Snow College
Faculty Senate

Trent Fawcett, President
Adam Larsen, Vice-President
Jacob L. Thomas, Parliamentarian

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2026 @ 3:30pm

I. Call to Order & Review of Minutes

A. Assembly & Attendance

The Senate meeting began at 3:30 pm.

Present: Trent Fawcett (Pres), Adam Larsen (VP), Liz Lee*, Jared Breakall, Madi Chadwick*, Josh Hales, Heather Holland, Katie Justesen (sub), Rachel Keller, Liz Lee, Kade Parry, David Rodriguez, Jason West

Absent: Jay Moosman, Klarissa Wilkinson (sub: Katie Justesen)

Guests: Jacob Thomas (Parliamentarian), Jonathan Bodrero, Mike Brenchley (Deans), Robert Holt (Advising)*, Maren Hyer (faculty), Alex Jackson (SBO), Greg Wright (faculty)

**Indicates online participation through Microsoft Teams.*

B. Review of Minutes

Senators reviewed the draft minutes from the **September 23** meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes by A. Larsen. **2nd:** H. Holland. **Motion carried** with two abstentions: L. Lee and J. West.

II. Senate Governance

A. SPC At-Large Election Certification

Prof. **Stacie Durrance** (Social Science) was elected as the at-large faculty representative to the Space Planning Committee in a ranked-choice vote that concluded October 2. Senators reviewed the election results and voted to certify them.

Motion to certify the election by J. Breakall. **2nd:** K. Parry. **Motion carried** unanimously.

B. Bylaw Updates

1. Recording of Senate Meetings

Senators discussed proposed bylaws governing access to and retention of meeting recordings, balancing transparency, accuracy, academic freedom, and concerns about distribution or excerpts taken out of context. Proposals included direct access for current senators, approval requirements for others, access rather than copies, retention periods of one or two years, and extended retention upon request. Procedures for closed-session recordings and remote participation also remain under consideration. Revised language will be circulated for comment before the next meeting. President Fawcett is also developing language addressing academic freedom, the purpose of Senate meetings, and attendance.

Motion by K. Parry to authorize the Senate President or Vice President to endorse requests to recordings for the next two weeks. **2nd:** H. Holland. **Motion carried** unanimously.

III. Administrative Updates

A. Faculty Senate President

1. A&T Dashboard

President Fawcett reported continued work with student engineers on an online dashboard to manage the Advancement and Tenure process, including shared server space for FETs and pre-built dossier sections accessible through mySnow. The goal is to present a working product to A&T by Thanksgiving. If approved by A&T Committee vote, faculty would be required to submit dossiers through the system.

2. Faculty Handbook Update

President Fawcett reported the Provost's support for converting the Faculty Handbook from a PDF to an online resource, likely linked from the Faculty Senate webpage. Development is affected by a staffing shortage. The handbook has not been updated in seven years, and much of its content is outdated. President Fawcett emphasized its value for new and less experienced faculty and its potential to reduce the burden on department chairs.

Senators discussed establishing ongoing responsibility for handbook maintenance and ensuring continuity through personnel changes. President Fawcett proposed that the Senate establish the online handbook and that the Faculty Development Committee maintain it. Jonathan Bodrero, co-chair of that committee, said he would consult the committee before committing. Senator Keller suggested that the Senate communicate policy changes for

Faculty Development to incorporate. A brief bylaw amendment may be needed to formalize responsibility.

3. Faculty Plans of Action

President Fawcett raised a discrepancy between policy and practice identified during development of the A&T dashboard: policy requires Faculty Plans of Action addressing unsatisfactory performance to be included in dossiers, but this is not currently happening. Automatically attaching plans would align the dashboard with policy while raising questions about retention and access, particularly after concerns have been resolved. Senator Keller emphasized the importance of complete information for fair and thorough A&T reviews.

Senators discussed whether resolved plans should remain indefinitely, eventually be removed, or be accessible only when related concerns arise. Discussion balanced preserving institutional history with recognizing faculty improvement. Vice President Larsen suggested attaching documentation of resolution to completed plans. Senators also raised questions about plans created outside review periods and access by Faculty Evaluation Teams and trustees. President Fawcett asked Senator Keller to bring these questions to A&T for policy clarification, drawing on members with historical perspective.

