

Faculty Senate Minutes

LXI No. 2

April 29, 2026

Attendance

The Faculty Senate of Southeast Missouri State University met on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, in the UC Redhawks Room. The following Senators were present: Frederick Adjei, Larry Bohannon, Dana Branson, Corrie Dudley, Erin Fluegge, Jennifer Gadberry, Pam Gershuny, Amy Herren, Michael Holm, Arusha Ijaz, Courtney Kisat, Barbara Lamont, Hayley Love (Chair-Elect), Joe Murphy (Chair), Josh Newth, Tomoaki Nomi, Peter Oman, Anthony Scherer, Kyle Schneider, Matt Sissom, Mike Taylor, and Juefei Yuan. Interim Provost Doug Koch and SGA Liaison Layne Collier were also present. The following alternate were present: Marikit Fain, Shannon Clapsaddle, and Chris Haug.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joseph Murphy called the second meeting of the 61st Session of the Faculty Senate to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Kisat noted that an alternate representative had been inadvertently omitted from the attendance record. Discussion followed to determine which of the April 22 meeting minutes (60.16 or 61.01) required correction. The Chair indicated that attendance records would be reviewed and corrected accordingly.

Hearing no further corrections, the minutes were approved as amended.

GUESTS

Kelley Watson, Jaxon Marie Bird, Controller's Office; Sarah Craig, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Kelley Watson, Accounting Manager in the Controller's Office, explained that representatives from Accounting Services and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs were making presentations to governance groups across campus to increase awareness of fiscal year-end deadlines and improve communication regarding grant administration. The presenters emphasized the importance of meeting established deadlines and encouraged faculty to contact their offices with questions throughout the year-end process.

Jaxon Marie Bird reviewed deadlines and procedures affecting external grants:

Year-End Grant Deadlines

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- All invoices and expense reports related to goods and services received on or before June 25 must be submitted for approval by the grant accountant.
- Purchases made after June 25, other than approved travel expenses, will be charged to FY27 rather than FY26.
- The deadline is particularly important for grants ending in FY26.

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- Travel-related expenses incurred between June 25 and June 30 must be submitted by this date.
- Monthly payroll time-and-effort reports for June, as well as bi-weekly payroll through Bi-Week 13, must be certified by Principal Investigators and returned to the grant accountant.
- Faculty anticipating labor redistributions were encouraged to work directly with the grant accountant to resolve issues before the deadline.

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- Certification deadline for Bi-Week 14 and 15 payroll reports.
- Bi-weekly employees do not need to certify these reports because time has already been entered; only Principal Investigator certification is required.

During discussion, senators asked how to locate the Year-End Deadline Memo. Presenters explained that the document is available on mySEMO and was distributed through the university newsletter. Faculty unable to locate the memo were encouraged to contact Accounting Services directly for assistance and a PDF copy.

Before concluding, Senate leadership thanked representatives from Accounting Services and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs for recent improvements in grant administration processes. Faculty feedback has indicated appreciation for efforts to streamline grant management and support sponsored projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Chair Murphy expressed appreciation to Senator Schneider for serving as Parliamentarian during the transition to the new session. He then formally appointed Senator Holm to serve as Parliamentarian for the 61st Session.

Approval of Reporting Committee Assignments

The Chair presented reporting committee assignments prepared by the Membership Committee. Adjustments reflected expired committee terms and replacement appointments from affected colleges while maintaining existing committee leadership where appropriate. A motion was made and seconded to approve the reporting committee assignments. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Legislative Committee Chairs

The Executive Committee recommended appointments for legislative committee chairs and vice chairs. Faculty members identified for service had been contacted regarding their willingness to serve, with one exception still pending. A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointments. Following discussion, the motion passed.

GRFC Handbook Discussion

Although not listed on the agenda, Chair Murphy revisited discussion from the final meeting of the 60th Session regarding potential GRFC procedural revisions and handbook updates. The Chair indicated that committee structures had not yet been fully established and recommended postponing substantive discussion until the beginning of the fall semester when affected committees could participate fully.

A motion was made and seconded to return the matter to the table until future consideration. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Chair - Dr. Joseph Murphy

Chair Murphy reported on the campus town hall meeting held earlier that day and noted that there were no major Senate matters requiring immediate action. He then discussed the anticipated Provost search process.

