



Robert Holland Faculty Senate

Uncorrected Minutes of October 03, 2025

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Grisham Room of the Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 03, 2025.

Members absent and excused: Ryan Akers, Russell Carr, Krish Krishnan, Rosanne Nunnery, Julie Parker, Neeraj Rai, Barry Stewart, and Molly Zuckerman.

Members absent and unexcused: Alison Lee.

Faculty Senate President Stacy Haynes called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the September 12, 2025 Faculty Senate meeting. One correction was made at the request of Senator Carskadon. The minutes with one edit passed unanimously.

Guests

President Haynes introduced the three guests: Dr. Mike Breazeale, Chair, General Education Committee, Dr. David Shaw, Provost & Executive Vice President, and Dr. Tabor Mullen, Interim Associate Vice President for Strategic Partnerships.

Dr. Mike Breazeale gave updates on General Education.

Dr. Mike Breazeale stated the refocusing of the gen ed program has been going on for about seven years. The program hasn't really changed much in 20 years. A previous General Education Committee developed some learning outcomes that are expected from any general education course, and the current committee is shifting to look at all those courses as more of a program rather than individual courses.

Dr. Breazeale discussed the four domains. He stated the goal of refocusing is to get students to think more critically, more creatively, more holistically, as well as to have students see the relevance in these courses they are taking rather than boxes to be checked.

Dr. Breazeale mentioned that they are recruiting new courses within these domains. Data from the assessment done by OIRE showed that the rubrics in place for each of these types of courses

is very robust. It showed whether the students have really achieved the desired learning outcome.

Dr. Breazeale asked if anyone had ideas that they thought could meet the general education curriculum criteria to look at the AdvantaGE website. They are looking at a two-year timeline to be able to get all the courses they want offered as gen ed lined up to this idea. He stated that ideally students will emerge from this program as more productive citizens moving forward to carry that way of thinking into their disciplines.

Senator Williams gave positive feedback on the pilot course through Theatre and other positive feedback on the changes being made to general education. He asked why we are making these changes. Dr. Breazeale discussed how the new general education courses help the students think broader and reach students across more disciplines.

Senator Gregory asked how this works with the Architecture program. Dr. Breazeale stated that they are having to work on how we can implement this into some programs with tighter programs. He stated he would be willing to work with these degree paths to figure out how we can bring these general education requirements into these programs. Senator Gregory asked about a deadline, and Dr. Breazeale stated they are still working on it but probably a two-year window.

Senator Carskadon asked if it has been considered how these concepts can work in large classes. Dr. Breazeale said they have a few options, but they are currently looking at other universities on how they are implementing this. He stated that one option is to have a reflection on the end of a final exam. Another option is group work, but he doesn't feel that is truly accomplishing what we want.

Senator Kundu asked for clarification to ensure we are not changing the general education requirements already in the engineering degrees. Dr. Breazeale stated that it will not be changing. We will just be adding in different AdvantaGE options. He also clarified more information on what the AdvantaGE means.

Senator Chamberlain asked for clarification on which courses currently count as a general education course and the difference between current GenEd vs AdvantaGE. Dr. Breazeale clarified there isn't a huge difference, they shifted the name of a couple domains to encourage faculty to think creatively about what their disciplines can bring to the general education curriculum. Senator Chamberlain pointed out there is overlap in the domains, and Dr. Breazeale explained the difference is the learning outcomes expected from each domain.

Senator Messer asked what is happening with the current courses that are listed as general education courses. Dr. Breazeale explained that for now, everything that counts will continue to count. Moving forward, they are going to migrate courses over into the AdvantaGE curriculum.

Senator M. Priddy asked for context on who is on the general education committee. Dr. Breazeale stated there are 52 total members. The list of members can be found on the website.

Senator Young asked where to find the information about the committee and for the website.

Provost David Shaw gave an update on House Bill 1193, Parking and the SMART Shuttle System, MSU's partnership with Rome, Experiential Learning, and Leadership Changes.

