

Faculty Senate Minutes

The regular business meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 3:30pm in Henson Science Hall 103. The Senate President was in the chair and the Secretary was present. The minutes of the May 5, 2026 meeting were approved as written.

President Lepre made announcements

Interim Provost Clark made announcements

The Senate President made announcements and presented the Faculty Senate President's Award for Outstanding Service to the Faculty to Josh Sokoloksi

The Senate Vice President presided over elections of new Faculty Senate officers

Senator Brooke Rogers was elected Vice President

Senator Matt Bailey was elected Secretary

Senator Anita Brown was elected Webmaster

After amendment and debate, the MOTION to form an ad hoc committee on free speech PASSED.

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate requests that the Faculty Senate President for the 2026-2027 academic year bring to the Consortium Coordinating Committee the need to consider forming an Ad Hoc Consortium Committee charged with strengthening campus practices related to freedom of expression, academic freedom, civil disagreement and viewpoint inclusion as part of a more concrete action plan to facilitate free speech, belonging and inclusion on campus for all students, faculty and staff. **It is requested that this ad hoc committee consider** a plan for campus community regarding principles of freedom of speech (including examples of free speech vs. compelled speech) along with strategies to enhance inclusion for all, **independent of ideological views.**

This committee shall include the VP of Inclusion, Access & Belonging (VP IAB) as an **ex officio member** of the committee, as well as several representatives (suggested minimum of 2 each) from the student body, faculty, staff, etc. with the goal of the first meeting being held in the fall semester of the upcoming academic year.

The proposed committee's work should include reviewing existing University Policies and reporting mechanisms, gathering input from students, faculty, staff and other relevant campus constituencies as determined through the Consortium process, identifying needs related to freedom of expression and inclusion, and developing recommendations to support a campus climate in which all members of the community can engage in open inquiry and respectful disagreement without

fear of retaliation or exclusion, including individuals across the range of political, philosophical, religious, and ideological viewpoints. Any recommendations must not violate academic freedom, and the Faculty Senate will need to approve any plan item regarding academic freedom.

MOTION to extend the meeting by ten minutes PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

Erin Weber, Secretary
Written 5/12/2026