

Faculty Assembly Minutes
Monday, April 27, 2026 (12:40pm)

Present: Phil Mazzocco, Heather Tanner, Terri Winnick, Mollie Cavender, Del Lindsey, Carol Landry, Agus Munoz-Garcia, Steve Abedon, Dennis Shaffer, Tara Hines, Jason Opal, Kip Curtis, Cynthia Callahan, Steven Joyce, Jamison Kantor, Glenn Hartz, John Thrasher, Kate Shannon, Joe Fahey, Michelle Kowlaski, Amy Brunell, Gabe Karns, Terri Bucci, Faith Wyzgoski, Mirel Caibar, Adrienne Hopson, Donna Farland-Smith, Ozeas Costa.

1. Approval of the minutes from the last Faculty Assembly meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the 3/24/26 Faculty Assembly meeting was made by Heather Tanner (second by Carol Landry). The motion carried with 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 3 abstentions.

2. Dean's report

Dean Jason Opal provided several updates to the Faculty Assembly:

- New Staff Hires were Announced:
 - Barbie Waters, Marketing and Communications Specialist
 - Tyrell Miller-Johnson, New Academic Advisor
 - Garrison Stima, Enrollment Office
- Currently working with Lexington Schools regarding College Credit Plus (CCP) pathways agreements and also the possibility of adding the Superintendent as an Advisory Board member.
 - Faculty question: Do we have the same types of MOUs with Ontario and Mansfield? Reply: We do not, but we are working on these relationships.
- Planning a summer retreat for the Staff in the Ohio Union in Columbus towards the end of July.
- Meeting with faculty for Annual Reviews
- One SSLE question reads: "Does the faculty member create a classroom atmosphere free of political, racial, gender, and religious bias?" → 96.8% of Mansfield campus student respondents affirmed this statement.

3. Committee reports

Standing committees were given an opportunity to report activities to the Faculty Assembly. Final reports for all following committees are attached in the Appendices.

- Teaching and Learning:
- Professional Development Committee (PDC):
- Student Support:
- Resource Stewardship Committee:

4. Senate reports

- Heather Tanner (Arts & Sciences Senator) – provided a written report on the Arts & Sciences Senate (see Appendices). She additionally highlighted the following issues during the Faculty meeting:
 - There is a new onboarding document for all new Senators.
 - New agreements have been articulated with the Honors college such that the Honors college now open to the Regional campuses again.
 - There are a number of workshops for Simple Syllabus training. By law, the following components must be available to the public: course title, instructor information, required or recommended readings, course schedule, university policies. Everything else typically on a syllabus is not required to be public facing. A faculty member asked why we can't just post our regular syllabi? Heather responded that the purpose of the simple syllabi was to protect faculty by releasing only minimal information.
- Donna Farland-Smith provided a written report on the Faculty Senate (see Appendices).

5. Associate Dean Amy Brunell, post-tenure reviews

All faculty are required to complete an annual review process every year. If you are not meeting expectations in a given subcategory in a given year, the unit head is required to create a plan for you to create reasonable goals for you to be completed in the next seven months. If you meet those goals in the next seven months, you will be classified as having met expectations during that period. If you have not met expectations two years in a row, your case will be flagged, thus initiating a post-tenure review. This review process involves a preliminary proceeding, college investigation, and sanctioning committee.

A faculty member asked if a reasonable expectation period would always precede a two-year full emergency review period? The response was, yes.

6. Discussion on student success, well-being, and student awards

- Some faculty noted having difficulties giving to specific student awards on the Day of Giving. Another Faculty member proposed combining various awards in light of funding difficulties.
- Regarding student well-being, there were multiple reports of extremely low class attendance in Spring Semester. Associate Dean Brunell, implored faculty that any time you are concerned about a student, please do fill out an incident report.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Phil Mazzocco, Faculty Secretary.

Appendices

ASC Senate 15 April 2026 Meeting report

Submitted by Heather Tanner

The majority of the April 15th meeting focused on an update on the new general education curriculum by Meg Daly, chair of the ULAC-GEC committee. Currently this committee is working on assessment of the new GEC and some policy issues.

