Faculty Senate Minutes

September 30, 2026, 3:20-4:50 pm
Meeting Slides

(To be approved 10/14/26)

Attendees: Akrabova, Álvarez, Anastasia, Bahrehmand, Balogh, Beer, Blomfelt, Boneh, Boodrookas, Botyarov, Boyd, Brown, Busila, Casey, Castle, Conroy, Curl, Danhoff, DeCamp, Denn, Dhoot, Diker, Dore, Duran, Dworkis, Dyer, Erickson, Feldman, Fiscor, Fontenot, Gillespie, Graves, Hammar, Harder Hill(A), Hill(K), Jennings, Jeong, Jo, Joo, Kackstaetter, Kalla, Kendall, Kesselring, Koltz, Komodore, Kress, Lambert, Lane, Li (A), Little, Lunaris, Lunsford, A. Ma, Z. Ma, Mahoney, Melgoza, Meloche, Merriam, Merrill-Schmidt, Mocanasu, Montano, Montero, Mpondi, Nelson, Olson, Pak, Parker, Peprah, Peshut, Phinney, Pillado, Pittman, Piturro, Pollard, Prundeanu-Thrower, Quijada, Reddington, Rief, Ropp, Rudnick, Rummell Mancuso, Schuenemann, Sener, Shapland, Srinivasan, Swisher, Tollefson, Trentin, Trombley, Varela, Ver Eeke, Walton, Wanberg, Westmore, Wilkerson, Xu, Yee, Yoncha, You, Zeiler, Zhao

Opening

Welcome
Brenden Kendall, Faculty Senate President

Guests of the Senate

Meredith Jeffers, Executive Director of Strategy

- Mission in Motion: 2030 Strategic Plan Update
- Strategic Plan SharePoint Resources
- Faculty-facing recruitment, retention, completion, and student-success initiatives

Elizabeth Parmalee, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies, and Vincent Piturro, Department of English

- Excellence Awards for Civic and Community Engagement
- Faculty Civic Ambassador Program

Announcements

- Promotion and Tenure Recognition Ceremony
- Community Feedback Opportunity: University Policies
- AI and Higher Education Resources and Dialogue Series
- MSU Denver Transfer Success Committee
- Colorado HSI Summit
- Castro Professorship Keynote
- Crossing the Red Line Author Event
- Capital Evolution Faculty and Canvas Resources

Senate Business

- Quorum
- Approval of minutes from 09-16-2026

Open Forum

No speakers.

Officer and Elected Representative Reports

Brenden Kendall, Faculty Senate President

- Ad Hoc Committee on a Philosophy on AI and Teaching and Learning at MSU Denver
- October issue of Field Notes from the Faculty Senate President
- Faculty Awards of Excellence
- Testing Center Capacity Update

Mona Mocanasu, Faculty Trustee

- September Board of Trustees Report
- University Finances and Enrollment
- Strategic Plan Metrics
- Advising, Retention, and DFW Rates
- Testing Center Capacity
- Workday Student Implementation

Committee Reports and Business Arising

Rules Committee, Katrina Little, Chair

Second Read: Establishing Speaking Time Limits in Senate Bylaws

- **Discussion:** Senator Charlie Lunaris (Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences; online), Senator Katrina Little (Nursing; in person), Senator Leah Jackson (Human Services and Counseling; in person), Senator Kelly Conroy (World Languages; in person), Senator Joe Mahoney (Journalism and Media Production; in person).
- **Motion to Amend:** Senator Charlie Lunaris (Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences; online) moved, and Senator Keah Schuenemann (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences) seconded, to add the following language to the proposed bylaw amendment:
- "Senators, acting in good faith, who self-identify as having a disability, communication disorder, or communication difference may request and receive additional speaking time."
- **Amendment Passed:** Yes 67, No 11, Present 6
- **Main Motion:** Remains unfinished business and will return for consideration at the October 14, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting.

Other Business

By unanimous consent, regular business was concluded. Lynn Minnaert, Dean of the School of Hospitality, was recognized to present information regarding the Summer Learning Series 2027.

Standing Motion to Adjourn

Microsoft Copilot assisted in the development of these minutes, based on the meeting transcript and staff notes taken during the session. They have received human review and correction.