



Faculty Senate Meeting

MINUTES

March 19th, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. | ACW 134

Present: Charles Bell, April Niemela, Jennifer Uptmor, Gina Lott, Jennifer Cromer, Jenna Chambers, Rikki Ober, Eric Stoffregen, Jessica Savage, Rachelle Genthôs, Angela Wartel, Debra Lybyer, Thomas Hill, Christina Brando-Subis, Marc Riendeau, Provost Fred Chilson

I. **Call to Order** by *Faculty Senate Chair Charles Bell at 3:07 pm.*

II. Approval of Faculty Senate meeting minutes from March 12th, 2026

Discussion regarding correction to March 12th meeting minutes and today's agenda which states the year as 2025 instead of 2026. Motion made by April Niemela to approve minutes with correction of date to 2026. Motion seconded by Rachelle Genthôs. Unanimous approval. One abstention. Motion passes.

III. **Old Business**

A. Chairs Report

Faculty Senate Chair Charles Bell obtained answers to some questions regarding whether awardees were notified ahead of time before faculty/staff awards event. He was informed that all faculty and staff were notified if they were to receive an award ahead of time. Everyone should attend the event. At last count on Monday, there were a limited number of faculty/staff RSVPs for the event. Please RSVP to ensure there is plenty of food for everyone and attend the event to support faculty/staff.

Regarding faculty emeritus emails - discussions are still ongoing. No clear answers just yet.

No further items to report.

IV. **New Business**

A. Curriculum Program proposals

Curriculum Chair Thomas Hill reported that in our old process, when a new or edited program proposal was made, it moved to Faculty Senate after being vetted by Curriculum Committee. We moved away from this to have the programs approved within the Curriculum Committee, as we had faculty involvement/feedback in the process at the committee level. NWCCU has requested to see faculty approval within Faculty Senate again, which was prompted when a new NWCCU representative was appointed.

We can move the proposed new programs or edited programs today as a slate or by individual program. Thanks to Thomas Hill, our Curriculum Chair, for putting together the New Programs packet.

New Programs packet was distributed to Faculty Senate by email on March 18th, 2026, and distributed via paper to Faculty Senate today.

Brief review of changes to programs presented in the New Programs packet:

- *Education Content Specialist – Secondary K/12 – took 10 existing separate programs and brought them under one umbrella. This was a Provost initiative. Currently this is being reviewed by NWCCU.*
- *Health Studies AAS – provide flexible pathways for student to obtain immediate levels of employment and are stepping stones for career obtainment. Currently being reviewed by Idaho SBOE.*
- *Hospitality Management (ITC) brings number of current degree options under one title/umbrella. Currently being reviewed by NWCCU.*
- *Industrial Maintenance/Millwright Technology – approved by SBOE and NWCCU. Currently, it is being reviewed by Registrar's Office.*
- *Kinesiology BA/BS – took several existing programs and brought them under one umbrella program. Currently being reviewed by Registrar's Office.*
- *Social Sciences (BA) – took several existing degree pathways and brought them under one title/degree option/umbrella.*
- *DE-MSN Nursing Leadership and Management - Sent back from NWCCU with feedback/changes. Changes were made to the courses offered to allow students to also take some of the pre-licensure coursework offered in the BSN program. It is currently sitting at the SBOE and continues to move along throughout the process.*

Curriculum has reviewed all program changes. These are the 7 new programs that NWCCU has approved and would like presented today to Faculty Senate for approval.

Call for questions:

Faculty Senator question: Regarding the DE-MSN and having a graduate program taking undergraduate coursework – will it be a value add for our students due to seeing other graduate programs.

Faculty Senator response: Students will be taking some pre-licensure BSN courses that are needed to accreditation along with their graduate coursework for the MSN in Nursing Leadership and Management.

Motion to approve all 7 programs as a slate made by Rachelle Genthôs. Motion seconded by Christina Brando-Subis. No further discussion or questions. Call for vote. Unanimous approval. No abstentions. Motion carries.

A. Provost report

Thank you to Thomas Hill for the time he has put into curriculum. Curriculum Committee has been running smoothly under his direction.

