

Faculty Senate - Executive Committee

Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2026

Attendance: Rob Godby (*Chair*), Ray Fertig (*Chair-Emeritus*), Vladimir Alvarado (*Secretary*), Gregg Cawley (*Member-At-Large*), Brad Rettler (*Member-At-Large*), Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*).

Members Absent: Ashley Hope-Carlisle (*Member-at-Large*)

Guests Present: David Bagley (*Vice Provost – Academic Affairs*), Kelly Simonton (*Professor*), Breanna Krueger (*Professor*), Patrick Hardigan (*Dean – College of Health Sciences*), Derek Smith (*Associate Dean – College of Health Sciences*), Carolyn Pepper (*Interim Vice Provost*).

Meeting was called to order at 12:30pm.

A motion was called to approve the agenda; seconded and carried.

A motion was called to approve the minutes of February 9th, 2026; seconded and carried.

Chair's Report

Chair Godby provided an update on the work of the Legislature and the Budget being put forward. The Senate of the State has passed the governor's budget, but the House has yet to ratify a budget proposal. The overall political situation has shifted in the House, with Chair Godby noting that the House appears to be in a weaker political situation than at the beginning of the JAC's work. Overall, Chair Godby noted that the University is not in quite as precarious position as they were when the budget session began.

Chair Godby provided an update for the Academic Freedom Complaint Process, which is being managed by the Provost's Office.

Chair noted that nominations for faculty and grad awards are available.

Chair provided an update on the forthcoming elections for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Chair provided an update on the School of Computing regarding the BS in Data Science has been returned to the school for further work on the proposal and further cited that there is a potential conflict of interest between Jared Studyvin, who is self-recusing from consideration of the proposal.

Chair provided an update on the Accessibility 2.1 Guidelines that are expected to be enforced by the end of April, have greater options for exemptions than previously believed.

Chair provided an update on the utilization of space on campus through the vehicle of the "Space Committee", noting that the work of the committee is a shared governance issue.

Chair noted that there will likely be a new forthcoming proposal for USP beginning in Fall of 2026 (AY 2027).

Chair issued a request for someone willing to serve on the FIRST committee, which originates from Federal guidelines.

Chair noted that the elections for the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel is moving forward through the office of the provost and David Bagley.

Chair noted that the College of Education is removing several programs that are being phased out due to lack of enrollment.

Other Business

The College of Health Sciences administrative team addressed the Executive Committee regarding the proposal before the faculty Senate regarding a PhD program for the College of Health Sciences. While the Academic Planning and Graduate Planning Committees have approved of the program, several questions remained functionally unanswered that were posed by the Executive Committee which the CHS team addressed. Questions regarding the proposal were posed, touching on financial resources required by the proposal, as well as the MoU (*Memorandum of Understanding*) that are common practice when developing cross-listed resources. The CHS team addressed these questions collectively, addressing some of the issues ranging from the justification for the proposed program, to the allocation of resources which are being considered for the proposed program.

Chair provided an update on the upcoming Presidential candidates and their campus visits. The Presidential Search Committee noted that there are 90-some-odd applicants for the position, who will be further reduced. The Presidential Search Committee has requested Faculty Senate provide a couple of questions/topics to be put to the candidates when they finally come to campus. The Executive Committee entertained several possible ideas and suggestions for topics or questions to be put to the candidates.

Chair noted further changes to the proposed alterations to the Bylaws governing the Faculty Senate Standing Committee, some of which are minor and some of which are tied to the proportion of representation on the Committees. The committee discussed some of the potential changes, some of the amendments that may or may not be offered.

Chair summarized the pending business of the Faculty Senate for tonight's session, including the Drone policy which will be returning for finalization. Rick Fisher will be making a presentation on the "Communication Across Curriculum" as well as the introduction of two new resolutions.

Motion to adjourn at 2:36pm.