Dr. David Shaw gave an update on House Bill 1193, Parking and the SMART Shuttle System, MSU's partnership with Rome, Experiential Learning, and Leadership changes.

Dr. Shaw thanked Dr. Mike Breazeale for his work with the GenEd Committee and on AdvantaGE. He mentioned Mike will be attending the provost meeting for IHL, possibly in November, and MGCCC will be attending with Mike. They will also have a representative from the Mississippi Community College Board there, and they will take some information back and start thinking about how some of the things MSU is talking about and some of what MGCCC is doing and how it can be propagated across the spectrum. He said he doesn't think they are looking long term at the articulation agreements as being a problem, rather than opportunity to think about general education across Mississippi.

Dr. Shaw stated between federal, state, and peer institutions in other states, it's frustrating at every turn. He mentioned the announcement from administration regarding the things that must be done if you want preferential treatment for funding. He stated he and President Keenum discussed that several of those things they cannot sign to. Dr. Shaw's message to everyone is that this is not an adversarial situation between the university administration and the faculty. Honest conversations are needed.

Dr. Shaw stated he met with the Faculty Senate in Arts & Sciences, and they discussed what it means to promote and endorse. He stated the difficulty is that the House Bill 1193 does not define that. They have not gotten a clear definition from IHL nor from the Attorney General. They are working with legislative colleagues to be sure there is some clarification in the language. He stated the bill did uphold academic freedom, and the bill does recognize that research is exempt. Research on this campus that could be construed as divisive by some is protected.

Dr. Shaw posed the question, what are the things we can control, and how can we go about that? He stated that, in a liberal arts education and a general education curriculum, we must clearly articulate the value proposition of higher education in general and the education we give to the students. He stated President Keenum went to Jackson to visit with legislative leaders to be sure that value proposition is clearly understood so that from an appropriation standpoint as well as from a regulatory standpoint, we are in the best position we can be.

Dr. Shaw explained why he missed the previous two meetings (his health, a death in the family, and the birth of his grandchildren). He stated he works hard to be here for every meeting, and if he is not, it's a conflict he cannot avoid. He values his time with the senate, and he valued being a senator when he was a faculty member.

Dr. Shaw discussed parking and how they had the best intentions to try to improve traffic flow, increase pedestrian safety on campus, and improve the SMART Shuttle system. Though these things were accomplished, communication broke down. At the start of the year, there were 40

parking zones with wait lists on each one. Now the wait lists are gone on 23 of the 40, with fewer than 200 on a wait list. Shuttle ridership is up nearly 50%. He said backups in traffic are better now. He gave kudos to parking services. He said we are at a state where they don't want to make another big round of changes, maybe some tweaks next year.

Regarding the work they're doing in Rome, they are working to create a stronger physical and educational presence in Rome. He said he would like to create accessibility options for students, to offer mini term and full semester experiences. They are doing what they can to bring costs down for students. They received funding from a donor for renovation of the facility being used in Rome.

Regarding the Experimental Learning Program, they had 50 students participate in the Bulldog Recognition Program pilot, 22 faculty members across 17 academic departments. They received a total of 900 reflections submitted by students and scored by the QEP team. He thanked Dr. Robichaux-Davis and Dr. Kayla Pineda for their work with this program.

Regarding leadership changes, Dr. Eric Moyen has taken a new leadership role for the Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence. Dr. Thoams Bourgeois was serving part-time but has returned full-time as the Dean of Students in Student Affairs. Dr. Tabor Mullen is now serving as Associate Vice President for Strategic Partnerships. Dr. Gary Jackson retired in August. In his place, Dr. Joe Fratesi is serving as the Interim Executive Director for Outreach and Engagement. Dr. Angie Bourgeois is serving as the Interim Vice Provost.

Senator Carskadon expresses his gratitude for all the administration has been doing. He asked Dr. Shaw if he considers teaching and research to be equally important. Dr. Shaw answered absolutely and gave an explanation.

