

CU SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 19, 2026

Session: AY 2025-26, Spring semester, Meeting I

Time: 3 pm

Location: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/j/91005266050?pwd=6gazQ3UuGFyANhxDnXDBFXaJq4I3Jb.1&from=addon>

Participants: Rick Goulet, Kenny Hall, Michael Collins, Justin Madaus, Robin Rockey, Sarah Harry, Pamela Kathcart, Colleen Jackson, Mark Decker, Heidi Warner, Heather Feldhaus, Kimberly Harris, Peggy Carl, Glorianne Dziuba, Kerrie DeVries, Barb Rossi Daymon Adams, Tess Fosse, Elizabeth Stauder, Erin Kennedy, Sara Barchik, Matt McKeague, Karinne Force, George Agbango, Samantha Shoup, Tena Maurer, Doug Spatafore, Stephen Lee, Rebecca Willoughby, Nichole Book, Jason Genovese, Jessica Bentley, Jennifer Demchak, Arian Moghadam, Karen Stefaniak, Michael Coffta, Jackie Borst, Jeanne Kagle, Yvette Ingram, Cori Myers, Christopher Cummings, Brooke Harlowe, Mary Feeney, Eric Foster, Matt Slotkin, Doug Spatafore, Karen Hamman, Deborah Thomas, Peter Campbell, Stacy Wagner, Stephen Gitonga, Brad Lint, Rebecca Baker, Christopher Lapos, Kristi Getty, Lisa Sharpe, Bernadette Heiney Michael McFarland, Campana, MaryJo, Brett Comstock, Julie Cimino, Gretchen Osterman, Amy DeLozier, Rodger Benefiel, Andrea Swain, Amy Way, Kristin Vincenzes, Annjane Ross, Rick Lilla, Brandy Hower, Stanley Berard, Samantha Holler, Eric Hawrelak, Traci Fetterman, Christine Bomboy, Karri Verno, Amanda Sanko, Stephanie Bissinger, Nicholas Paesano, Michelle Kiec, Andira Dodge, George Rusczyk, Melinda Phillips, Carina Howell, Rachel Shaffer, Nichole Lefelhoc, Sherry Moore, Dan Knorr, Debra Minzola, Lynda Michaels, Jennifer Turnbough, Toni Bell, Taylor Donahue, Asa Kelley, Lisa Lister, Blair Brown, Bob Sandow, Cathy W, Monica Johnson, Nick Delaney, Jessica Bentley, Gretchen Sechrist, Megan Wein, Adrienne McEvoy, Tracey Cummings, Julie Kontos, Curtis Grenoble, Brooke Lylo, Erik Evans, Stanley Berard, William Barnes.

- I. Call to order: Richard Goulet, (Senate President, CU) called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
- II. Announcements: Rick Goulet announced that Doreen Jowi is on medical leave so Julie Kontos will be serving as active President for Bloomsburg local assembly. Reminder that we are using course dog for policy work, but everything is also available on the senate website.
- III. Approval of Minutes (November 13, 2025 meeting) : Approved by acclimatation.
<https://www.commonwealthu.edu/documents/draft-senate-11-13-25-minutes>
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee: Rick Goulet stated that the executive committee received two interim policies which were reviewed and are being issued.
 - B. Academic Policy Committee: Tess Fosse, (Chief Accessibly Officer, CU) have met 3 times this semester, have 11 policies up for 1st reading and have more that the committee is working on.

- C. IT Subcommittee: Matthew McKeague, (Associate Professor Media & Journalism, CU) said that they have completed all their policies assigned to them.
- D. Enrollment Management Subcommittee: Christopher Lapos, (Associate VP Undergrad & Transfer student, CU) stated they have completed all their policies in the fall.
- E. Advancement Committee: Jason Genovese, (Associate Professor Media & Journalism, CU) reported that all their policies are finished. They will begin campaign work in March.
- F. DEI Committee: Christopher Cummings, (Associate Professor, CU) said that they have subgroups working on two more policies.
- G. Finance Committee: Eric Hawrelak, (Professor Chemistry, CU) stated they have met once and have 3 policies moving forward. They have welcomed the new CFO, Lisa Sharpe.
- H. Student Affairs Committee: Erin Kennedy, (Professor Psychology, CU) said that they are working on 2 new policies this semester. Karen Stefaniak will be taking over as chair of Student Affairs committee.
- I. First Year Experience Subcommittee: Rebecca Willoughby, (Assistant Professor, Languages, Literatures & Writing, CU) Have submitted adjustments to master course syllabus. Addressing resource issues so that more students can be exempt from FYS course.
- J. Elections Subcommittee: Nicholas Delaney, (Instructor, Counseling Services, CU) Nominations start 2/23/26 and will run through March 6th. Mansfield were the first to fill all of their spots last year.
- K. Space and Facilities Subcommittee: Yvette Ingram, (Professor Biological & Health Sciences, CU) 2 of the 3 campus specific work groups have met. Master plan for CU is in progress.