The Chair explained that the formal search process cannot begin until the President officially announces a search. Once announced, Faculty Senate will be responsible for

coordinating selection of most faculty representatives to the search committee. The Faculty Handbook outlines a multi-step voting process that requires colleges to elect representatives from among their faculty.

The anticipated committee structure includes:

- One faculty representative selected from each college.
- Two additional committee members appointed by the President.
- Selection of the committee chair by the committee itself once constituted.

In response to a question, Chair Murphy stated that the search process would not begin during the summer because the faculty election process specified in the handbook could not be completed while faculty were away from campus. He further noted that if the search is announced at the start of the fall semester, Senate leadership will have procedures ready for implementation immediately.

The Chair also noted upcoming meetings with the deans and participation in leadership transition activities involving the Board of Governors.

Administrative Liaison - Dr. Doug Koch

Dr. Koch provided an update on academic restructuring and administrative searches.

Academic Restructuring

Dr. Koch stated that there have been no significant changes to the restructuring recommendations previously submitted for Board consideration. One exception involves the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program, which will remain active and is no longer slated for elimination.

He further indicated that discussion continues regarding the naming of the proposed School of Health Professions. Because a new Health Professions building may house only some of the affected programs, alternatives such as "School of Health Sciences" are being considered. He cautioned that additional modifications remain possible pending Board review and approval.

Dean Searches

Dr. Koch reported that interviews for the Harrison College of Business and Computing dean search had concluded and that the search committee was evaluating candidate strengths and weaknesses. Interviews for the Education, Health and Human Studies dean search had also concluded, with committee feedback currently being collected. Identification of finalists was expected soon.

Discussion followed regarding possible future structural adjustments and administrative arrangements within reorganized academic units. Dr. Koch noted that implementation details regarding departments and administrative positions remain under review.

Student Government - Layne Collier

Mr. Collier was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Murphy delivered a report submitted on his behalf.

The report addressed a previous Faculty Senate discussion concerning potential advisor access to Canvas grading information through SupportNet. According to feedback collected by Student Government Association representatives:

- Most responding students did not support expanding advisor access to detailed Canvas grades.
- Students felt they should remain responsible for monitoring their own academic performance.
- Respondents expressed concern that increased advisor access could encourage dependency rather than student accountability.

The Chair noted that participation in the SGA survey was limited, but the responses received demonstrated a clear trend against expanding advisor access. Additional feedback will be provided if received.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs

No report.

Documents

No report.

Faculty Compensation

No report.

Governance

No report.

Professional Affairs

No report.

Membership - Kyle Schneider

Senator Schneider reported that committee chair appointments had largely completed the Membership Committee's work since the organizational meeting. He noted that elections will soon be needed to fill several expired terms on the University Academic Appeals Council and that membership committee members will receive additional information regarding those appointments.

Johnson Faculty Center - Hayley Love

Senator Love expressed enthusiasm about serving as Johnson Faculty Center manager. An informal discussion followed regarding building access, facilities improvements, key management, and possible installation of an electronic door lock system. No formal actions were taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department of Art and Design

Faculty were invited to attend the Department of Art and Design Senior Exhibition opening at the Crisp Museum. The exhibition would remain on display for one week. A related fundraiser was scheduled for Friday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the River Campus in conjunction with Celebrate the Arts activities. Food would be provided by local vendors.

Bob Phillips Memorial Golf Tournament

A call was made for participants in the Bob Phillips Memorial Golf Tournament, scheduled for May 11. The event benefits the Baptist Student Center, and faculty golfers of all skill levels were encouraged to participate.

Folk Festival

Senator Gusaf announced a Faculty Senate-supported Folk Festival scheduled for June 6 at The Forge near River Campus. Additional information would be distributed to the Senate.

Celebrate the Arts

Faculty were encouraged to attend Celebrate the Arts performances featuring student-created artistic and musical works, including interdisciplinary projects involving animation, original music, and visual arts.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made and seconded to enter closed session for discussion of personnel matters and consideration of Faculty Senate Bill 27-A-01. The motion carried.

Following completion of closed session business, the Senate returned to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30p.m..

Next Meeting

September 2, 2026

3:00–5:00 p.m.

UC Redhawks Room