Senator Woody asked on behalf of some of the faculty about the data shortage from Microsoft. Dr. Shaw says ITS has an agreement now that will allow a terabyte of data.

Senator Kobia asked if there are guidelines for the new high school that will be on MSU's campus now. She asked about minors in the classrooms. Dr. Shaw explained there has been no conversation about high school students being physically in our classrooms. He expects things to be similar to the Partnership school. They are looking at creative ways to work together, but having high school students coming physically onto campus, that's not the direction being discussed.

Senator Miller asked if they had looked at the correlation between the need for no ACT/SAT requirement and MSU's graduation and retention rates. Dr. Shaw stated we have but that doesn't mean we cannot be proactive in helping students.

Senator Gregory brings up her concern for the new advising model and how it will benefit a specialized program such as architecture. Dr. Shaw explained that though there is an element of on-size fits-all, they are working closely with colleges and departments to make adjustments based on the individual needs. There are best practices established across the SEC and other

peer institutions for this approach that have been proven successful, but he states we do need to be able to make adjustments within the overarching objectives that we establish.

Senator Young asked if there is a document outlining the statistics and pros of the new parking system. Dr. Shaw stated there are documents that Jeremiah Dumas will provide. President Haynes explained some materials were received and posted on the website, as they were too long to include in the agenda. Senator Young asked if there is a possibility of reversing the changes made to parking. Dr. Shaw explained there have been many successes seen, but they may consider minor tweaks as they receive feedback and suggestions. Dr. Shaw meant there will not be a massive change next year like we saw this year.

Senator Williams brought up the new advising model. Regarding responsibilities of advisors, who is going to do paperwork such as change of major forms, force add, course substitutions, creating DIS sections, reviewing/approving minors, and how will the credit hour checklist be done now? Who will give department tours? Will these tasks be passed on to faculty? Senator Williams brought up his department's concerns regarding the failure in communication. He said that his department would like someone to come talk to them about the advising model. Dr. Shaw reminded everyone that Dr. Mullen will be presenting on the advising model shortly, but he did state that there are misconceptions about what centralized advising means. There will be a high level of training, resources from software, and tools to empower advisors. They are not thinking about adding more burden to faculty. Advisors will be imbedded in the departments or college. Senator Williams brought up the concern about who the advisors will be expected to appease. Dr. Shaw explained that to ensure we are providing a consistently high-quality level of advising, there has to be some centralized component.

Senator Kundu asked what the process is for formal feedback for parking concerns. Dr. Shaw said the best thing from a feedback loop standpoint would be to either him or VP Potts. They will make sure that they consider feedback and provide appropriate responses.

Senator M. Priddy asked for clarification on the Student Success Taskforce, since it consisted of 9 members with only one being a teaching faculty member. Dr. Shaw explained that the task force was composed to think holistically from a student success standpoint, and advising was one piece that came out. This is why they did listening sessions with the faculty senate to be sure there was deeper engagement.

Tabor Mullen gave an update on the Centralized Advising model.

Dr. Tabor Mullen stated the goal is to build a shared approach that preserves and strengthens each college while standardizing an embedded advising approach. He shared a timeline of how they got to the current advising model.

He stated in 2020, the Student Success Task Force called on them to deliver an effective and consistent advising experience across all student populations. In 2021 and 2022, there was a call to support faculty engagement in mentoring students.

Dr. Mullen's predecessor Dr. Thomas Bourgeois conducted listening sessions to include stakeholders across the institution. They were asked how to best improve student success, specifically in advising. The Center for Advising, CFA, was created with private funds and they began what became a successful pilot, advising about 500 freshmen over the last three years.

Dr. Mullen stated next came the Faculty Senate Roundtable, where a wide range of topics was discussed. He stated 11 faculty members participated from a variety of colleges.

