

Montana Tech Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2026 • Mill 201 • 1:00 p.m.

Attendees

Senators in attendance included Scott Risser, Janet Cornish, Scott Juskiewicz, Foued Badrouri, Brahma Pramanik, Chris Roos, Charie Faught, Courtney Young, Atish Mitra, Bryce Hill, Doug Galarus, Chris Gammons, David Gilkey, Matt Egloff, Andrew Traut, Glen Southergill and Sebastian Perduss. Guests attending the meeting included Chancellor Johnny MacLean; Provost Tim Elgren; Michele Hardy, Dean of CLSPS; David Hutchins, DPA Project; Katie Hailer, Vice Chancellor for Research/Dean of the Graduate School; Jack Skinner, Lance College of Mines and Engineering (LCME); Gary Wyss, OSP; Heather Skocilich, Registrar; and Brian?

- I. **Welcome and Minutes** – The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and a quorum was established. Senator Young moved, and Senator Southergill seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of January 14th, 2026. The motion carried.
- II. **Curriculum Review Committee** – The CRC put forth four items to the Senate for its consideration. These include:
 - a. LCME – DPA Certificate in Mineral Processing and related courses
 - b. LCME – DPA Certificate in Environmental Management for Mining Operations and related courses
 - c. LCME – Undergraduate Certificate in Nuclear Energy and related courses
 - d. Request to Plan – MS in Nuclear Energy

Senator Young noted that item a. had not been brought to his attention and therefore was unaware of the proposal. Senator Egloff asked how Montana Tech would address the fact that there was no one at Montana Tech with nuclear energy experience. Provost Elgren explained that Tech was working on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Idaho National Lab (INL) to provide this expertise. This MOA is similar to one that INL has with the Universities of Wyoming and Utah. Montana Tech's would be similar to the MOA with the University of Wyoming. Senator Risser noted that full-time faculty should be notified about proposed curriculum changes. Senator Gammons asked for further explanation and Dave Hutchins explained that the program would apply to graduate students only.

- III. **Second Reading of the Buyout Policy** – Chancellor Hailer explained that the Buyout Policy would strive for optimal conditions. Senator Faught asked about the credit load requirements and Chancellor Hailer clarified that the overload credits would be limited. Senator Faught moved, and Senator Young seconded a motion to endorse the Policy. The motion carried with one abstention.
- IV. **Virtual Meetings** – The conversation focused on three elements. The first was a discussion of whether Senate documents should be placed in the Senate's Teams folder or on our website, or both. Senator Roos noted that it would be possible that the two could be linked so that all public access requirements would be met. The second element concerned

whether the Senate should continue to hold in-person meetings only or have some type of hybrid format with both in-person and virtual components. Senator Egloff asked about whether alternates could attend in-person meetings and have voting privileges when a Senator was unable to attend. Senator Risser explained that the by-laws for the Senate already allowed for alternates to attend, but without voting privileges. The third topic concerned whether Senate meeting minutes should be electronically recorded. Senator Perduss spoke in favor of such recordings. Senator Badrouchi suggested that, while virtual meetings would be something to consider, he did not support electronic recordings of the Senate's proceedings. Other Senators agreed with Senator Badrouchi.

Senator Badrouchi moved, and Senator Hill seconded a motion to alternate meeting formats, holding in-person meetings on Wednesdays and virtual meetings on Fridays. Senator Southergill spoke in favor of maintaining in-person meetings only. Senator Risser expressed concerns about any hybrid model, which allowed for all meetings to have a virtual component, as this approach was very difficult to manage. Senator Perduss noted that there were ways to address the challenges including an "OWL" system. Senator Badrouchi asked to withdraw his motion. This was not possible, so the vote was taken and failed.

Senator Young moved, and Senator Cornish seconded a motion to have in-person meetings with a virtual option available. Senators Risser, Gammons, Juskiewicz and Faught expressed concerns about the difficulties in running a hybrid meeting. Senator Roos offered assistance in helping to manage the IT components of a hybrid meeting. Senator Traut suggested that we consider substitutes when Senators are unable to attend, rather than have virtual or hybrid meetings. The motion failed, 10 to 8.

Senator Egloff moved to find a dedicated two-hour time slot that could be added to everyone's schedule for Faculty Senate meetings. There was no second. Finally, Senator Perduss moved, and Senator Roos seconded a motion to close discussion and place the virtual vs. in-person meeting matter on a future agenda. The motion carried.

V. **Professionalism Policy** – There are several entities that are working on a professionalism policy for faculty and staff at Montana Tech. These include the Montana Faculty Association (Faculty Union), the Employees Relation Committee and the Montana University System as a whole. The Union policy is being developed in conjunction with overall contract negotiations. Senator Faught noted that the language in a professionalism policy was subject to negotiation. Senator Egloff expressed concern that the policy was subjective and opposed such a measure unless it could be equitable. Senator Cornish noted that the Writing Program faculty had concerns about how such a policy would be enforced, focusing on the matter of "appearance" as an example. The Writing Program faculty also noted that the impetus for a professionalism policy was unclear and more must be understood about motives before moving forward. Senator Southergill moved, and Senator Egloff seconded a motion to end discussion on this matter and postpone consideration to a future meeting. The motion carried.

VI. **For the Good of the Order** - Senator Juskiewicz moved and Senator Perduss moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m.