



**FACULTY SENATE**  
**Wednesday, September 2, 2020**  
**3:20pm – 4:50pm**  
[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

## **Minutes**

---

**Attendees:** Allert, Avery, Bagwell, Balogh, Barcelo, Battson, Bernhardt, Bolton, Bouwmeester, Braunschmidt, Buckley, Canges, Castle, Cho, Clark, Colton, Conroy, Davie, De Cino, Decker, Dickerson, Dillen, Doe, JDrake, MDrake, Duber-Smith, EchoHawk, Erickson, Evans, Fayman, Ferrell, Flores, Flynn, Frisbee, Fry, Goodnick, Griffin, Hernandez, Hill, Huang, Huber, Hughes, Jacobs, Jeffers, Jia, Katz, Kendall, Kiss, Klimek, Kolb, Kolts, Komodore, Konuk, Krentz, Krizman, Krueger, Lazorski, Lechuga, Lollar, London, Macy, Maldonado, Martin, McGuire, Meloche, Merrill, Mollenhauer, Monsour, Mota, Murphy, Musimbi, Niemeyer, O'Hara, Ortiz, Pantos, Predki, Pytlinski, Ribble, Richard, Ritter, Russell, Russo Garrido, Sandoval, Schaeffer Fry, Schatz, Schelble, Schepers, Schmidt, Schuenemann, Seedorf, Sell, Simmonds, Spitler, Svonkin, Trentin, Trujillo, Wanberg, Welch, Williams, Wright

**Guests:** EBuckland Anderson, CHardigree, EHinde, MJenkins, BKelley, JLoats, AMadison, EParmelee, CPhare, KPoelman, CSanders, SSchafer, ASgoutas

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:21 p.m.

II. **Guests of the Senate:**

A.) **Dr. Janine Davidson**, President, stopped by to address current priorities, including planning for the spring semester. Davidson is hoping to have more faculty and students on campus, acknowledging the need to do so safely and by being creative with hybrid or hyflex offerings. The University is also moving forward with academic reorganization; creating academic pillars will make sense to the outside community and will help lift our brand, raise money through targeted grants, and increase enrollment. The Board of Trustees is focusing heavily on diversity, equity and inclusion work. They are meeting this week and will be voting to create a standing committee on racial justice. Board meetings are public, and everyone is welcome to attend through the [livestream](#).

CFAC Representative London (Criminal Justice & Criminology) thanked Dr. Davidson for bringing Canvas to MSU Denver and for the support through the

Teaching Assistants program. Senator Katz (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences) asked how the University is investing in faculty beyond those programs. Davidson noted the importance of promoting professional development and shared that Academic Affairs and Student Affairs are working collaboratively to address advising. She agreed with the importance of the TA program, and that sharing the excellence of faculty in the community is crucial. Interim Provost Henry noted his vision of having MSU Denver faculty be the best at what they do of any institution. He acknowledged the tension between balancing teaching load, class sizes, and fiscal constraints with what faculty can be asked to do.

Senator Svonkin (English) thanked Davidson for her commitment to making MSU Denver more diverse and advocated for more outreach to high schools by engaging faculty and staff in the process. He also noted the need for focused outreach and recruitment of Native American students and faculty. Davidson agreed, commenting on the need to collect data and set goals.

Deanne Pytlinski (proxy for Senator Abell, Art) asked about the possibility of hosting smaller classes on-campus in the spring. Davidson reiterated the desire to have more people on campus, which could help with retention. Social distancing requirements will sub-optimize the use of classroom space, which is not financially viable. The Spring 2021 planning committee is looking at this balance. Henry shared that he would be willing to support relatively lower enrollment sections if it promoted student engagement. Davidson affirmed that faculty will not be forced to return to campus if they don't feel comfortable. Vice President Goodnick advocated for more information about safety measures – classroom cleaning, air circulation, etc. - which may help faculty and students feel more comfortable with returning. The information can be found on the [Safe Return to Campus website](#).

