23
- **Opposed:** 1
- Motion to table passed with a majority vote

## New Business

**Bill 26-A-16: Development of Criteria for Tenure and Promotion** Motion to introduce: Senator Murphy, seconded: Senator Bohannon

**Professional Affairs Committee** explained that the bill:

- Clarifies how departmental tenure and promotion criteria are developed.
- Affirms that criteria should originate from **disciplinary faculty expertise**, especially in departments lacking sufficient tenured faculty.
- Ensures involvement of **Regular Non- Tenure Track (RNTT)** faculty in developing criteria relevant to them.
- Preserves existing voting rules and approval pathways.
- Reaffirms the expectation that criteria be reviewed at least **every five years**.

Discussion centered on:

- Departments with insufficient tenured faculty
- Merged tenure/merit documents
- Clarifying the role of RNTT faculty when criteria are combined

**Bill 26-A-17: Revising Non-Tenure Track Faculty Merit** Motion to introduce: Senator Schneider, seconded: Senator Taylor

Discussion included:

- Clarifying that four years is a **minimum interval**, not a rigid application window.
- Ensuring faculty are not penalized for delaying merit applications.
- Identification of minor typographical errors needing correction.

The Professional Affairs Committee agreed to review and amend language before the second reading.

## Discussion: GRFC Handbook Revisions

The Professional Affairs Committee presented comprehensive proposed revisions to the **Grant and Research Funding Committee (GRFC) Handbook**, addressing longstanding concerns.

Key proposals included:

- Appointing a **Faculty Senate non-voting chair** to oversee GRFC operations and reporting.
- Establishing:
  - A conflict-of-interest policy
  - A standardized scoring rubric
  - Clear eligibility and funding guidelines
- Removing cumbersome **signature requirements** from applications.
- Moving to **monthly review meetings** for dissemination grants.
- Eliminating unilateral approval authority for small grants.
- Providing applicants with rubric-based feedback.

Senators emphasized:

- The necessity of rubrics for fairness, transparency, and defensibility
- Improving timelines so applicants can pursue alternative funding if needed
- Ensuring consistent treatment of department chairs and junior faculty

The Committee invited departmental feedback before finalizing revisions and returning them to Senate.

## Reports

### Chair – Jenna Lee Moore

- Reviewed Administrative Council discussions, including:
  - Summer enrollment strategies
  - Long-term facilities planning

- Commencement ceremony enhancements (faculty on stage, printed programs)
- Reminded committee chairs that **end-of-year reports are due April 17, 2026 at noon.**

### Administrative Liaison – Interim Provost Doug Koch

- Provided updates on:
  - Structural reorganization proposals
  - Extraordinary review processes
  - Academic Council decision reporting and transparency
- Announced that restructuring feedback and recommendations will be publicly posted.
- Noted upcoming town hall meeting and encouraged attendance.

### SGA – Layne Collier (Report given by Dr. Moore)

Reported that SGA approved funding for:

- Horticulture Club experiential learning trip
- USITT Theatre Design & Technology National Conference
- American Chemical Society student chapter conference
- Bangladeshi Student Organization event
- SEMO Book Club trivia night

### Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs:** Continued work on academic structure and school alignment.
- **Compensation:** Committee had not yet met.
- **Documents:** Faculty Handbook edits paused pending accessibility review.

- **Governance:** Ongoing review related to tabled resolutions.
- **Professional Affairs:** Continued progress on committee charges.
- **Membership:** Calls issued for faculty senators and alternate representatives.
- **Johnson Faculty Center:** No additional report; faculty social delayed due to logistical issues.

## Announcements

- *Legally Blonde: The Musical* – April 9–12, 2026
- SNA “No One Walks Alone” Walk – Upcoming Friday
- Chemistry & Physics Recycled Poster Session – Friday afternoon

## Closed Session Bill 26-A-18: Spring Emeritus Bill

Motion to enter closed session: Senator Taylor, seconded: Senator Murphy

- Entered closed session at 4:35pm
- Emeritus Bill passed with a unanimous vote

Motion to exit closed session: Senator Taylor, seconded: Senator Murphy

- Exited closed session at 4:41p.m

## Motion to adjourn: Senator Murphy, seconded: Senator Moore

The meeting adjourned around 4:42 p.m.

## Next Meeting

**April 8, 2026**

**3:00–5:00 p.m.**

**UC Redhawks Room**