Welcome to Faculty Senate!

Rob Maher

Professor, Faculty Senate Chair

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Doug Downs

Professor, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect

English

Faculty Senate Meeting Reminders

- Faculty Senate is an open and public meeting

- Please, only Senators speak in the meeting, unless you are specifically called on by the Chair or Chair-elect to speak

- Please let others speak; everyone should get a chance to speak before someone else speaks twice.

- Public may address the Senate during the designated public comment period.

- Be kind: always assume positive intent.

Approval of FS Minutes from January 21, 2026

- Do I have a motion to approve? Second?

- Any discussion?

- All those in favor of the motion indicate by saying aye

- Those not in favor of the motion indicate by saying nay

- Any abstaining?

Welcome to Dr. Brock Tessman!
13th President of Montana State University

- Formal education
  - Bachelors in International Relations, Brown University
  - Masters in International Affairs, University of Colorado at Boulder
  - Ph.D. Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder

- Most recently President of Northern Michigan University

- Prior academic appointments
  - MUS Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education
  - University of Montana Political Science Department
    - Dean of UM's Davidson Honors College.
  - University of Georgia Department of International Affairs

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FYI Updates

- 994-Journeys, Catherine Kirkland, 4:00PM, SUB, Monday 2/9/26
- Director of Sustainability candidate interviews: 2/9, 2/12, and 2/13, 3-4PM
- Founder's Day Faculty Awards Ceremony, 8:30AM, NAH, Tuesday 2/17/26
- Provost's Distinguished Lecture, Yves Idzerda, 7:00PM, MoR, Tuesday 2/17/26

- Strategic Planning Facilitator Kate Sutherland scheduled to come to our next Senate Meeting (2/18/26)

- Link to surveys on Chrome River and SmartBuy

https://montana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6rlnws11wT20kqW

Undergraduate Courses and Programs

- New Courses-First Read
  - ACTG 493 : Study Abroad
  - EQUS 219 : Foaling Management

- Course Changes-Second Read
  - M 090 : Introductory Algebra
    - Credit change from 4 to 3
  - MSSE 509 : Implementing Action Research in Science Education
    - New learning outcomes
  - MSSE 575 : Capstone Paper and Symposium in Science Education
    - New learning outcomes

- Course Changes-First Read
  - AHMA 209 : Patient Care Across the Lifespan: Aging, Disability, and Home Health
    - Title change from Geriatric Care
  - CHTH 443 : Program Planning and Evaluation for Community Health
    - Title change from Program Evaluation for Community Health
    - Changes to learning outcomes
  - COA 395 : Practicum: Coaching Application
    - Credit change from 1-2 to 1-3
  - COA 405 : Advanced Concepts in Coaching
    - Changes to learning outcomes
  - PHSX 499R : Senior Capstone Seminar
    - Changes to learning outcomes

Graduate Courses and Programs

- New Courses-Second Read
  - ACTG 593 : Graduate Study Abroad
  - EM 555 : Granular Mechanics

- Course Changes-First Read
  - NUTR 528 : Advanced Food Systems Management in Dietetics
    - Credit change from 3 to 2
    - Changes to learning outcomes

- Course Inactivations-Second Read
  - AGBE 589 : Graduate Consultation
    - Course no longer offered

- Course Changes-Second Read

  - ARCH 560 : Masters Studio Project
    - Credit change from 4 to 6

  - BIOH 586 : AP Biology Principles for Teachers
    - Title change from AP Biology for Teachers

  - FILM 510 : Fundamentals of Filmmaking
    - Credit change from 3 to 4

Rubric change from HDCO to COUN
  - COUN 502 : Counseling Ethics and Professional Orientation
  - COUN 503 : Professional Issues in Counseling
  - COUN 508 : Counseling Theories I
  - COUN 510 : Counseling Theories II
  - COUN 521 : Counseling Skills Lab
  - COUN 522 : Group Counseling
  - COUN 541 : Introduction to Mental Health
  - COUN 542 : Communication and Helping Skills
  - COUN 563 : Multicultural Awareness
  - COUN 565 : Couples Counseling
  - COUN 569 : Advanced Family Counseling
  - COUN 571 : Prof Counsel Practicum
  - COUN 589 : Graduate Consultation
  - COUN 598 : Internship

