

Faculty Senate Meeting  
Thursday, April 24, 2025  
Martinelli Boardroom

Dr. Lee Bidwell called the meeting to order at 3:31pm. The following members were present:

Dr. Bill Abrams	Dr. Jennifer Hutchinson	Dr. Larissa Smith
Dr. Dale Beach	Ms. Whitney Kallenbach	Dr. Shawn Smith
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. Roland Karnatz	Mr. Bruce Speas
Dr. Chris Bjornsen	Dr. Lisa Kinzer	Dr. Wendy Thompson
Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Melissa Kravetz	Dr. Ben Topham
Dr. Darrell Carpenter	Dr. Jeff Ledford	Dr. Sarah Varela
Ms. Maddie Cason	Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust	Dr. Ronda Walker
Dr. Jennifer Gerlach	Dr. Evan Long	Dr. Haley Woznyj
Dr. Scott Grether	Dr. Khawaja Mamun	Claire LaRoche, J.D.
Dr. Kari Hampton	Dr. Angela McDonald	
Dr. Eric Hodges	Dr. Kris Paal	
Dr. Carl Harvey	Mr. Adam Paulek	

Also present were – Tyler Bagent, Sarai Blincoe, Audrey Church, Tim Coffey, Ashley Long, Phillip Poplin, Melissa Rhoten, Shannon Salley and David Shoenthal.

The minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting on April 10, 2025, were approved as submitted.

Lee Bidwell welcomed the new senators and the returning senators and explained the voting process for Senate Executive Committee. She thanked the past committee for their work and their time this past year.

Ballots were distributed for the election of the Senate Chair and Vice Chair.

Lee Bidwell expressed gratitude to Melissa Rhoten for her time and leadership with the EPC.

Haley Woznyj presented on the Student Assessment of Instruction, highlighting best practices and key themes. She emphasized that student evaluations do not accurately measure teaching effectiveness. Recommendations included ceasing the use of evaluations for administrative purposes, renaming the form, and redesigning it. Woznyj would like faculty feedback on what should be included on the new form, which is set to be finalized in Fall 2025. She will also create a report to distribute to faculty, including a survey that encompasses teaching dimensions as outlined in the FPPM, aiming to more accurately describe effective teaching. Potential elements of the new form will include: course design, course atmosphere, and student effort. They welcome suggestions for making the form clearer. To increase response rates, strategies such as shortening the form and placing informative signs around campus are being considered. Additionally, to reduce bias, they plan to change the reference frame of the form away from direct assessments of instruction and notify students through a video or preamble. Other ideas discussed included drafting a preamble, creating a centralized information hub, adding mid-semester evaluations, and developing guidelines for utilizing the information from the form. The

next steps involve finalizing item wording, confirming strategies, and completing the report for presentation to the Senate in Fall 2025.

Lee Bidwell was elected as Chair, and a revote was conducted for Vice-Chair, resulting in Haley Woznyj being elected.

Darrell Carpenter presented on P & T. The Academic Chair Council requested that the Student Assessment of Instruction not be eliminated, as it provides valuable insights into faculty performance and helps identify trends that can corroborate other data. Faculty are encouraged to include any improvements or changes made during the review period. A vote was taken to accept changes in the FPPM regarding sections III.S.5 and S.8, and the motion carried. Carpenter presented the information for III.R.II.A and acknowledged that student assessments could support teaching quality alongside classroom observations and content-based evaluations. Dale Beach inquired about the timing of the changes and whether any faculty members had been dismissed due to student evaluations; the response was none had been removed. Bill Abrams expressed confidence that these changes would benefit any program. The motion to accept the new changes passed.

Ballots were also passed for the election of Senate Executive members, where Carl Harvey, Ronda Walker, and Jennifer Hutchinson were elected.

Sarai Blinco gave a presentation on the QEP, emphasizing its goal for students to select and complete curricular and co-curricular experiences linked to their post-graduate success. The learning outcomes include goal setting, planning, and articulating. Initiatives under this goal include micro-internships and course redesign, among others, aimed at empowering students for life after their undergraduate degrees.

Bill Abrams made a motion to confer the degrees for the graduating class of 2025, which was approved.

Lee Bidwell thanked the committee chairs for submitting their reports and encouraged those who had not to do so promptly.

Provost Larissa Smith expressed appreciation for the Research Day faculty, noting the great turnout and accomplishments. She provided a brief update on local fund restoration, stating that an email would be forthcoming to all chairs. The restoration process will occur in phases, with the largest portion allocated to Athletics. Provost Smith mentioned that the FY26 state budget was under review, with amendments pending the Governor's approval or veto. She announced the creation of a full-time position in the Budget Office this Fall and indicated that Sherry Reynolds would fill in during the summer in Academic Affairs while Ashley Long is on maternity leave. Several upcoming events were announced, including Lavender Graduation and the Mosaic Gala, among others. She concluded by thanking the senators, including Lee Bidwell, for their excellent work this year.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jody Gunn

