

Montana Tech Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
January 14th 2026 • Mill 201 • 9:00 a.m.

Senators in attendance included Scott Risser, Scott Juskiewicz, Foued Badrouchi, Chris Roos, Bryce Hill, Chris Gammons, Naim Rashid, David Gilkey, Matt Egloff, Alan English, Andrew Traut, Sebastian Perduss and Jason Herndon. Guests attending the meeting included Chancellor Johnny MacLean, Provost Tim Elgren, Katie Hailer Interim VCR & Dean of the Graduate School, Hilary Risser Professor and Department Head-Mathematical Sciences and Richard LaDouceur Associate Professor Mechanical Engineering

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- I. **Welcome and Minutes** – The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. and a quorum was established. Senator Gilkey moved, and Senator Perduss seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of November 25th, 2025. The motion carried.
 - II. **CRC** – Senator Roos presented the forms from the November and December 2025 CRC meetings. There were four forms from LCME, one from CLSPS and none from Highlands College. Senator Roos reminded the Senate CRC is using their new forms. Senator Risser asked if there was any discussion on the proposed CRC forms. Senator Roos moved and Senator Egloff seconded a motion to approve the CRC forms. Senator Risser thank everyone for adopting the new forms. The motion carried.
 - III. **Revised Naming of Buildings** – Senator Risser reported that the changes Senator Faught requested on the Naming of Buildings Policy had been made. Senator Gammon asked if the new language addressed the concerns. Senator Roos mentioned it seems to follow procedures for academic areas of the campus but maybe not for buildings. Senator Risser asked if Chancellor MacLean could address the changes that were made to the policy. Chancellor MacLean explained the main concern was any proposed naming of buildings would be done through shared governance, meaning the Faculty Senate and other campus groups would have input which they will. Additionally, BOR policies and procedures would be followed as well. Senator Egloff moved and Senator Roos seconded. The motion carried.
 - IV. **First Read Buyout Policy** – Dean Hailer explained that there were two buyout policies where the oldest policy was difficult to locate so a new policy was created. In the new policy the historic incentivization structure would be retained. The idea that there is a difference between competitive and non-competitive funds is removed from the new policy. There is now a single formula for funds where MT Tech retains 60% of the funds and 40% of the funds are paid to the faculty member as an incentive. Dean Hailer mentioned this policy has been approved by the Research Advisory Committee and asked Senators to take this information back to their departments.

Senator Gilkey asked if there was a limit to class buyouts? Dean Hailer said class buyout is six credits per year.

Senator Gammon asked if the 40% of the funds paid to the faculty member were as salary or as Indirect Funds. Dean Hailer said the 40% is paid as salary but she can inquire if it can be paid as Indirect Funds.

Senator Risser notified the Senate updates to this policy will be distributed at the next meeting.

- V. **NWCCU Accreditation Update and Program Review Draft** – Dr. Hilary Risser provided the Senate on the upcoming NWCCU Ad Hoc visit. The visit will take place on April 4th, 2026 and will address three of the six recommendations NWCCU had on our last report. As soon as she can Dr. Risser will notify the departments that might be involved in the Ad Hoc visit she will also send out the meeting schedule to the campus. The Ad Hoc report is due in February, the report will be shared with the Senate.

The Academic Review Template is being revised so there are not a lot of redundancies with other outside accreditation reports. Dr. Risser asked the Senators to have their departments provide feedback on the new Templates.

Program Reviews will be due on October 1st 2026. There will be training on the new Program Reviews during the spring semester. There will also be a Canvas Course on Program Reviews and all trainings will be recorded. Trainings will take place on both the North and South campuses. The goal of the trainings is to have the Program Reviews almost completed by the end of spring semester so there is not a lot of work to be completed in the beginning to the fall semester.

Please reach out to Dr. Hilary Risser if there are questions.

- VI. **Request for campus-level organizational and responsibilities chart with related contact information.**

Senator Cornish requested if there is a new organizational chart. Senator Risser informed the Senate there will be a new and updated chart. It might be some time until the chart is posted to the website as we are currently without a webmaster. In the meantime, if anyone has questions about the chart they can contact Colleen Fink in the Provost's Office.

VII. Energy Engineering and Science PhD

Richard LaDouceur provided the Senate with and update on the proposed new PhD. This new PhD will follow a modular format, with three modules currently being developed, additionally the core curriculum is developed. Richard stated the Request to Plan for this PhD is due at the January 21st, 2026 Board of Regents meeting and was asking for the

Senates support for the Request to Plan. Other documents for this PhD will need to be submitted at the May 2026 BOR meeting.

Senator Egloff asked if there were enough faculty to support this new PhD. Richard mentioned hiring new faculty is part of the financial plan for this PhD and new faculty would need to be hired.

Senator Roos motioned and Senator Gilkey seconded. The motion to support was approved.

VIII. Proposed spring meeting dates

Senator Risser asked if the spring meeting dates could be approved by January 21st. He also asked Departments to check is their Senator is up for reelection, also a new Senate Chair will be elected on February 27th.

A question was asked if only Senators and not a stand in can count for a quorum and vote? Senator Risser explained if we are following Parliamentary Procedures then only elected Senators count for a quorum and can vote.

Adding virtual Senate meetings was requested as a discussion item for the next meeting.

Provost Elgren gave an update on Accessibility Compliance. There was a system meeting with the BOR. The BOR mentioned faculty cannot show zero activity in their courses, they must show some work on accessibility. If faculty have questions the can contact Kristel Koukoua.

There was no quorum at 9:53. Meeting adjourned.