

Austin Peay State University

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 26, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Morgan University Center, Room 307

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **3:00 PM** by Faculty Senate President **Dr. Brandon Di Paolo Harrison**.

2. Recognition of Guests

Guests included: Christina Chester-Fangman (Parliamentarian), Dr. Ozzie Di Paolo Harrison (Past President), Dr. Soma Banerjee, Dr. Mickey Wadia, Senior Vice President of Faculty Affairs Lisa Sullivan; and Professor Alex Adams

3. Roll Call

Roll was conducted by Vice President/President-elect and Secretary Pro Tem **Darren Michael**.

Absentees: Eboné Amos, Ronnel Berry, Masum Bhaiyam, John Blake, Charles Gonzalez, Manisha Gupte, Mir Hasan, Kristen Hershey, Nicolas Kirby, Alice Lin, Sabrina Perry, Bill Pruitt, Donna Short

4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented.

Action: Approved by unanimous consent.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 19, 2026 were presented.

- Motion to approve: Made and seconded
 - Corrections: None
 - Vote: Approved
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6. Policies

6.1 Course Continuity Policy (2.067)

- Minor revisions noted, including removal of redundant compliance language due to template standardization.
 - Motion to approve: Made and seconded
 - Discussion: Clarification provided regarding template changes
 - Vote: Approved
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7. Reports

7.1 Academic Affairs Committee (Course Caps)

Presenter: Dr. Jane Semler

- Committee reviewed course cap practices and alignment with peer institutions.
- Findings: Current caps generally align with best practices.
- Identified concerns:
 - Inconsistencies across sections
 - Lack of transparency in cap-setting
 - Faculty uncertainty about adjustment processes
- **Recommendation:**
Establish a **3-year departmental review cycle** using a structured workflow:
 - Assess modality and constraints
 - Evaluate pedagogical needs
 - Consider workload and student access

- Compare across sections
 - Document rationale
 - Discussion included:
 - Course minimums (10 vs. 15, especially summer)
 - Financial vs. pedagogical considerations
 - Department-level vs. course-level evaluation
 - **Action:** Report received and forwarded to Academic Affairs for consideration
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7.2 Faculty RTP Policy Committee

Presenter: Dr. Soma Banerjee

- Focus: Revising **Enhanced Peer Review of Teaching (EPRT)**
 - Key findings:
 - Current system overly complex and burdensome
 - Need for clearer distinction between formative and summative review
 - Challenges in smaller departments
 - Proposed directions:
 - Simplified review structure
 - Possible single-reviewer model in some cases
 - Standardized training and evaluation language
 - Greater emphasis on mentorship and development
 - **Next Steps:**
Faculty survey and continued data collection; recommendations expected next semester
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7.3 Rules Committee Report

Presenter: Faculty Senate President Elect Professor Darren Michael

- Ongoing review of Constitution and Bylaws
- Identified areas for clarification:
 - Officer roles (elected vs. appointed)
 - Terms of office and vacancies
 - Remote attendance policies

- Bylaws amendment language
 - Additional initiative:
 - Development of Executive Committee role handbooks
 - Proposed orientation materials for new senators
 - **Action:** Informational; formal proposals expected next academic year
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8. Old Business

None.

9. New Business

9.1 Executive Committee Elections Update

Presenter: Faculty Senate Past President Dr. Ozzie Di Paolo Harrison

- Nominations ongoing; deadline: March 27 at 4:30 PM
 - Most positions have candidates; Provost Council Representative remains open
 - Senators encouraged to self-nominate
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9.2 Legislative and Policy Concerns

- Discussion regarding pending state legislation affecting faculty tenure and disciplinary authority
 - Concerns raised:
 - Removal of faculty role in disciplinary decisions
 - Potential legal and governance implications
 - Need for institutional response and transparency
 - **Action:**
Senate leadership will invite administration to address these concerns at the next meeting
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10. Announcements

- **50th Anniversary Celebration of Faculty Senate** scheduled (RSVP required)
 - Event to include reception, remarks, and performance
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11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Made by Senator Dr. Bill Rayburn
 - Meeting adjourned at **4:26 PM**
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Respectfully Submitted,

Darren Michael

Recording Secretary (Pro Tem)