

Austin Peay State University
Faculty Senate
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2026
Morgan University Center (MUC), Room 307 | 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Senate President Dr. Brandon Di Paolo Harrison called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Recognition of Guests

The following guests were recognized:

- Mickey Wadia, University Ombudsman
- Beth Kirby
- Matt Hampton
- Kristin Sienkiewicz

Roll Call

Vice President/President-elect/Secretary Pro-tem Darren Michael conducted roll call.

Senators Absent

- Alex Adams
- Uma Iyer
- Towhid Mahmood
- Justin Oelgoetz
- David Rands
- Samantha Robinson
- Simon Rotzer
- Devin Smith
- David Snyder

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the May 7, 2026 meeting was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 23, 2026 Faculty Senate meeting were approved following a motion and second. No corrections or amendments were offered. Motion carried.

Remarks from the Senate President

President Harrison thanked senators and executive committee members for their service, support, and engagement throughout the academic year. He emphasized the importance of shared governance and commended the Faculty Senate for maintaining a strong and productive working relationship with university administration while advocating effectively for faculty interests.

Old Business

Policy 1.025: Policy on Academic Tenure

President Harrison reviewed prior discussions regarding proposed revisions to Policy 1.025 and noted that the revisions were necessary for compliance with state law before July 1, 2026. He stated that university administration had committed to reopening the policy during the Fall 2026 semester for additional faculty input and revision.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Policy 1.025.

Vote

The motion passed following a voice vote.

Policy 2.066: Faculty Discipline and Performance Improvement Policy

President Harrison introduced Policy 2.066 and reiterated that the policy revisions were being advanced to comply with state law requirements, with further review and faculty participation anticipated during Fall 2026.

Discussion followed regarding:

- Definitions of disciplinary action and adequate cause
- Alignment with existing university policies
- Academic freedom protections

- Faculty participation in future revisions
- Administrative liability and implementation concerns

Several senators expressed concern regarding the expedited timeline and ambiguity within the policy language. Incoming Senate President Michael affirmed that revisiting Policies 1.025 and 2.066 would be an immediate priority during the next academic year.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Policy 2.066.

Vote

The motion passed following a voice vote.

New Business

Election of 2026–2027 Executive Committee Members

Guests not participating in the election process temporarily exited the room as directed. The candidates for President Elect were also asked to exit the room.

The election process included:

- Candidate speeches
- Question-and-answer period

After speeches and the Q&A's, roll was retaken following the election, with 42 senators present. Ballots were distributed for the election. A runoff election was required between the top two candidates.

Election Result – Dr. Bill Rayburn was elected as the new President Elect for 2026 – 2027.

SASI Committee Report

Dr. Matt Hampton presented the SASI Committee report. He reported:

- 45 submissions were received requesting more than \$105,000 in funding
- 34 awards were approved
- Total awards exceeded \$55,000

Dr. Hampton thanked committee members for their work and noted that the complete report was available on the Faculty Senate website.

Faculty Red Committee Report

Dr. Kristin Sienkiewicz presented the Faculty Red Committee report concerning departmental course scheduling processes.

Topics discussed included:

- Course scheduling complexities
- Classroom availability
- Enrollment fluctuations
- Curricular changes
- Faculty workload considerations
- Integration and implementation of CourseDog scheduling software
- Communication between departments and administration

The committee recommended:

1. Continued mentorship and support through the Chair Council
2. Greater transparency and collaboration regarding scheduling decisions
3. Improved communication between departments
4. Continued evaluation of CourseDog implementation

Dr. Sienkiewicz emphasized that course scheduling decisions ultimately seek to support student success while balancing departmental and institutional needs.

Presentation of Awards

President Harrison presented awards recognizing the service of Executive Committee members for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Awards were presented to:

- Nancy Gibson (Board of Trustees Representative)
- Dr. Leslie Benford (University Curriculum Committee Representative)
- Christina Chester-Fangman (Parliamentarian)
- Dr. Jane Semler (Member at large)
- Dr. John Nicholson (Treasurer)
- Dr. Osvaldo Di Paolo Harrison (Past President)

- Dr. Uma Iyer (Provost's Council Representative) [in absentia]
- Darren Michael (President Elect/Secretary Pro-Tem)

President Harrison thanked the Executive Committee for its extensive service and commitment throughout the year.

Passing of the Gavel

President Harrison formally transferred the presidency of the Faculty Senate to Darren Michael for the 2026–2027 academic year.

President Michael addressed the Senate, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve and emphasizing:

- Transparency and communication
 - Representation of all faculty voices
 - Continued work on Policies 1.025 and 2.066
 - Recruitment of a new parliamentarian
 - Faculty participation in upcoming task forces
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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.