Campus Reorganization: The survey closed last Friday. The Provost just today (3/19) received the data and has started to look at it. Once he has reviewed it, the Provost will put a proposal together to share with the campus. On his brief review prior to the meeting, there were a lot of responses to the re-organization questions that were not applicable to the question asked but contained faculty feedback.

RE: Emeritus Emails: The Provost has been holding more in-depth conversations with the Faculty Senate Chair regarding faculty emeriti emails. He is open to questions regarding this topic.

Budget Reductions: This morning, the Governor assigned an additional 1% budget reduction. We have already planned for an additional 1% budget reduction, but we know that the budget is tight on our end. When it comes to extra requests this year, we may have to say no due to tight budget constraints.

Faculty Senator question: When considering the optics with the upcoming name change, when we are talking with students about the upcoming name change in addition to the potential tuition increases, it appears that students and the community may be correlating the two together. Is administration aware of this?

Provost response: Administration is aware of this. We are also aware the name change may not go through potentially, due to hold ups in the legislature. Regardless, because of the budget holdbacks from the state, we have no alternative but to increase tuition. This is not correlated at all with the name change. We are the lowest of the tuition increase requests from all the state institutions. Please continue to share with students that there is no relationship between the two. In order to address current inflation, we recognize we would have to raise tuition by at least 12% to have a flat budget. We are only requesting a tuition raise of 5%. We anticipated from the beginning that students would correlate those two. There is no relationship between changes in the name and tuition increases.

Faculty Senator response: We understand that these tuition changes are due to the budget, but students may also correlate increased class sizes, etc. as part of the name change as well.

Faculty Senator question: Would it be counterproductive for us to email/call the legislature to see if we can move forward the bill for the name change from where it is currently sitting.

Provost response: Administration is already following up with legislature on the status of the bill.

Faculty Senator Question: What is the legislature's motivation to hold on to this bill?

Provost response: Higher ed does not necessarily hold a high value in the state, which may be why it isn't prioritized. Every single program from Workforce Training to grad programs is important in our society.

Faculty Senator question: In our division, there were concerns regarding email being taken away from faculty emeriti. They were reviewing past cited policy and prior surveys where faculty has communicated and provided input that email was an important benefit to faculty emeriti. Faculty were upset that changes were made to policy that weren't passed through Faculty Senate and Faculty Affairs.

Provost response: Part of this change regarding emails for faculty emeriti were driven by IT changes. If you review other institutions, all institutions have eliminated emeriti email addresses. It is costly to maintain those emails. LC State has more emeritus faculty designated (225 faculty emeriti) than we actually have faculty. Out of the 225 faculty emeriti, only a handful of emeritus faculty actually use their email. A potential compromise with IT is if a faculty emeritus wants to have access to their email and the benefits used with the email, the Provost would review individual requests and approve it annually. This might be an acceptable compromise.

Faculty Senator response: Faculty in the division were upset that policy was changed without faculty being notified and that the changes were not run through Faculty Association. Felt the way the change was handled was frustrating and policy wasn't followed. In addition, within the policy, the specific changes were not listed, even though it states the policy was reviewed in August.

Provost response: Would need to review the policy to see who owns the policy. I believe IT is the owner of the policy. The President's office currently reviews policies. Will go back and review information on the policy.

Faculty Senator question: At the division meeting, the issue of the new regalia came up. The changes to regalia were not on most of faculty radars. There is a new policy updates on regalia with changes in color and addition of embroidery on the robe. Will there be rental options. Do these new robes cost more?

Provost response: Students have never been able to rent robes previously. Rentals will not be an option moving forward. have never been rental options available for graduation robes and will not be rental options moving forward. Costs are about the same.

Faculty Senator question: Is it possible for students to leave their robes behind so that we can loan them out to students who cannot afford to purchase their own robe to walk for graduation?

Provost response: The Provost's office has purchased 30 sets of regalia that they can loan out to students who can't afford their regalia. If someone wants to walk but can't afford it, we would rather that student be able to walk.

Faculty Senator question: When looking at the website, everything is \$20 shipping, which may cost more than item that was purchased. Are we looking at bulk orders to reduce this shipping cost?

