

Faculty Senate Minutes

The regular business meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 3:30pm in Henson Science Hall 103. The Senate President was in the chair, and the Secretary was present. The minutes of the September 9 meeting were approved as written.

President Lepre made announcements.

Acting VP for Academic Affairs Clark made announcements.

The Senate President made announcements.

Dr. Ryan Shifler presented on the USM Task Force on Mathematics Requirement for Undergraduate Admissions.

The MOTION to suspend the rules to make sabbatical motion first on the agenda PASSED.

After amendment and debate, the MOTION on Fall 2026 Sabbatical Prioritization PASSED.

The purpose of sabbaticals is to provide an opportunity for faculty members to conduct scholarly, creative, or other work that helps implement the mission of the University and enhances their standing. For sabbaticals that would occur in Fall 2026, the Faculty Senate recommends that all meritorious applications from faculty eligible for their first sabbatical be approved. If all remaining meritorious sabbatical applications cannot be approved due to budget constraints, the Faculty Senate recommends these applications be prioritized in the following order until available funds are exhausted:

- Leave that has been deferred due to service to the University (e.g., to teach critical courses or to serve as department chair), prioritizing applications that have been deferred the longest.
- Leave requests that are especially designed to further the University mission in serving the wider community or academia.
- Leave requests for faculty to prepare to take on a new role in the department such as developing a new area of study or new course.
- Subsequent sabbatical requests for applicants with successful earlier sabbatical projects and who have not been considered under the previous categories.
- All other applications.

If this motion is accepted by the Acting VP of Academic Affairs, no later than 30 September 2025, the Acting VP will email this prioritization and the deadline schedule for Fall 2026 sabbaticals to all Deans who will then forward that

information to all chairs and all school directors reporting to them who will in turn forward that information to all faculty members reporting to them.

If all sabbatical applications cannot be funded due to budget constraints, this prioritization may be considered only for sabbaticals that will occur in Fall 2026, and supersedes the current language in the SU Faculty Handbook for Fall 2026 sabbaticals only.

For Spring 2027 and later, if budget constraints would result in the inability to award all meritorious sabbatical applications, the Faculty Senate recommends that the administration consult with Faculty Senate before any decision is made regarding the fate of such applications. Given that the deadline for faculty submission of sabbatical applications for Spring 2027 should be 15 March 2026, the administration should notify the Faculty Senate no later than 15 November 2025 that all sabbatical applications may not be funded due to budget constraints. The Faculty Senate will then provide guidance after consultation with the Faculty Welfare Committee, the Faculty Development Committee, and the Faculty Financial Oversight Committee.

The Faculty Senate further recommends that sabbaticals be fully reinstated under the guidelines prior to Fall 2025 when the financial situation allows for it.

MOTION to extend the meeting to 5:10 did NOT PASS.

After debate, the MOTION to amend the GEOC advisory subcommittees was not voted on due to running out of time. It will be taken up as old business at the next meeting.

The Faculty Senate amends Section 6 of the GEOC standing rules to read as follows:

Section 6. GEOC Advisory Subcommittees

There shall be two Advisory Subcommittees of the General Education Oversight Committee:

- Humanities and Social Sciences associated with the following General Education categories:

- Communicating Through Writing
- Human Experience
- Humanity in Context
- Social Issues
- Social Configurations
- Civic and Community Engagement
- Diversity and Inclusion

– Natural Sciences and Bookends, associated with the following General Education categories:

- Quantitative Analysis
- Solutions Through Science
- Hands On Science
- First Year Seminar
- Experiential Learning
- Environmental Sustainability
- Personal Health and Wellness

Each GEOC Advisory Subcommittee shall consist of five Faculty members, all elected at large by the Faculty. The GEOC Advisory Subcommittees shall be filled by eligible Faculty for three-year terms through elections run by the Membership and Elections Committee, following the same process as for other Senate committees. No more than one Faculty member from any one academic discipline may serve at the same time on a given Advisory Subcommittee, and no more than three members on a given Subcommittee may be from the same Unit. No Faculty member may serve on a given Advisory Subcommittee for more than six out of any seven consecutive academic years.

A Faculty member may not serve concurrently as a voting member of more than one Advisory Subcommittee of the General Education Oversight Committee. Faculty members serving concurrently as voting members of two Senate Standing Committees, or as voting members of the Senate and one Senate Standing Committee, are ineligible to serve within an Advisory Subcommittee of the GEOC. Participation in Senate Special Purpose Committees does not affect eligibility to serve within an Advisory Subcommittee. Voting members of the General Education Oversight Committee may not serve on an Advisory Subcommittee of the GEOC.

If a member of an Advisory Subcommittee becomes ineligible through election to the Senate and/or to a Senate Standing Committee in excess of the limit stated above, or through election to the General Education Oversight Committee, they will be considered to have vacated their position on the Advisory Subcommittee at the time the eligibility criteria ceased to be met.

The seats for these subcommittees shall be filled by the Membership and Elections committee prior to the end of Fall 2025, for staggered 3-year terms beginning the semester after the election. Partial terms may be used by the Membership and Elections committee during this election to ensure proper staggering of the term.

Meeting adjourned 5:00pm

Erin Weber, Secretary
Written 9/24/25