Dr. Mullen stated in 2025, there were two dean retreats. The first in February centered on a draft model that the deans provided feedback on. Dr. Mullen stated he met with every dean between the two meetings. At the second retreat in August, Dr. Mullen stated the proposal was revised with the deans.

Dr. Mullen explained that improving retention and graduation rates is important from their competitive advantage. He stated students are under prepared, a long-term product of COVID. If nothing is done, we will lose students. The most important change that we could make is centralizing advising with stronger support for advisors. Institutions have pointed to this change as the single biggest driver for enhancing student persistence and retention.

Dr. Mullen presented data comparing MSU's retention and graduation rates to other universities. MSU's rates are the lowest in the SEC.

Dr. Mullen stated this subject has been on the table for years now, and they are finally moving toward implementation. He discussed the key features of the model, which are similar but not identical to the pilot. He stated the Center for Advising is a resource to collaborate with departments. They will provide supervision and support. Students are advised in their respective academic departments for the first 60 hours toward their degree completion. Advisors will be trained to provide hands-on early support.

He explained there must be collaboration from colleges and departments, and the memorandum of understanding helps them ensure embedded advising remains responsive and effective to students and departments. Each department will provide input on advising guidelines. It will be a living document that meets the unique needs of each department.

Dr. Mullen stated the pilot has retained 85% of its students, two points higher than their peers. He said 87% of students had a positive experience with their advising group. He stated this

model creates for the first time at MSU a true professional advising with standards, career letters, and evaluates systems aligned with national best practices. It will create a consistent student experience across campus.

Senator Gregory asked what feedback and recommendations were received from the CAAD Advisor Laura Mitchell when they met with her and other advisors in their college. Dr. Mullen stated he did not meet with Laura Mitchell, and his work with CAAD has been with Dr. Bourgeois and Dr. Balakrishnan. Senator Gregory expressed her concerns that Dr. Mullen has not met with the CAAD advisors. She also stated not being part of the conversation concerns her and her department and the fact that this has only been discussed with department heads and deans. She recommends meeting with all of the advisors in CAAD and getting their advice as well as meeting with the faculty to address their concerns. She states that communication has been non-existent and unprofessional.

Senator M. Priddy read from the Faculty Handbook and asked either Dr. Shaw or Dr. Mullen if they could speak about how much faculty have helped generate or formulate the new advising model. Dr. Mullen explained he has continued to work daily with their deans and department heads who then are meeting with the faculty to work through the MOUs. Senator Priddy explained that is false, that faculty have not been meeting with their deans and department heads, that department heads have stated they haven't seen the MOU before. Also, the deans and department heads are not faculty. That is a top-down approach, and the handbook states that it's meant to be bottom-up. Dr. Mullen stated that he stood by what he said. Senator Priddy asked if it's safe to say that faculty are not the ones that originated this idea, to which Dr. Mullen stated he has continued to work with the deans through this process. Senator Priddy asked Dr. Shaw if there are other sections of the Faculty Handbook they should look at it. Dr. Shaw explained the faculty handbook is referenced every day, and the interpretation of how you go about that is the conversation they're having. He stated the timeline from Dr. Mullen's presentation showed there was faculty input in the process. Dr. Shaw stated the idea of what needs to be done is clear and having great discussion about ways they can make adjustments based on individual needs of the colleges and departments. He stated that how they go about doing something like this is absolutely keeping with the faculty handbook. Senator Priddy asked Dr. Shaw if he could point to a document that says faculty originated the idea for a centralized advising model. Dr. Shaw said there is not a document, and this is another one of those cases of shared governance.

Senator L. Priddy explained she was part of the 2023 Faculty Senate Roundtable, and the question they were tasked with answering was what additional student success initiatives could be implemented beyond freshman and sophomore courses. Degree completion and integrated advising was one of ten ideas, but it was not the most highly supported or the top idea. She stated there is some disconnect and would argue there was limited faculty input or ideation of this. She also inquired about student dissatisfaction with their advising experience. She asked if there is a university-wide student survey and data to support that students are actually dissatisfied with their advising. Dr. Mullen stated he will send the Student Association's advising survey from two administrations ago to President Haynes.

