



MINUTES

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee was called to order by Ken Roberts, Chair, at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, in French Admin 344, and via Zoom.

Members Present: Executive Committee: K. Roberts, C. Horne, M. Hudelson; Committee Chairs: (AAC) P. Buckley; (Budget) E. Sheldon; (FAC) J. McDonald; (FCC) M. Hasse; (GSC) R. Thomas; (IAC) D. Gursoy; (Library) T. Rotolo; (PHSC) K. Meier; (RAC) J. Firestone; Campus Reps: (Everett) S. Calderone; (Spokane) J. Roll, A. Ahmed; (Tri-Cities) Y. Demissie; (Vancouver) D. Grigar; (Legislative Rep) S. Bollens; Absent: (Executive Committee) T. Klein; (A&E) J. Compeau; (Everett) G. Taub; (Vancouver) N. Thrush; Others present: None

- I. Approval of Steering Committee Minutes from February 19, 2026 (PDF) Approved by unanimous consent
II. Additions or Changes to the Agenda None
III. Executive Officer Updates
A. Chair - Brief update on collection of feedback from 90-Credit Bachelor's degree feedback survey.
B. Immediate Past Chair - Not present
C. Chair Elect - provided summary of updated revised amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws indicated by the * below.
(Item #2026.02.26_603_Steering) Proposed Amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws (Exhibits 603A, 603B, *603C, *603D)
*These documents have been updated.
D. Executive Secretary - Has received information from Institutional Research regarding senator apportionment and will be reaching out to a couple of colleges to confirm IR numbers.

IV. Committee/Legislative/BoR Updates

A. Committee Reports

Table with 2 columns: Committee Name and Report Content. Rows include AAC, A&E, Budget, COC, FAC, and FCC.



GSC –	<i>Committee approved MS in Food Technologies for Global campus. There was discussion around the enrollment projections. Provided brief discussion on planned restructuring of the biomedical sciences in Vet Med, there are procedural concerns, faculty may be displaced. Other committees were unaware of this planned restructuring; other medical sciences may be impacted.</i> GSC Report 3.3.26
IAC –	<i>Nothing to report</i>
Library –	<i>A question was raised regarding the funding for the new AI research tools currently being tested. The Library Committee expressed its understanding that academic departments will not be charged for use of these tools if they are adopted campuswide. Library leadership will consult with university leadership to determine and secure appropriate funding.</i>
PHSC –	<i>Nothing to report</i>
RAC –	<i>Committee moving forward with seed grant reviews. Committee is still waiting on the IR review of the Centers and Institutes process and the RAC committee involvement.</i>

B. Legislative Update – Governor’s proposed budget reflects approximately a 5.5% reduction in funds; the House and Senate are compiling their budgets which may reflect more like a 1% cut to WSU (which is still a large amount). WSU is being held harmless of the self-funded insurance premiums, and they have been completely removed from the state budget.

C. BoR Report – Not present

V. Information Items

VI. Campus Updates

A. Everett – Nothing to report

B. Spokane – Nothing to report

C. Tri-Cities – Shared that it is taking an extremely long time the Office of Research Support and Operations (ORSO) to review grants and contracts. Of the sixteen (16) positions in ORSO, eight (8) are vacant.

D. Vancouver – With the loss of so many staff in ORSO, people working on contracts will not have time to support faculty with research proposals, award reviews and negotiations, and grant writing. Faculty Senate Executive team to follow up with IR. President Cantwell held a listening session on 3/4/26 that was well attended.

VII. Review of the draft [March 12, 2026, Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

VIII. Meeting Adjourned 4:24 pm