- B.) **Stephanie Allen**, Director of Advising Systems, and **Nahum Kisner**, Director of Student Support and Retention, provided an overview of MSU Denver's decentralized advising model. Advising Systems, housed within Undergraduate Studies in Academic Affairs, is responsible for SSC Navigate, Early Alert, the Academic Standing process. They oversee the standard advising structure, training and development for the full-time professional advisors that report to each college/school/program. Exploratory Advisors are housed within the Classroom to Career Hub, with a focus on advising that supports the decision-making process for students who are undecided. Advisors support students in exploring their values, interests and strengths, connect students with resources, and develop a roadmap for major declaration. The decentralized model allows students to make earlier connections with their departments, and the collaboration of professional and faculty advisors provides a holistic and specialized advising experience for students. Information on the department academic advisors can be found on the [Academic Advising Website](#).
- C.) **Dr. Matt Griswold**, Associate Vice President of Online Learning, and **Dr. Jeff Loats**, Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Design highlighted work that took place over the summer in collaboration with Faculty Senate and

the Council of Chairs and Directors, including the ACT-20 training, setting up Canvas, and revisions to the Online and Distance Materials Policy, namely that the policy does not apply for online courses created for Fall and Spring. Faculty own the materials to those courses and the institution does not have the rights to utilize them outside of faculty purview. Griswold noted that Chairs have not been granted access to courses Canvas, but this will be a continued conversation for future semesters. Ongoing efforts include drop-in hour support through the CTLD, a Canvas Continuity committee, and several additional working groups looking at Canvas data, an originality checker, software integration, global announcements, and blueprints. Representation from all constituent groups will be invited to participate in these conversations. Dean Hardigree (School of Hospitality) advocated for a mini training for affiliates hired in Spring 2021. Dr. Loats noted that additional trainings are being discussed.

III. The [August 19, 2020 minutes](#) were approved by a majority vote.

IV. **Committee Vacancies, President Campbell**

The Rules Committee and Budget Committee each have one at-large seat available. Senator DiPonio (Accounting) volunteered to serve on the Budget Committee. There were no additional nominations. By acclamation, congratulations to Senator DiPonio. Senators were asked to review the list of [Faculty Senate committee vacancies](#) and contact their caucus chairs if they are interested in serving.

President Campbell noted that a [slide regarding voter registration and elections](#) has been added to the SharePoint site. Dr. Elizabeth Parmelee, Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Studies, took the floor to address the push for voter registration, education and turnout. Interested faculty can sign up to become a voter champion.

V. **[Resolution: Ensuring a Diverse Faculty at MSU Denver](#), second reading and vote, Senator Lechuga**

Senator Lechuga acknowledged that the Board of Trustees setting up a committee to address racial justice bodes well for this resolution. The resolution received unanimous support from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee as well as support and feedback from the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, and Faculty Senate Diversity Committee. Additions since the first reading include a “whereas” statement that underscores the Board of Trustees’ resolution to engage in anti-racism and systemic change, and acknowledgement that systemic change is complicated and takes time. Recommendations for ongoing research to understand experiences of faculty and building accountability measures, such as the building of committees, were also added. Vice President Goodnick thanked Senator Lechuga for her work and encouraged faculty to vote in favor, acknowledging that this is the start for a lot of additional work to come.

Senator Klimek moved to vote with a second by Senator Mollenhauer. **The resolution passed by a vote of 70 in favor, 2 against and 4 abstentions.**

VI. [Resolution: Supporting a Liberal Arts Education](#), first reading, Vice President Goodnick and Senator Colton

During times of academic reorganizations and budget crises, programs are at risk of being shut down or having funding redistributed. The resolution, which was read aloud by Vice President Goodnick, emphasizes the critical role of liberal arts and sciences as the foundation of all undergraduate degrees, encourages opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement, and urges leadership to support and value the existence of liberal arts programs. Feedback, including additional constituent groups to be consulted, can be sent to [Goodnick](#) or Senator [Colton](#).

VII. Senator Murphy (Accounting) volunteered to serve in the at-large seat on the Rules Committee. With no additional nominees, he accepted the seat by acclamation. **The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.**