

Faculty Senate Minutes

LXI No. 3

September 02, 2026

Attendance

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, in the UC Redhawks Room. The following Senators were present: Frederick Adjei, Michael Bezushko, Larry Bohannon, Abe Book, Charlotte Cervantes, Corrie Dudley, Sam Duncan, Erin Fluegge, Susan Fulton, Jennifer Gadberry, Pam Gershuny, Chris Haug, Michael Holm, Arusha Ijaz, Barbara Lamont, Hayley Love (Chair-Elect), Joe Murphy (Chair), Josh Newth, Tomoaki Nomi, Peter Oman, Anthony Scherer, Matt Sissom, Mike Taylor, and Juefei Yuan. Interim Provost Doug Koch was also present. The following alternate were present: Joshua Shadwick, and Joseph Snyder.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joseph Murphy called the second meeting of the 61st Session of the Faculty Senate to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the April 29, 2026 meeting were reviewed and approved without corrections.

Guests

Chrissy Rutledge, Registrar

Registrar Chrissy Rutledge provided several updates:

- Fall commencement will be held on **Saturday, December 19, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** as a single ceremony for all colleges.
- Faculty regalia information will be distributed, including purchase and rental options.
- Faculty are encouraged to arrive by **9:00 a.m.** and may meet with students beginning at approximately **8:45 a.m.**

- Faculty were reminded to complete transfer equivalency reviews when requests are received.
- Due to the compressed academic calendar and holiday schedule, final grades must be submitted by **9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 21, 2026**.
- Discussion followed regarding grading deadlines, final examination schedules, and the impact of a scheduled campus power outage during finals week.

Questions were raised concerning the long-term sustainability of the earlier grading deadline and possible effects on faculty assessment practices. Rutledge indicated that the change is related primarily to this year's calendar configuration.

Katie Krodinger, Office of Admissions & New Student Programs and Tonya Wells, Marketing and Communications

Katie Krodinger and Tonya Wells presented recruitment and outreach initiatives for the 2026-27 academic year.

Topics included:

- Orientation and recruitment event schedules.
- SEMO on the Road events.
- Paying for College programs.
- Show Me Day planning and enhancements.
- Recruitment support available to academic departments.

A major focus involved redesigning the academic fair component of **Show Me Day**. Rather than using a traditional ballroom format, colleges will have dedicated spaces featuring hands-on and interactive experiences for prospective students and families.

Additional updates included:

- Support available for departmental recruiting activities and events.
- Relaunch of the Master Recruiter Workshop with an emphasis on practical recruiting strategies.
- Community outreach at regional fairs, including the SEMO District Fair, Cotton Carnival, and Delta Fair.

- Introduction of monthly **Fearless Friday** events intended to increase campus engagement and visibility.
- Continued collaboration between admissions, marketing, and academic departments to enhance student recruitment and retention efforts.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Election of Members to the Membership Committee

Due to the resignation of the previous representative from the College of Education, Health and Human Studies, the Senate conducted an election to fill a vacancy on the Membership Committee.

Nominees:

- Senator Charlotte Cervantes
- Senator Corrie Dudley

A secret-ballot vote was conducted.

Senator Corrie Dudley was elected to serve on the Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee briefly convened and selected **Senator Michael Bezushko** to serve as its committee chair.

Approval of Preliminary Legislative Committees

Updated legislative and reporting committee memberships were distributed.

Motion to approve the committee assignments as amended during the meeting; Senator Bohannon, seconded; Senator Love

The Legislative Committees were approved with a unanimous vote

Reports

Report of the Chair - Dr. Joseph Murphy

Chair Murphy reported on summer activities and committee work, including:

- Formation of the Governance Documents Review Task Force.
- Summer appointments to university committees.
- Concerns regarding the timing of committee recruitment requests occurring immediately before the start of the semester.
- Future communication and engagement efforts with faculty.

Administrative Liaison Report - Dr. Doug Koch

Dr. Doug Koch provided a detailed report on the Governance Documents Review Task Force. Key points included:

Governance Documents Review

- External review recommendations have been provided by Husch Blackwell.
- The task force is prioritizing revisions to the Faculty Handbook and university policies and procedures.
- Potential review areas include faculty workload expectations, office hours, tenure-related policies, grievance procedures, due process language, and handbook organization.
- Faculty Senate committees will receive assigned topics for review and recommendation during the semester.

Budget and Financial Outlook

- Missouri is anticipating a significant state budget shortfall.
- Potential reductions in higher education appropriations may affect university budgeting.
- Future organizational reviews and restructuring remain possible depending upon final budget allocations.

Strategic Plan Initiatives

Updates were provided regarding:

- Development of selected eight-week academic offerings.
- Credit-hour reduction initiatives.
- Expansion of experiential learning opportunities.
- Course redesign efforts targeting student success and retention.
- Faculty support funds for redesign and improvement projects.

Student Government Report

No report was presented. A Student Government Association liaison to the Faculty Senate has not yet been appointed for the academic year.

Legislative Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee

Chair: Corrie Dudley

The committee will review academic policies, standards, admission requirements, academic standing policies, and academic calendar matters.

Documents Committee

Chair: Abe Book

The committee will review and maintain accuracy of the Faculty Handbook and process editorial and policy revisions.

Faculty Compensation Committee

Chair: Anthony Scherer

The committee will address salary, benefits, and compensation issues, including review of promotion and tenure salary adjustments.

Governance Committee

Chair: Erin Fluegge

The committee will examine university governance structures and develop recommendations regarding Senate representation following departmental reorganization.

Professional Affairs Committee

Chair: Susan Fulton

The committee will address faculty professional development, promotion and tenure issues, sabbaticals, emeritus status, and intellectual property matters.

Membership Committee

Chair: Senator Bezushko

The committee will oversee membership matters, committee appointments, elections, and Senate representation issues.

Johnson Faculty Center Committee

Chair: Hayley Love

The committee discussed opportunities to increase visibility and utilization of the Johnson Faculty Center among faculty and the broader campus community.

Announcements

Announcements included:

- Student Nurses Association Trivia Night on **September 10**.
- Upcoming breast cancer awareness fundraising activities.
- Opening of the Faculty and Alumni Exhibition at the Crisp Museum.
- Continued acceptance of proposals for Kent Forum presentations.
- A presentation by the St. Louis County Police Department Digital Forensics Division scheduled for the following week.
- The university president will attend the next Faculty Senate meeting, and faculty across campus will be invited to attend.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn; Senator Taylor, seconded; Senator Love

- Meeting adjourned at 4:50PM with a reminder of the next meeting on September 16th in the UC Redhawks room