B. Student Body Representative

Alex Jackson from the student body leadership shared feedback from a student focus group highlighting strong trust in professors for advising, mentorship, and career guidance. Students requested more classroom interaction, less reliance on PowerPoints, and clearer alignment between instruction and exams. They reported using AI for summaries and to understand course material, limited use of the new Tutoring Hub, anxiety about transferring, and interest in additional four-year programs and career networking opportunities. Senators discussed advising practices and barriers to tutoring use. President Fawcett requested the focus-group findings for broader distribution, with confidential information removed.

C. Office of Academic Affairs

President Fawcett first reported on his most recent meeting with the Provost and clarified that he had not asked representatives from the Office of Academic Affairs to stop attending Senate meetings. He then relayed updates from AA which included continued discussion of Inclusive Access and first-day textbook costs and efforts to improve course evaluation release dates. Vice President Larsen, who also attended the meeting, relayed the Provost's reaffirmation that faculty may choose whether to use AI in their curriculum and his commitment to academic freedom and integrity.

D. Deans Council

President Fawcett reported that the Deans Council had not met this week. Dean Brenchley shared that leaders from Snow, UVU, and Mountainland Technical College—which now share the same educational region— discussed improving transfer pathways and removing barriers for students. Faculty were asked to share transfer difficulties students encounter, particularly when moving to UVU, to help identify actionable improvements.

IV. Senate Business

A. AI Grant Funding & Senate Responsibilities

1. Funding Scope & Senate Oversight

President Fawcett outlined Academic Affairs' offer of $100,000 over two years ($50,000 annually) for Senate-led work related to AI, including pedagogy with and without AI, ethical considerations, and student critical thinking. Accepting the funds would introduce significant budget and administrative responsibilities for the Senate. In response to Senator Holland's questions about existing grant rubrics, President Fawcett explained that the Senate could establish its own criteria and allocation process, provided expenditures would be connected to AI. Senator Parry noted that this could include initiatives critical of AI. Senator Keller questioned who developed the existing rubrics and whether faculty had participated through shared governance, to which President Fawcett agreed to follow up.

2. Faculty Feedback & Conditions for Acceptance

Senator Keller, reporting from the School of Humanities with Senator Holland, described mixed feedback and requests for clearer expectations, timelines, boundaries, and oversight. Vice President Larsen reported nearly unanimous support from the School of Fine Arts despite skepticism about AI's effects on creative disciplines. Senator Parry raised a recurring concern that accepting funding could appear to compromise Senate independence. Senator Holland proposed a written memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Academic Affairs establishing the purpose, permitted uses, restrictions, and Senate authority over the funds. Senator Keller supported obtaining written terms. Senator Holland and Senator Hales emphasized interdisciplinary, open-ended inquiry, while Senator Parry stressed faculty support. Discussion also highlighted student learning, foundational skills, academic integrity, and the importance of avoiding a predetermined position on AI.

3. Potential Uses & Implementation

President Fawcett suggested a faculty-led repository of research on teaching with and without AI, resources addressing ethical considerations, and possible faculty release time or stipends. Senator Holland distinguished the proposed Senate funds from funding faculty could seek directly through Academic Affairs. Senators acknowledged the responsibility of allocating the first $50,000 within the available timeframe. In response to a question from Senator Breakall, President Fawcett agreed to confirm whether unused funds could carry over between years.

4. Motion & Vote

Senator Keller encouraged a vote using Senator Holland's proposed MOU approach. Senator Parry suggested making acceptance conditional on an agreement, and Senator Holland emphasized retaining the Senate's ability to withdraw if acceptable terms could not be reached. Vice President Larsen stated that the MOU should be completed before funds were received and that accepting the funds would require making them available for faculty use.

Motion by H. Holland to accept the funding pending a Senate-drafted MOU, agreed to by Academic Affairs, specifying how the funds would be used alongside any restrictions. **2nd:** J. Hales. **Motion carried** with one opposing vote by R. Keller, who cast the vote to represent the opinions of some of the members of her constituency.

V. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by H. Holland. **2nd:** J. West. **Motion carried** unanimously. The Senate meeting concluded at 5:07 pm.

Meeting minutes by Jacob L. Thomas, Parliamentarian
Approved by the Faculty Senate, October 28, 2026

AI Disclosure Statement. *The Parliamentarian personally took the original meeting notes and used ChatGPT to assist with organizing, condensing, and clarifying those notes for the written minutes. The Parliamentarian subsequently reviewed and revised the completed minutes for accuracy and remains responsible for their content. The AI service through Snow College was configured so that the material provided in this process was not used to train AI models.*