Info Update -- Second Reading:

Proposal for Board of Regents:
"MSU Interdisciplinary Institute on Artificial Intelligence (IIAI)"

Suggested addition:

- "As an Institute *on* AI rather than *for* AI, the Institute will also preserve and enhance opportunities for research, teaching, and workplace practices which critique challenges and downsides in current AI implementation as well as future risks. The Institute will support research and teaching on positive and negative impacts of AI on learning, cognition, and student development as well as on environmental impact, including conducting and publishing environmental impact assessments of the Institute's own activities."

Info Update -- Second Reading:
Proposal for Board of Regents:
JJCBE organization into departments

Accounting & Finance
- o Bachelor of Science in Business - Accounting and Finance options
- o Master of Professional Accounting degree
- o Oversight of finance and accounting curriculum

Management & Entrepreneurship
- o Bachelor of Science in Business - Management option
- o Bachelor of Science in Hospitality –Hospitality Business option
- o Coordination with LaunchPad and the new Entrepreneurship Center

Marketing & Analytics
- o Bachelor of Science in Marketing option
- o Collaboration with the Gianforte School of Computing on data analytics and decision science initiatives

Information Updates

- Presentation on "Student Field Trips and Domestic Travel" policy
  ([Current policy](#)   [Draft revisions](#))

Justin Arndt

Chief Compliance Officer

Matt Caires

Dean of Students

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MSU Policy Workflow
&
Student Field Trips Policy

Justin Arndt, Chief Compliance Officer

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Chief Compliance Officer

Position created in 2019.

Manage compliance with MSU Policy.

Coordinate university-wide compliance initiatives.

Reinforce university-wide training requirements.

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Basic MSU Policy Workflow

How do Policy changes start?

- University-wide concern.

- Legal or regulatory requirements.

- Regular reviews every 3 years.

Anyone can bring forth a concern that may involve Policy.

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Basic MSU Policy Workflow

1. Review with Policy owners.

2. Creation of work group.

3. Review by related supervisors and VPs.

4. Review by other stakeholders, governing bodies.

5. Review by the Executive Team.

6. Presented for first reading at University Council.

7. Second reading at University Council and possible vote to adopt.

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Student Field Trips

Major updates include:

- Establishing the travel radius to constitute a "Student Trip."
  - 25 miles.

- Outlining requirements including Trip Coordinator, Sponsoring Unit Contact Person, and other safety standards.

Information Updates: Grad Council

- Graduation applications for Spring graduation are due tomorrow (Feb. 5) - students have a MyMSU component and advisors have a Degreeworks-note component

- Update that the Grad School has been able to work with VP-RED and various advisors to ensure that no grad students have lost funding due to federal funding cuts or shifts this semester.

- Graduate Student Leadership Counsel is collaborating with MSU Legal to clarify a framework for TAs on what to do if ICE enters their classrooms.

- Discussed the need for systems responses to systems problems, rather than relying on individual responses, and thinking more broadly about what emergency response training faculty are receiving.

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Informational Updates: Other council reports?

Information Updates: Policy revisions

- New website with list of policies for review

https://www.montana.edu/policy/review/

- Approved today (2/4/26) by University Council:
  - Reporting Suspected Legal, Regulatory, or Policy Violations
  - Personal Transportation Device
  - Emergency Management Policy

- To be reviewed soon
  - Contract Approval & Execution
  - Student Field Trips and Domestic Travel

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Senate Open Discussion

Public Comment

(Two minutes per person)

Do I have a motion to adjourn?
Second?

Next meeting: February 18, 2026