Assessment:

1. The assessment sub-committee is in the process of analyzing the data collected for 4 of the GEC categories. The assessment focuses on 1) how well courses are supporting student learning of the ELOs; 2) are the ELOs articulated clearly or do they need further refinement; and 3) do the questions and tools used to assess the courses collect useful data or do they need to be refined?
2. The group will produce a report on the 4 GEC categories and then begin assessment on the next 4 GEC categories.
3. There will be a regional summit GEC meeting at Marion campus on May 13. The summit will focus on supporting and coordinating in offering the GEC, identifying challenges and concerns, and orienting the new deans and staff who have been hired since the GEC's implementation

Policy issues:

1. For transfer credits for courses earned on a P/NP or S/U, the committee decided that P and S credits may satisfy foundation level requirements but may not be used for theme courses.
2. For overlap (counting a course as satisfying 2 different requirements) between GEC requirements and minor coursework, the committee approved the following:
 - Up to 2 of 6 courses may overlap if all courses were three credits; or
 - One of three courses may overlap if any of the GEC course carry four credits.
3. SB1 required civics course is part of the foundation requirements (see previous minutes for how it fits into the foundations).
4. The policy sub-committee is also working through the issues arising from SB1 and HB96. ULAC-GEC is confident that the civic culture and society, AI, Stem, and workforce readiness requirements are being met; they are awaiting further clarification on how the state is defining entrepreneurship and innovation.
5. A significant concern is the SB1 requirement that the Board of Trustees review and approve all new course and course revisions. Given that ASCC and ULAC-GEC collectively review approximately 1600 course annually, this would require the Board – meeting only four times per year – to review an estimated 4000 pages of material. The committee also noted concerns related to faculty intellectual property academic freedom, and privacy.

In the final 10 minute of the meeting, the Chair announced a final meeting on April 29th to vote on the revision of the Senate rules and to hold elections for the steering committee and ASCC. He also reminded the senators of the Simple Syllabus PowerPoint included with meeting materials and noted that the university has scheduled workshops to support faculty in using this newly required software.

Heather Tanner then provided a brief overview of the need to update the Senate rules which had not been updated since 2013 and outlined the revision process.

Faculty Senate Notes: Spring 2026

Submitted by Donna Farland-Smith

Approved Changes

- Approved proposal from the Council on Academic Affairs on the creation of the Appalachian and Rural Center for Health
- Approved proposal from the Rules Committee to create a new investigation and sanctioning pathway for research compliance cases by editing 3335-5-04
- Approved proposal from the Council on Academic Affairs to create a Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery (CBIRD)
- Approved proposal from the Council on Academic Affairs to create an Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Quantum Information Science and Engineering
- Approved proposal from the Council on Academic Affairs to create an Interdisciplinary PhD in Quantum Information Science and Engineering
- Approved proposal from the Council on Academic Affairs to create a Master of Energy Sustainability
- Approved proposal from the Rules Committee to change Rules Committee membership (3335-5-47.3)
- Approved proposal from the Rules Committee to change Research Compliance office rules (3335-13-08, 3335-5-04.2)
- Approved proposal from the Council on Academic Affairs to re-establish the Department of Aviation.
- Approved proposal from the Rules Committee to change Staff Senators Terms of Office (3335-5-38), Staff Senators Designation of Alternate Members (3335-5-40), and Constituent Bodies Designees (3335-5-44)
- Approved proposal from the Rules Committee to change the membership rules for the Athletic Council in Faculty Rule 3335-5-48.5.
- Approved AY2026-2027 Senate calendar.

Presentations

- Heard a presentation from Scott Lissner, Valerie Rake, Rich Nagle, and Keesha Mitchell around digital accessibility compliance and the upcoming enactment of Title II changes.
- Heard a presentation from Zia Ahmed and Melissa Shivers on campus life, updates on Taylor Tower residents and protocols moving forward.
- Heard a presentation from Anne Garcia, Mark Hieden, Monica Moll, Dennis Jeffries, and Chris Kabourek regarding public safety, ICE interaction guidance, and continued communication to the community to affirm the shared values.
- Heard President Carter's opening comments, welcoming the newly elected senators and addressing the considerable challenges of the moment as well as positive news regarding the university's record \$1.6 billion in research expenditures and the opening of the new hospital tower as well as our student athletes' remarkable success at the winter Olympics.
- Heard a panel discussion from President Ted Carter, Member of NCAA Board of Governors, Ross Bjork, OSU Athletic Director, John Davidson, Faculty Athletic Representative, Nicole Kraft, Chair of Athletic Council on developments in the athletics space regarding NIL, academics, and the search for the new Faculty Athletics Representative.

