



**Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes**

October 8, 2026 | 3:15 p.m. | ACW 133

Present in person: Angela Wartel, April Niemela, Bowie Rose, Dallas Smith, Debra Lybyer, Eric Stoffregen, Fred Chilson, Kim Tuschhoff, Marc Riendeau, Matt Brady, Peter Remien, Rachelle Genthôs, Ralph Barnes, Rikki Ober, Royal Toy, Seth Bradshaw, Tom Hill, Aaliyah Wilson, Jen Cromer, Kelly FitzSimmons

- I. Motion for the approval of September 24, 2026 by Matt Brady
Seconded by Marc Riendeau
Passed: unanimous

President Pemberton (CP) speaks

CP: We are still using money to do maintenance on buildings.

Students will be sharing lunch with board members (referring to the upcoming State Board of Education meeting on October 14 & 15).

FSM (faculty senate member): what is the situation regarding parking in the neighborhood around campus?

CP: The previous parking proposal was nixed by city council. The new proposal just limits changes to areas where LC owns property on both sides of the street. The new proposal will be realized in spring semester. We are still trying to get the city to reduce the speed limit on (I think) 7th Ave. We are also thinking of putting up lights for a pedestrian crosswalk.

FSM: What is the status of the university changeover?

CP: The Idaho senate voted for the change from college to university. The Idaho house education committee got it next. The chair of that committee did not let the topic get a hearing. The legislature worried that we would not maintain our status as a teaching-centric institution. The legislature was worried that we might drop our CTE program if we became a university. We have over 500 signatures of support (student, faculty, staff, community members) for the change. We added another legislative sponsor (and still have the previous legislative sponsors). We have new intent language: we state clearly that we do not plan to change our mission.

CP: we have about 380 employees. And we might have around 4k students this semester. Full-time enrollment is near 2,700. Dual credit student numbers are expected to be down this fall. There has been some state-level reduced funding of the dual-credit program. Full-time enrollment might be down about 5% this year (mostly due to a drop in dual-credit students).

FSM: psychology majors do not qualify for Idaho Launch.

CP: True, but the state made that determination. Students could major in a Launch-approved major and then minor in some other program.

Fred Chilson: We will be working with programs to develop strategies to increase enrollment. The CTE dean search is moving along. The last candidate has been interviewed.

II. Old Business

- a. **Proposal for ED-BAS:** Industry Bachelors of Applied Science (3 year).

FSM: We have reached out to Idaho State University to see how they approached the BAS program. Their programs look very different from our proposed BAS program.

Royal Toy (RT): We do have a choose-your-own adventure program here, because of LC's size and location. Also, our program will be very flexible because we are looking to use the degree to capture enrollment.

FSM: Are the BAS degrees predicated on people already having some real-world experience?

April Niemela (AN): yes.

FSM: If the student gets industry experience while enrolled, could they count that experience?

RT: it hasn't been designed that way now, but we might be able to do that in the future.

FSM: would the BAS have a specific focus?

RT: no, it would just be a standard BAS without an emphasis.

FSM: Compared to a normal BA or BS, what courses would students not have to take?

RT: It depends.

FSM: BUSS division is worried about the choose-your-own adventure flexibility

RT: in the future, we may codify the degree a bit.

FSM: I think the BAS isn't as well defined as I would like. I don't want to vote 'yes' until I know more about the BAS.

RT: The BAS could be in the course catalog no earlier than FA 2028.

Motion to vote in support for the BAS: Seth Bradshaw

Second the motion: Tom Hill

2 opposed 1 abstain. All the rest voted to support.

b. IRE Update Regarding SCEs – Information Only:

- i. **From Email:** Instructor/Chair/Dean/Provost side. The dashboard has visualizations for each comment field. The one tied to the final comment box will keep working normally. The ones tied to the retired boxes will continue to display past comments but will receive nothing new. Meaning that over time, users will see a mix of current and frozen visualizations side by side. To distinguish them, I placed a note in each of those visualizations: "(retired Summer 2026 per Faculty Senate, only historical data displayed)." We can remove those visualizations completely to show a clean dashboard, but users would lose the on-screen view of those historical comments. The data still exists in Qualtrics; it just no longer displays. I'd suggest removing them eventually, but with a date far enough out that instructors can export PDFs showing their historical comments first.

April Niemela briefly updated the group on SCEs and requested feedback if anyone saw challenges with the plan. No one offered feedback.

III. New Business

a. Curriculum: Natural Resources Field Science BA/BS: Guest: Tom Hill

Motion to support the Natural Resources Field Science BA/BS: Marc Reindeau

Seconded by Angela Wartel

Unanimous approved

- b. **Propose Policy to Take to Faculty Association on Asynchronous Meetings & Votes:** Potentially inserting some kind of language in policy regarding Faculty Association on how to deal with situations where votes are requested digitally.
- a. Vote provides for the following: Yes, No, Abstention.
 - b. Official Asynchronous Meeting Minutes that contain roll call and vote results.
 - c. Minutes are approved at next Faculty Association Meeting & posted to website.
 - d. **Discussion:** While we don't need to vote on this matter here in Faculty Senate, does anyone see any potential issues, additions, or deletions before taking to Faculty Association for a vote?

AN: What do we do if we have a vote-by-email situation in Faculty Senate? We need to have minutes that record of such a vote.

FSM: I like the idea of updating the policy and not merely leaving this to procedure.

FSM: (b) and (c) are good revision suggestions. I recommend leaving (a) more flexible / open to other types of votes (ie name only, etc)

AN: That's a good suggestion.

c. Program Prioritization Update

AN: We now look at programs annually, instead of every 5 years.

RT: head count, cost, and relevancy are things that are taken into account when determining an underperforming program. As of July, if a person with a high school diploma makes more (on average) than a person with a college degree, then the program would be considered non-viable.

d. Upcoming Dates – Important for Faculty

- a. **State Board of Education (SBOE) Meeting**, October 14-15
- b. **JFAC Meeting**, Thursday, November 12: WCC

e. Committee Reports

- a. Budget, Planning & Assessment (April Niemela)
AN: Nothing to report
 - b. Curriculum (Thomas Hill)
TH: Tonight is deadline for submitting proposals
 - c. Faculty Affairs (Seth Bradshaw)
SB: we are currently looking at sabbatical applications. Six applications were made
 - d. Student Affairs (Peter Remien)
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PR: We are looking for ideas to promote student retention.

f. Good of the Order

- a. Sabbatical Applications – due Oct 1 at 5pm
- b. Faculty Development Grants – due Nov 1 at 5pm
- c. Curriculum – due Oct 8 at 5pm
- d. **Note from IT:**

I heard that during Faculty Senate that someone mentioned about having trouble with the AV system resetting in ACW 134. We want to communicate better about classroom technology and fix issues as quickly as possible, so I'm following up. Do you know who was having the problem? Talking with them would help us track down the cause.

We'd also appreciate it if you could remind faculty to use the Help button on the classroom AV control panel whenever something goes wrong. The button is labeled "Help" or shows a question mark. Pressing it automatically creates a Help Desk ticket and sends our team a Teams message that there's a problem in that room. It's much easier for us to diagnose an issue while it's happening than after the fact.

- IV. Motion to adjourn by: Marc Reindeau
Motion was seconded by: Rachelle Genthôs
Passed unanimous
Meeting adjourned at 4:44