Senator Carskadon asked how many cohorts are in the data Dr. Mullen presented of retention rates and if there were any differences in the GPAs. Dr. Mullen clarified it is the pilot versus the

cohort. Senator Carskadon asked were there differences in grade achievement like GPAs. Dr. Mullen stated he did not ask that question because he was focused on retention. Senator Carskadon stated that might be worth looking into. He also stated the people working on this are devoting a lot of time following each student week by week, and he doesn't think that is something the average advisor in the current system can do, which explains why they're getting the results they are. Senator Carskadon expressed concerns regarding training of the advisors and having people in the departments brought in rather than leaving it up to someone not in the field. Dr. Mullen stated they are going to improve the training and build relationships with the faculty.

Senator Grala asked if a department or unit feels they are not achieving their advising goals, what would be the pathway for correcting that. Dr. Mullen said it would be a dean or department head calling them in and giving them the appropriate feedback. They will review those yearly, at minimum. He clarified this is a collaborative process.

Dr. Mullen stated that in the first model, they were going to separate students from their department. They heard feedback, and now they're embedding advisors in the departments. He said they are taking well-trained advisors from the center and deploying them into the departments. Advising can be taught to some level, but it must have a high degree of faculty input.

Senator Kundu asked about the advisor to student ratio. Dr. Mullen mentioned where they have outsized ratios, they will be moving people already employed and embedding them inside the colleges. Senator Kundu asked for clarification, if Dr. Mullen was saying that departments that already have advisors, those advisors will be moved to central advising. Dr. Mullen confirmed yes in some cases. Dr. Mullen stated we have to raise the level of advising for freshman and sophomore students so we can prepare them to handle the transition to being an upperclassmen.

Senator Miller asked if there was a town hall or some sort of venue where faculty were invited to hear about this advising model and engage in questions. Dr. Mullen responded there was not. She asked if the plan is to implement this advising model starting January. Dr. Mullen confirmed yes. Senator Miller said there are positives and negatives to this model. She stated the majority of the concern is that faculty are just now being engaged. Dr. Mullen explained that this has been on the table since February. Senator Miller asked why it wasn't brought forth. Dr. Shaw stepped in to explain their intention has been to bring it to the senate then have follow up conversations in the next three months. He said having Dr. Mullen come and visit the departments is a good idea to help people understand. He said there has been a great deal of misinformation about the goals and the process, and they need to work on communication. Senator Miller asked if there is one primary reasoning or motivation behind making this move. Dr. Mullen stated students deserve better quality of student development in advising to prepare them to succeed academically. To meet the students where they are, they need to be engaged earlier and more often. Senator Miller referenced the chart in Dr. Mullen's presentation and asked if retention and graduation rates are a primary reason behind these changes, were the student data points such as GPA and ACT/SAT scores compared to other SEC schools in these two numeric values? Dr. Mullen referenced the University of MS. Senator Miller asked if they have that statistical

comparison of incoming freshmen who were admitted to both institutions and what the comparison of average GPA and ACT scores to their population of freshman? She also asked, of the students admitted, how many submitted an ACT score? Dr. Shaw said he doesn't have the answer, but it is the vast majority. Senator Miller explained that the ACT/SAT submission requirement is for scholarships, not admittance. Dr. Shaw said that was waived during COVID. Senator Miller suggested that perhaps that is where the data may be a little skewed and should be looked at.

Senator Chamberlain agreed that retention and graduation rates are a significant concern. He suggested there may be an economic component to this. Dr. Mullen stated that means we have to work even harder. Dr. Shaw said we have a personal and moral responsibility to the students that are dropping out, and we need to be proactive to intervene with these students early on.