- Heard a report from Steering Chair Sara Watson on the results of a survey regarding key issues with which university senators are most concerned at this time, including compensation and financial well-being, institutional reputation, process transparency, free expression, and the mounting administrative and bureaucratic burden on faculty and staff. Heard Secretary Gardner's opening welcome to President Bellamkonda in his first senate meeting as university president.
- Heard President Bellamkonda's opening comments, acknowledging the range of opinions within the university community regarding the Board's decision to appoint him president without undergoing a full search, sharing his desire for Ohio State to be known as the best public university in the country, and inviting the senate and university community to engage in this work with him in service to our students, our state, and beyond.
- Heard an update from Senior VP for Student Life Melissa Shivers and Josh Bodnar, Director of BuckID, regarding the ongoing modernization of BuckID access control readers across campus and the need for those with older cards to upgrade to the new tap BuckID cards.
- Heard summaries of two reports from the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility. The senate voted to create an ad hoc committee to address concerns raised in these reports.
- Heard presentations from the Campus Free Speech Forum organized by Undergraduate Student Government. Presentations included an update from the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Free Expression, a presentation by USG leadership on the results of the Free Speech Survey shared with students, and from representatives from organizations impacted by current policies related to free expression on campus.

Professional Development Committee: End of Semester Report Spring 2026

Submitted by Dennis Shaffer

- Met virtually twice and had several email conversations in-between.
- Recommended approval of 2 Small Grants, both of which were approved by The Associate Dean of Faculty Enrichment.
- Continued to modify several portions of “Professional Development” portion of the website, including multiple forms there.
- We created a reference form or video guiding faculty how to navigate Tableau, found here:
<https://mediasite.osu.edu/Mediasite/Play/b7e3197183dd401a8c5b4395938cb1261d>

Student Support and Enrichment Committee: End of Semester Report Spring 2026

Submitted by John Thrasher

The Student Support and Enrichment Committee collected data and information from students and faculty, vetted results and selected recipients for the Thursday, April 9 annual student awards, and scholarships.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in surveys, wrote recommendations, nominated deserving students or presented awards.

The committee also received, reviewed and approved requests from 2 students for academically relevant travel assistance.

Resource Stewardship Committee: End of Semester Report Spring 2026

Submitted by Faith Wyzgoski

In February, 2026, the Resource Committee sponsored a brown bag talk by Dr. Ronnie Barbosa (visiting scientist working with Ozeas Costa on campus) who presented his research using spectroscopy and machine learning for mapping that monitored the impact of human activities on the environment. Dr. Barbosa described how his work can be used to assess environmental health and to inform land-management decisions.

Ecolab

At our April 13 meeting, Gabe Karns (OSU Mansfield Land Manager) reported the following semester updates about Ecolab;

- 8th year of syrup production was the shortest ever (17 days long) but we made the 3rd most amount of syrup ever. So it was intense!
- Two full-time Ecolab technicians - Miranda Wacker and Maskin Sidhu - both wrapped up a full 1-year term position in April and were moving on to other employment opportunities in the environmental field.
- Ecolab now has drafted a formal report template detailing case study findings from various projects around campus.
- Ecolab was recognized within the OSU Sustainability Institute as an exemplar for promoting the “3 pillars of the Land Grant mission - education, research, and extension”
- Recognition of Ecolab’s many accomplishments can be found at the following webpage for Mansfield's website: <https://mansfield.osu.edu/initiatives/ecolab-0>
- Gabe also noted that employment opportunities exist for Mansfield OSU students to work on our campus environment this summer from May 15 to August 15.
- Ecolab is also involved with Community Outreach events like Ohio Woodland Stewards Program “Lunch & Learn” Wet Meadow Enhancement to be held on April 28 at the Mansfield campus.

Teaching and Learning Committee: End of Semester Report Spring 2026

Submitted by Steve Abedon

The Teaching and Learning Committee has addressed our actionable charges this semester as follows (newer material is in blue):

- Hosted Feb. 26 an AI in Teaching Brown Bag (thank you goes to Andrew Kinney for a quite successful event)
- Hosted Mar. 26 an AI in Teaching and Research Brown Bag
 - o This was recorded and an AI-generated document was distributed.
- As an experiment, a fully AI naïve faculty member was introduced to how to use AI, with much success.
 - Faculty were contacted for input as to what would be desired in new faculty hires.
 - o We received a response from History, which would like the campus to consider either an American historian and/or an historian to specialize in science and technology.
- Civil Discourse programs offered in Columbus were explored, such as stand-alone courses for credit, teaching certificates, student certificates, forums
- The negative effects of AI use on student learning was discussed.
- Establishing an AI group on campus, as distinct from the campus writing group, has been proposed.
 - o This has not yet been followed through on while at the same time has not been dismissed.
- Two potentially teaching-useful html-based apps were submitted to the committee:
 - o <https://colors.phage.org/> which addresses the issue of colorblindness in figure generation, as potentially useful toward achieving digital accessibility
 - o <https://termschallenge.biologyaspoetry.org/> which serves as an alternative to Quizlet that can be class or discipline customized
 - o <https://docaccess.biologyaspoetry.org/> which is a means of converting text documents to a digitally accessible form