Provost Response: Academic Affairs office is looking into bulk ordering or bundle program to reduce costs of shipping. One example is the stole costs more than the robe, hat and tassel together. It will cost around \$94 for regalia plus \$20 shipping.

Faculty Senator response: The bookstore is buying a bunch of regalia to sell as well.

Provost response: Many students would like to keep their tassel/stole etc. after graduation. If you know a student who can't afford it, let the Academic Affairs office know.

No further questions.

V. **Committee Reports**

A. Budget, Planning & Assessment (*Charles Bell*)

No new report.

B. Curriculum (*Thomas Hill*)

See above report from Curriculum Committee under New Business.

C. Faculty Affairs (*April Niemela*)

No new reports.

D. Student Affairs (*Peter Remien*)

Reported by Faculty Senate Chair Charles Bell: Some divisions are starting to send back feedback to Peter. Please continue to send all feedback to Peter Remien, Student Affairs Committee Chair. Will discuss feedback at next Faculty Senate meeting.

Faculty Senator question: If there are any policy updates on the disruptive student policy, can we get them in advance so we can discuss in divisions.

Faculty Senate Chair response: If there are any updates, will send updates as soon as possible to Faculty Senators. Any changes made over spring break will be sent by the Monday after spring break. There have been several language updates to the policy.

Thank you to faculty for the feedback I have already received.

VI. **Good of the Order**

A. Faculty and Staff Awards March 26th 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Faculty, please RSVP and attend the event. As of Monday, 3/16, only 12 people had RSVP'd to the awards event.

B. Reorganization Survey Questions

Faculty Senator question: Will we be able to see the raw, irrelevant data from the reorg survey that the Provost is reviewing.

Faculty Senate Chair response: Asked IT how much of the raw data will be available. The raw data was available, but it is anonymous. This was a concern from many faculty about the anonymity of the survey. There will be some continuity of data that they will have available for review.

Faculty Senator question: People placed irrelevant content in the survey comment boxes, as it provided an open comment box and an opportunity to provide feedback. It would be helpful if they sent out something each year to allow an opportunity for feedback, which included an open box for comments. There was not an open box for comments available this year.

Faculty Senator question: Isn't the campus climate data supposed to be posted somewhere as part of accreditation and required to be surveyed every few years.

Faculty Senator response: It is required by accreditation and federal law that we do a campus climate survey every 3 years. Response rates are usually low. On the last survey in 2022, the response rate was around 17%. The national average response rate is between 12-20%. In 2022, when morale was low, to have a 17% response rate was pretty good. We did have a higher response rate this time.

Faculty Senator question: Should divisions allot time at their division meetings to have faculty fill out the survey? Or allot time for all individuals attending the Faculty Association meeting to complete the survey to obtain a better response rate.

C. CTL presentation in Mid-April on Optimizing Grading by Rachelle Genthôs. The presentation is on focusing grading on positive supportive comments and how to be more efficient. Look for this date in the Monday Message/CTL emails.

D. Wednesday, 3/25 at 8 am in MTB 102, a children's tribal book author who turns children's stories into books will be coming to present.

Faculty Senator question: We do not have any children's books in our library by local authors. We could use this resource in our library.

Faculty Senator response: Has a stack of books in office. Will bring or donate them to the library.

E. Next Faculty Senate meeting April 9th. Faculty Senate Chair will send meeting invites to place on calendar.

F. Next Faculty Association meeting will be on April 19th. Will send a campus wide calendar invite. Will be requesting an updated Faculty Association list from HR. If a faculty member does not get an invitation, please forward the invite and let the

Faculty Senate Chair be aware they are missing from the list. Meeting will be a live meeting in MLH 100 as we will have faculty emeriti presentations.

- G. Faculty Senator question: Do we need to review faculty emeriti prior to them being recognized at the March 26th faculty/staff awards ceremony.*
- H. Faculty Senate Chair response: We only have one faculty emeritus nominated this year. Do not expect that this individual will not be recognized or approved by Faculty Association.*

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Thomas Hill. Motion seconded by Rachelle Genthôs. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned 3:52 pm.

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