Senator Ayers asked how this model compares to the models at the universities we're comparing retention and graduation rates to. Dr. Mullen said most do this level of centralization at the freshman level, but they decided to extend to sophomore level.

Senator Carskadon asked if the link to the Student Success Task Force report has been fixed. Dr. Shaw confirmed yes.

Senator M. Priddy asked how many students were assigned per advisor in the pilot program. Dr. Mullen said the ratio was closer to 100:1. Senator Priddy said, with this model being 200 or 250:1, is there a hypothesis on how much retention is going to improve based on that change in number. Dr. Mullen said extraordinarily, if it is just simply a hypothesis, and he just hopes to move toward the SEC average. Senator Priddy asked for a hypothesis rooted in data. Dr. Mullen referenced data from the University of South Carolina and said that what we are doing right now needs to be improved. Senator Priddy said we have had the same retention numbers for about the last 10 years, and can they point to what they've done previously to try to make improvements. Dr. Mullen said advisors have been added in almost every college, and now we are moving forward with a comprehensive plan at the freshman and sophomore level.

Senator L. Priddy asked if this is a centralized model or shared model. Dr. Mullen said it's an embedded model, meaning that the staff centrally report to the Center for Advising but are embedded within the department. Dr. Shaw explained it's a hybrid model. Senator Priddy asked about the Center for Advising making the final decision on hiring the advisors. Dr. Mullen said it will be a collaborative process between the department and the center. Senator Priddy also suggested considering an opt-in model.

Senator Boatman asked if the department doesn't have 200 to 250 majors in it, will the advisor be shared with another department. Dr. Mullen confirmed that may happen.

Senator Kundu asked if there could be an option for opting out for some colleges. Dr. Mullen stated the plan provides for all the colleges to move to this initiative.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Welcome back! I have only a few updates given that our last meeting was three weeks ago.

First, Dr. Fountain shared your feedback about the new advising model with Dr. Shaw and Dr. Mullen. Dr. Mullen also met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to discuss your concerns.

Second, the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness is updating the student course survey process based on our recommendations. Faculty can now add up to 10 optional questions to their course surveys. They are inviting faculty to submit questions for consideration in their question bank. You can view the current question bank at <https://ir.msstate.edu/assessment/Optional-Student-Course-Survey-Questions.pdf>. If you are interested in submitting any proposed questions, please do so by October 10 at https://msstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7V7Zde26Sv58CGi.

Third, T2, the software system that Transportation uses for almost every aspect of parking services, asked for help evaluating a new prototype they are testing for their new permit purchasing process. The prototype test link is available here: <https://t.maze.co/447833430>. It requires audio and video connections and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Fourth, Mr. Dumas provided three documents in response to the parking resolution. These are available on the Faculty Senate website.

Reports from Committees on which I Serve:

Athletic Council – This committee met on September 10th. New council members were introduced and we received updates from Athletic Academics, Compliance, and Bulldog Athlete Services. We also received updates from the Director of Athletics, Zac Selmon, about the State of Mississippi State Athletics. This committee will meet next on October 8th.

Design Review Committee – This committee did not meet in person in September, but we voted via email to approve the CVM signage at the Wise Center. This committee will meet again on October 2nd.

Executive Council – This committee has not met since my last report, but we voted via email to approve a resolution to change the Senior Management Official (SMO) from the President of the University to the Vice President for Research (VPR). Dr. Julie Jordan provided additional context about the resolution. During the Classified Program Assessment by the Defense Counterintelligence Security Agency (DCSA) in April 2025, MSU received a commendable rating. MSU also learned that the rating system was overhauled in 2023 and 2024, introducing new grading criteria including Management Support and Security Awareness. This new assessment requires the DCSA Agent to conduct live interviews with the SMO and assess their level of awareness in the program, specific classified contract executions, and facility management. Given the new expectations for the SMO to maintain a much higher level of management detail than before, they recommended that the VPR serve as the official SMO. President Keenum will take on a Key Management Personnel role held by other senior MSU leaders.