V. Interim Policies ([Can be found here, on the Senate webpage under the Interim Policies Reviewed by Senate Exec tab](#))

- A. Wireless Communication Device Policy
- B. Digital Accessibility Policy

VI. First Reading ([Can be found here, on the Senate webpage under the Policies for 1st Reading tab](#))

- A. Academic Distinction Policy: Tess Fosse, mainly a walk over policy from the old PRP.
- B. Final Exam Polic: Brooke Harlowe, (Professor Political Science, CU) tried to incorporate diversity for all final assessment types in this policy. Eric Hawrelak asked about having more than final exam in a day, will it be the professor's discretion and if the professor will be merciful? Mark Decker, (Professor, Department Chair, Languages, Literatures & Writing, CU) asked if a broader language could be used because languages don't have final exams. Brooke Harlowe responded that it says evaluative assessment, so it doesn't have to be a final exam. Yvette Ingram asked if this could be an undergrad specific policy as it doesn't fit into all graduate courses. Heather Feldhaus, (Dean of

Graduate Education, CU) responded to Yvette that grad would like to develop their own policy on this. Kristin Vincenzes, (Professor MS Mental Health Counseling, CU) asked if assigned or exam no longer need to be approved by department and must be given in week 15 of the semester? Brooke Harlowe answered yes to both. Eric Hawrelak raised why the minimum of 20% of the final grade and maximum of 40% was left out? Brooke Harlowe responded that she received a lot of conflicting responses from faculty on it. Adrienne McEvoy, (Associate Professor Philosophy, CU) stated that Article 2 confirms there is a minimum of 25%. Rodger Benefiel, (Associate Professor Criminal Justice, CU) suggested building in an exemption or allow departments to decide per circumstance.

- C. Academic Major and Minor Policy: Tess Fosse explained this is another walk over policy which describes what/when a student should declare their major/minor.
- D. Add/Drop Policy: Tess Fosse, policy defining when you can add and drop a class.
- E. Attendance Policy: Tess Fosse, said that this is a new policy going over expectation of attendance for class.
- F. Commencement Participation Policy: Tess Fosse explained that this policy explains who is allowed to actually partake in commencement and walk across the stage.
- G. Grade Appeal Policy: Brooke Harlowe stated that this separates out grade appeal from grievance process.
- H. Pass/Fail Policy: Tess Fosse said that this policy explains when a student can change to a pass/fail course and how many are allowed.
- I. Student Disruptive Behavior Policy: Karen Hammen, (Associate Professor, Tutorial services, CU) stated that this is for what is acceptable behavior in the classroom while being inclusive to all learning environments. George Rusczyk, (Dean of Students, CU) clarified that the code of conduct applies everywhere, but this policy gives more structure and expectations within the classroom.
- J. Undergraduate Student Academic and Dismissal Policy: Tess Fosse said this policy explains the conditions in which students can be dismissed.
- K. ADA Policy: Christopher Cummings stated this is driven mostly by federal law and has been vetted by legal provisions of accommodations.
- L. Academic Grievance Policy: Brooke Harlowe explained this is the process for students if there is an academic injustice.
- M. Constitutional Amendments not on Consent Agenda: Brooke Harlowe expressed concern that the amendments are hard to follow in current format and asked if they could be posted in an alternative format. Rick Goulet added that all 3 local assemblies will need to review and vote on constitutional amendments.

VII. Second Readings: none

VIII. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Constitutional Amendments – Changes to Articles II, IV, V, and Basic Editorial Changes
- B. Records Retention Policy and Standard
<https://www.commonwealthu.edu/documents/records-retention-policy>
<https://www.commonwealthu.edu/documents/records-retention-standard-01-18-25>

IX. Withdrawn Policies: none

- X. Other Business: Justin Madaus, (Assistant Professor, CU) announced that they will be releasing the “Red Folder”, a tool for faculty and staff to help students who are in distress, to recognize distress, to respond to distress.

XI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:41pm.

Upcoming Spring 2026 Meetings

- **Bloomsburg Local Assembly** – Wednesday, March 4th at 3:00pm (In Person - Hartline Science Center G38)
 - Join Zoom Meeting
<https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/j/91859405921?pwd=QM8SVbsR1eENcZnPY8hT8rT4pKyvAa.1&from=addon>
- **Lock Haven Local Assembly** – Thursday, March 5th at 3:00pm (In Person - 105 Greenburg Auditorium, Willis Health Science Building)
 - Join Zoom Meeting
<https://commonwealthu-åedu.zoom.us/j/93704235942?pwd=LdHUEH2mrbYno0V2ZWzqviohT4rrpa.1&from=addon>
- **Mansfield Local Assembly** – Thursday, March 12th at 3:00pm (In Person - G1 Retan Center)
 - Join Zoom Meeting
<https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/j/98041512695?pwd=Z9lbCG5j0BzhEFsj6k945r1VwdFOLy.1&from=addon>
- **CU Senate Executive Committee Meeting Thursday, April 2nd at 3:00pm**
- **CU Senate Meeting** - Thursday, April 9th at 3:00pm
 - Join Zoom Meeting
<https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/j/91350788014?pwd=iGK7oWToyHxVocbj0txXpV243YUxXb.1&from=addon>