

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2026 @ 3:30pm

I. Call to Order & Review of Minutes

A. Assembly & Attendance

The Senate meeting is scheduled to begin at 3:30 pm.

Present: Trent Fawcett (Pres), Dennis Schugk (VP), Steve Hart, Heather Holland*, Adam Larsen, Liz Lee, Kade Parry, Jason West, Klarissa Wilkinson

Absent: Karen Carter, Rachel Keller, Jay Moosman

Guests: Michael Austin (Provost), David Allred (Associate Provost), Mike Brenchley (Deans), Josh Hales (senator-elect), Dyson Winsor (SBO), Carson Hadley (SBO), Robert Holt (advising)*, Crystal Stott and Jonathan Bodrero (Co-Directors of Faculty Development Committee)

**Denotes online participation via Microsoft Teams.*

B. Review of Minutes

Senators reviewed the draft minutes from the **April 8** meeting. **MOTION TO APPROVE:** A. Larsen.
2ND: S. Hart. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

II. Senate Membership

A. Spring 2026 Elections

1. School of Fine Arts Senate Election (2026–2029)

Adam Larsen has been elected to serve a second term.

B. Fall 2026 Membership

Parliamentarian Thomas noted that beginning July 1, there will be **13 sitting senators** instead of 12. These senators are as follows: Trent Fawcett (President), Adam Larsen (Vice President), Jared Breakall, Josh Hales, Heather Holland, Rachel Keller, Liz Lee, Madi Lyons, Jay Moosman, Kade Parry, David Rodriguez, Jason West, and Klarissa Wilkinson.

C. Bylaws Update on Meeting Recording

Senators had previously discussed proposals from Parliamentarian Thomas setting standards for access and use of Senate meeting recordings on Microsoft Teams. Thomas noted that this dialogue on this matter had reached an impasse, and suggested that any further developments be tabled until the next school year.

III. Administrative Updates

A. Student Body Representative

1. Student Recognition of Faculty

SBO President Carson Hadley reported that the Student Association created new student-nominated faculty recognition awards. Riley Bradshaw received the Distinguished Badger Award, while Crystal Stott, Wes Jamison, Melanie Jenkins, and Chad Rasmussen received Badger Impact Awards. The nomination survey received 154 responses, and the awards were presented to faculty members in their classes.

2. Student Focus Group Results

Hadley also shared feedback from a student focus group. Some students felt that certain courses were not academically challenging enough and suggested options such as accelerated or half-semester courses and stronger use of placement testing, particularly where students may already have mastered material in high school.

B. Deans Council

1. Updates

Dean Brenchley reported that the Deans Council met the new Library Director, Amgad Elgohary, who recently arrived from New Jersey and will address faculty during Assessment Day. The Council also reviewed the alternate final exam form, with an emphasis on clearer

wording, consistency, and more standardized implementation. Discussion also touched on course releases connected with the Writing and Math Labs as those services are centralized.

2. Data Center & Tech Programs

The Council also discussed the planned data center in Delta. Provost Austin said the project could arrive within the next 12–18 months and may create substantial workforce demand. Snow’s cybersecurity networking program is expected to evolve toward a data center technician certificate and associate degree, with possible future expansion into a four-year program connected to engineering, networking, HVAC, and power systems.

C. Faculty Senate President

President Fawcett reported that there were few new updates but encouraged senators to use the summer to consider ways Senate committees could operate more smoothly and efficiently. He invited senators to identify procedural bottlenecks or other faculty concerns and share suggestions with him.

IV. Senate Business

A. Faculty Development Committee

The Faculty Development Committee presented minor bylaw revisions intended to clarify the committee’s name, leadership, and responsibilities, particularly its relationship with the Teaching & Learning Center (TLC). The changes also provide more specific language about the committee’s role and oversight.

MOTION by S. Hart to ratify the revisions. **2ND:** D. Schugk. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously among those present.

B. Advancement & Tenure Committee

1. Policy 410 Updates (“A&T Policy”)

President Fawcett reported that most proposed changes to the Advancement and Tenure policy were minor, including updates from “division” to “school” and related school-name revisions. Senators also discussed a clarification concerning extenuating circumstances in Section 4.2.4. Senator Parry expressed support for the revisions as written.

The Senate briefly discussed whether the changes required a 30-day review. Provost Austin noted that the Senate could choose to circulate them but that college-level review was not

required. President Fawcett added that the goal was to move the revisions forward in time for consideration at a summer Board of Trustees meeting.

MOTION by K. Wilkinson to approve the revisions. **2ND:** J. West. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously among all senators present.

2. A&T Policy 412 (New)

The Senate reviewed the new A&T Policy 412 governing faculty on the practice track, generally intended for hires with significant industry experience who may not hold a graduate degree. President Fawcett noted that much of the policy parallels A&T Policy 410 and will likely require a 30-day review. Senators suggested several minor wording and definition changes, including clarification of “Chief Academic Officer” and consistent use of “practice track.”

Provost Austin explained that “professional track” remains the designation used in Technical Education, while the new designation applies policy to practice-track faculty elsewhere. He also noted that movement between tracks would function similarly to a promotion process, often following completion of an appropriate degree. President Fawcett added that practice-track faculty would continue to be reviewed through the A&T Committee.

MOTION by D. Schugk to approve the policy. **2ND:** H. Holland. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously among senators present.

3. Adjunct Qualifications in the Performing Arts

Senator West asked whether someone with professional theater experience but without an MFA could qualify to teach as an adjunct. Provost Austin explained that Fine Arts credentials are treated somewhat differently from other disciplines: a BFA may function as the equivalent of a master’s degree, while an MFA is treated as a terminal degree.

He added that performing arts appointments may also depend heavily on demonstrated skills and professional expertise, particularly in areas such as performance, lighting, sound, set construction, and costuming. For skills-based adjunct assignments, practical ability may therefore carry substantial weight, and a BFA can be sufficient for adjunct teaching in the performing arts.

C. Senate Committee Trainings

President Fawcett asked whether the Senate should continue holding fall training sessions for new senators and Senate committee chairs, noting that past sessions had been poorly attended. Senators generally agreed that some support is useful, but that a formal training meeting may not be the best approach. Senator Hart emphasized connection and coordination rather than

training alone, while Senator Larsen suggested stronger transitions between outgoing and incoming chairs. Senator Parry cautioned against making committees feel as though they were reporting to or being supervised by the Senate.

The Senate generally supported discontinuing the separate fall training session in favor of more direct support. Senator Holland suggested providing a simple organizational chart or one-page guide showing how Senate committees relate to one another and outlining shared goals. President Fawcett agreed to develop such a resource.

D. Items for Fall 2026

- Faculty Handbook Update
- Calendaring Committee Policy

V. Adjournment

MOTION to conclude the meeting by J. West. **2ND:** L. Lee. **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously of all senators present.

The Senate meeting concluded at 4:18 pm.

Meeting minutes by Jacob L. Thomas, Parliamentarian
Approved by the Faculty Senate, September 9, 2026