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council – This committee has not met since my last report.

Parking and Traffic Regulation Committee – This committee has not met since my last report.

Special Events and Game Day Operations – This committee has not met since my last report, but we voted via email to approve the closure of Barr Avenue on the North end of the stadium at 8pm on Friday nights before home football games for security screening perimeter setup.

Sustainability Committee – This committee has not met since my last report.

United Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi (UFSAM) – This committee has not met since my last report. Our next meeting is on October 7th.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Academic Deans Council – Academic Dean's Council has not met since my last report. The next scheduled meeting is October 13th, 2025.

Associate Deans Council (Attended for Senator M. Priddy) – Associate Dean's Council met on September 24th, 2025. They discussed the three AOPs that were passed by Faculty Senate at the September meeting.

AOP 12.22 passed with revising the 6 hours for Winter Intersession back to 4 hours. Associate Deans voted to go back to 4 hours. The two reasons given were lack of resources available on campus during the Winter Intersession period and the constricted time frame due to Saturday classes. Students can still request an override to take 6 hours, but they want students to discuss this with advisors before making this decision.

AOP 12.26 passed with some minor changes. Most changes were adding more clarification.

AOP 13.05 was sent to a subcommittee within Associate Dean's Council. They will invite the chair of Faculty Affairs and possibly other faculty senators if needed to have a discussion and figure out the best course of action in regard to this AOP. Associate Dean's doesn't want to keep sending this back and forth and wants to have an open discussion with faculty senators.

Committee on Campus Access – This committee has not met since my last report. The committee held an email vote on a proposal to make a portion of the first-floor classrooms in Allen Hall more accessible. The proposal was to remove the back row of fixed-position desks in Allen 15 through 19, and replace them with nine tables and chairs, with one of the tables being height adjustable. The idea is to make these rooms accessible, both to students with mobility impairments as well as other disabilities or conditions that could make the small, fixed desks a challenge. This project is set to begin during the Winter Break.

The next scheduled meeting is October 6th, 2025.

Calendar Committee – This committee has not met since my last report.

An email vote was had on the decision of when to place Spring Break for the Spring 2027 semester.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee – This committee has not met since my last report. There is a meeting scheduled for October 9th, 2025.

Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee – This committee met on September 19th, 2025, on Microsoft Teams. The Undergraduate Research Symposium that is held each Spring semester will be run by ORED instead of the Honors College starting this year. ORED will be working closely with the Honors College to ensure a smooth transition. The Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held in April 2026 with more information being provided in November.

You should have received an email from Kayla with an attachment regarding Faculty Resources as it relates to Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery. Dr. Elder encourages all faculty who work with undergraduate research to look at these resources and also explore their website, which will hopefully become the central location for all information.

The next scheduled meeting is October 17th, 2025.

University Committee on Courses & Curricula – This committee has not met since my last report. The next scheduled meeting is October 17th, 2025.

Reports from Faculty Senate Designates on University Committees

Business Sent to Committee

No business was sent to committee.

Business to be Sent to Committee

No business to be sent to committee.

Standing Committee Reports

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS - No Report

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS - No Report

CHARTER & BYLAWS - No Report

FACULTY AFFAIRS - No Report

STUDENT AFFAIRS

1. AOP 12.09 Class Attendance & Reporting Absences

Senator Robinson presented the report.

Senator Tschume raised a concern over where the new bullet was placed in the AOP. He made a motion to move the bullet down in the AOP. The motion was seconded and passed 33-1. The new statement will read as follows:

The instructor of record must make a reasonable accommodation such as an asynchronous class option or an excused absence to ensure students have the opportunity to vote in the U.S. Presidential Election Day.

The AOP report passed 31-1.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES - No Report

Old Business

There was no old business presented.

New Business

There was no new business presented.

Senator Banik made a motion to adjourn. Senator Breazeale seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.

Amber Robinson, Secretary
Kayla Graviet, Administrative Assistant