

Faculty Assembly Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 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, Andy Kinney, Sergei Chmutov, Terri Bucci, Faith Wyzgoski, Mirel Caibar, Adrienne Hopson

Excused: Dawn Kitchen

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the 2/23/26 Faculty Assembly meeting was made by Jamison Kantor (second by Del Lindsey). The motion carried with 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention.

2. Committee reports

Standing committees were given an opportunity to report activities to the Faculty Assembly.

- Teaching and Learning: Steve Abedon reported that the Teaching and Learning committee hosted an AI brownbag presented by Andrew Kinney on 2/26/2026, and another on the same topic will be presented by Steve Abedon on 3/26/2026. The committee is also working on convening an AI discussion group for interested faculty and staff. A faculty member encouraged the faculty to consider the potentially disastrous environmental and social impacts of AI technology. Finally, faculty were encouraged to respond to an email asking for reports of faculty hiring needs within their areas.
- Professional Development Committee (PDC): Dennis Shaffer reported that (a) the committee has edited the PDC website, (b) an instructional video on how to use Tableau is now active online and, (c) the committee approved two grants.
- Student Support: John Thrasher reported that the Student Support committee is currently vetting student award winners. The committee also determined how much funding is left for various awards with cash prizes and, at present, two awards only have enough funding for the present year's awardees. The Faculty Assembly was encouraged to determine a method for funding these awards, or to determine whether these awards should be discontinued in light of funding difficulties.
- Resource Stewardship Committee: Faith Wyzgoski reported that Gabe Karn's Maple Syrup event was well-attended (approximately 100, many of which were off-campus). Gabe Karns also reported that the Ecolab website is online and being actively built. Faculty were encouraged to visit the site. Kip Curtis reported that the Sustainability Institute was also building out its website.

- Arts and Sciences Senate: A brief discussion ensued regarding the university proposal to have information access to any personal technology used to interface with the universities system (e.g., using DUO from one's personal phone). The general consensus of the discussion was that this policy would constitute a severe breach of privacy and that the university should provide university-owned devices to faculty and staff to use if this policy passes. Faculty were also reminded to continue working to ensure that all course materials are up to date with the University's accessibility guidelines.

3. Dean's report

Dean Jason Opal provided several updates to the Faculty Assembly:

- Associate Dean Kitchen is working on the 2026-27 master course schedule.
- Capital upgrades: We are using state capital funding to complete deferred maintenance and to upgrade the student union. We are also seeking donors to help make upgrades to Ovalwood classrooms and facilities and to improve the campus food pantry. Once an internal audit of development funds is complete, we will explore ways of funding the previously mentioned academic scholarships and awards.
- Leadership Transitions: Ravi Bellamkonda is the new University President. Trevor Brown will serve as Interim Provost. It is believed and hoped that both will be committed to Regional Campus concerns and success.
- Events:
 - On 3/28/2026, the campus will host a Buckeye Preview day.
 - On 4/3/2026, there will be a townhall with Eric Anderman, Vice Provost for Regional Campuses. The discussion board that was meant for President Bellamkonda's (now cancelled) visit will still remain open for Eric's visit.
 - The Research Forum and Awards Ceremony will take place on 4/9/2026.
 - On 4/13/26, President Bellamkonda will host an event including the Regional Dean's focused on "relaunching" the Regional Campus Commitment.
 - The campus graduate celebration will take place on 5/7/2026.

4. Associate Dean Cynthia Callahan

Associate Dean Cynthia Callahan asked how the faculty felt about communications regarding students in crisis and need. The general consensus was that the Faculty appreciated these communications.

A faculty member asked: If an instructor is asked to alert security if a student appears in class or on campus, should the instructor expect additional details? Associate Dean Amy Brunell indicated that often such details are restricted for legal- or policy-related reasons.

5. Discussion and elections for Executive Committee positions, and senators.

The following slate was presented for open Executive Committee positions for the following academic year:

President – Agus Munoz-Garcia
Vice President – Kate Shannon
Secretary – Kip Curtis
At-Large Member – Dennis Shaffer
Arts and Sciences Senator – Phil Mazzocco
Alternate Arts and Sciences Senator – Heather Tanner

A motion was made by Glenn Hartz to elect this slate by acclamation (Kip Curtis seconded). The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Phil Mazzocco, Faculty Secretary.