

# Midland College Faculty Senate Meeting

Meeting Date: February 27, 2026, 08:32 am

## Call to Order

8:32 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Officers Present:** Ginger Schantz, Sarah Hildebrand, Juan Zapata-Nunez

**Senators Present:** Amanda Tipton, Jamie Kneisley, Shawna Lopez, Dagan Sherman, Jesse Cates, David Edens, Debbie McNeely, Andrea Montes

**Senators Absent:** Crystal Rosa, Steven Gaines, Emiliano Carbajal, Laurie Fitzgerald

**MC Faculty Present:** None

## Guests

**Dr. Damon Kennedy and Dr. Michael Dixon**

## Consent Items

A. Agenda Approval

### Guest Dr. Damon Kennedy remarks to the Faculty Senate:

#### Senate functions defined under Senate Bill 37

- The Senate operates as an advisory body with no authority over curriculum or faculty discipline, which are handled by other committees or individuals.
- This legal framework limits the Senate's role but preserves its voice for faculty concerns.
- Senate Bill 37's impact requires a methodical approach to adapting the Senate's activities and responsibilities.
- The Senate aims to maintain productive dialogue despite legislative constraints and increased public scrutiny via FOIA requests.

#### Compliance and Communication Protocols

- The Faculty Senate is adapting to legislative mandates on transparency and information sharing, while developing communication strategies for effective faculty engagement.
- **Mandate to post individualized syllabi publicly due to House Bill 2504**
  - Faculty must upload individual syllabi per class section on the website, addressing current non-compliance.

- A portal will be developed to simplify faculty uploads, reducing administrative burden.
- The Senate will help disseminate these changes to faculty divisions to ensure awareness and compliance.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Executive Committee Report:**

#### **Faculty Senate Structure and Membership**

- The newly reconstituted Faculty Senate has established its membership and quorum requirements, ensuring full divisional representation and voting capability.
  - Each of the six divisions is represented by two senators, meeting the 75% selection threshold.
  - Recent appointment of Emiliano ("Angel") fills a previous vacancy in the Applied Technology Division.
  - Efforts to maintain attendance are emphasized to ensure Senate functionality in decision-making.

#### **Communication role of Senate committees emphasized**

- Senators are encouraged to act as conduits between administration and divisions to improve message clarity and reduce noise.
- The Communications Committee, chaired by Juan, will focus on sharing relevant information and updates with faculty.
- The Questions Committee, led by Sarah, will manage the collection and response to faculty inquiries, ensuring written documentation.
- Committee assignments and roles will be finalized at the next meeting to facilitate organized communication workflows.

#### **Faculty Senate Website and Digital Presence**

- The Senate has prioritized developing a clear and compliant web presence to support transparency, access to materials, and ongoing communication.
- **Launch of Faculty Senate Web page with key resources**
  - The site includes the approved constitution, bylaws, purpose statement, and officer listings.
  - Initial updates removed outdated senator photos and information to reflect the new Senate composition.
  - The agenda and future meeting links will be posted for faculty access, with the next meeting scheduled for April 10th.

- Mara Bland is the primary contact for website maintenance, supported by Juan for posting meeting minutes.
- **Website design to meet legal requirements with simplicity**
  - The site focuses on essential documentation without excess content to maintain clarity and compliance.
  - Future plans include adding a current group photo to update the page visually in April.
  - Discussions are ongoing about including a mechanism for faculty to submit questions or feedback directly through the website.
  - The site supports live streaming of meetings via a recurring link accessible to all faculty.

### **Meeting Procedures and Documentation Management**

- The Senate is establishing formalized processes for meeting agenda publication, minute keeping, and historical record preservation.
- **Agenda posting and meeting preparation protocols clarified**
  - Agendas are posted at least seven business days before meetings to fulfill legal expectations.
  - Executive committee members receive agendas via email for review before public posting.
  - Meeting links remain consistent to support regular attendance and accessibility.
  - Delays in agenda finalization before meeting invites require post-invite updates, which are currently managed manually.
- **Discussion on archiving historical Senate minutes**
  - Minutes exist scattered across Canvas, Teams/SharePoint, and the website, making access difficult.
  - A proposal to form a short-term ad hoc committee to gather and centralize all past minutes was presented but declined for formal vote.
  - Senate leadership may privately recruit volunteers to consolidate minutes for preservation and historical insight.
  - Centralizing minutes supports institutional memory and complements ongoing efforts to document the college's history.

### **Committee Formation and Future Planning**

- The Senate is organizing its internal committees to distribute responsibilities and plan effective faculty engagement moving forward.
- **Committees defined and leadership assigned, with membership pending**
  - The Executive Committee, Communications Committee (chair Juan), and Questions Committee (chair Sarah) are the three standing committees.
  - The Membership Committee was set aside due to changes in appointment responsibilities.

- Final committee memberships and roles will be discussed and approved at the next meeting to ensure broad participation.
- Committee chairs will develop strategies for managing communications and question collection, potentially including web-based tools.
- **Strategic approach to workload sharing and faculty input**
  - Committees are intended to share workload among senators and make Senate operations more manageable.
  - Questions Committee aims to formalize how faculty submit concerns, emphasizing written submissions for clarity.
  - The Communications Committee may handle both outgoing messages and incoming feedback to improve dialogue flow.
  - Decisions on committee structure and tools will reflect faculty needs and legal compliance.

**Adjournment at 10**