

Mansfield Local Assembly Minutes

Thursday, August 27, 2026 @ 3:00 pm
Butler 163 and Zoom

In Attendance (in person): E. Bailey, N. Book, M. Borzok, J. Bosworth, E. Borst, M. Cicora-Cecce, J. Crowley, N. Delaney, J. Demchak, R. Dodson-Webster, T. Doerksen, D. Donlick, G. Dziuba, M. Feeney, G. Gabrielov, C. Jackson, J. Kagle, P. Kathcart, M. Kiec, B. Kluge, D. Knorr, E-J. Kwak, N. Lefelhoc, B. Lint, A. McEvoy, R. McNamara, J. Osgood, L. Pifer, A. Rose, J. Rothermel, A. Swain, K. Verno, H. Warner, T. Welch, N. Werner-Burke, J. White, C. Whiting
(online): S. Barchik, N. Bliss, K. Cobb, H. Feldhaus, K. Force, E. Foster, R. Goulet, S. Holler, D. Jowi, D. Knorr, C. Lapos, S. Lee, T. Maurer, N. Mayo, L. Michaels, C. Myers, D. Neill, K. Partridge, M. Phillips, B. Rossi, B. Sandowe, A. Senefelder, K. Shively, L. Sharpe, JT Singh, D. Spatafore, C. Workman, S. Yamashita, X. Zhou

I. Call to Order 3:02, short meditation

II. Approval of Minutes ([March 12, 2026 Mansfield Local Assembly Meeting](#)) N Werner-Burke, A. McEvoy

III. Announcements

- A. Please see [CU Senate website](#) for membership, policies, and schedule- if there is a glaring error, please let Brad or Heidi know, they are working on updates
- B. Facilities Update (D. Knorr):
 - i. Brad Loughton and Ryan Wood have been very helpful with the leadership transition in Facilities
 - ii. Repairs on North Hall roof- this is not a replacement, but a significant repair, ~\$600k project, there is insurance money and Key 93 money from the state to get that done
 - iii. Repairs to steam distribution system- there were leaks and deterioration and repairs needed to the boilers, as well. System gave funding support to get that work done to get things operational for heat before the winter. There will probably be more repairs to do once the system is back up and running later this fall
 - iv. Facilities Master Plan for CU is needed for setting priorities and seeking funding. A request has been made for letters of interest, those are due Aug. 31, so a firm will be chosen to do that work (paid for by the state system)
 - v. Question- there's one strip on Route 6 that looks bad- can it be fixed?
 - vi. A. McEvoy: Shout out to Ryan and Thad York and all others who did all of the work all summer. Concern about change in work order processing, some work orders disappeared. Ryan and Brad and their teams do the best job they can.
 - 1. Also, thanks to those who painted in Elliot
- C. Strat Comm & Marketing Update (R. McNamara):
 - i. StratComm has a request form, which is the best way to get something done. [Commonwealth.edu/StratComm](#)
 - ii. StratComm is willing to discuss how to publicize something, as well
 - iii. There is also a dedicated Web Form- please send in events, etc. If you'd like to, you can be trained to update the web by doing training, requested also via the same form

1. Please let them know if web pages are out of date- please check to make sure info is up to date, relevant, etc. including your people page
- iv. Apparel and promotional items with university logo, name, likeness, etc need to go through approved vendors. On the StratComm page, there's a button for Logos, Licensing, and Trademarks, and you can find the Approved Vendors list there. There are exceptions.
- v. Let them know any good news: commonwealth.edu/news is where to see it, and there is a form, but you can also just email Ryan MacNamara
- D. CU Strategic Plan (M. Borzok and C. Myers):
 - i. Currently in the process of undertaking a strategic plan refresh- what does the current strategic plan not accurately reflect?
 - ii. Hopefully we are all working to implement various aspects of the strategic plan, and hopefully we can integrate the different aspects in our various roles on campus
 - iii. Commonwealthu.edu/about/strategic-plan has the information about the current strategic plan and the refresh. Please read and respond (feedback form) and share with others
- E. Red & Black Committee (J. Rothermel):
 - i. Thanks for coming to the Crosscutter Baseball game. Maybe try to do something in Williamsport again to try to bring people from all three campuses together
 - ii. Tuesday Sept. 1 Spudtacular lunch 11:30-12:45 in Alumni
 - iii. Oct. 8 Fall Fest Chilli Contest
- F. 2026-27 Constitutional Amendments (R. Goulet):
 - i. Possibility of amending Article 3A.2a article about members representing more than one constituency in Senate
 - ii. Modification of Article 9c made at the last meeting may not have been done correctly
- G. Nicolle Mayo is stepping up to Space and Facilities Committee since Holly had to step down. Approved.
- H. We need a replacement on the DEI committee for this year

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee (B. Lint): No Report
 - i. Elections Subcommittee (N. Delaney):
 1. Did some bylaw drafting over the summer
 - ii. Space and Facilities Subcommittee (N. Book):
 1. Two policies to work on this semester
- B. Academic Policy Committee (J. Kagle):
 - i. First meeting is tomorrow
 - ii. There are a bunch of policies in play
- iii. Enrollment Management Subcommittee (J. White):
 1. MU total student headcount is 1008, although we may have a little melt still this semester. Our goal was 944, so we are above the goal
 2. Retention is down
 3. Starting a MU student experience taskforce to try to enhance the student experience and increase retention
 4. Numbers for student visits and Major Showcase days are up significantly, and almost 50% of students who come to a Major Showcase Day enroll in the fall
 5. Mansfield College Day 10/2
 6. Mansfield Open House 10/24

7. PASSHE Counselor Information Day 10/30
8. Major Showcase Days:
 - a. Criminal Justice 9/15 & 10/20
 - b. HPPS 9/28
 - c. Fisheries 10/14
 - d. Music 10/19
- iv. IT Subcommittee (B. Lint presenting for JT Singh):
 1. Technology rollout: 200 laptops have been installed, with 300 more yet to go
 2. Communications went out in spring and summer about the upgrades
 3. No restrictions on the use of the school laptops, except in specific circumstances, such as travel abroad
 4. CT thinks there are enough MFD's across campus, but if you would like to use your personal printer, you may, if it is compatible with the new systems
 5. Over the next year, they will be working on implementing wireless abilities in the classrooms to use the laptops in the classrooms, but the desktops are currently also available. The goal is to streamline use.
 6. Lock Haven has been more heavily transitioned already, but all older computers are scheduled to be replaced
 7. This is the current industry standard- mobility first design. What is the estimated cost? Each laptop and docking station is about \$1200. 3,000 access points were deployed. A classroom costs anywhere \$15-\$50k, depending on the set-up. The expenses from this summer were all auxiliary money, about \$1000 per access point. It was \$2.8 million- the original cost was \$17 million, but they were able to get it down to \$2.8 million. How are the faculty computers, etc being paid for? Half from Provost's Office, half from E&G and the Tech fee dollars
 8. These changes will happen during semester breaks
 9. Please complete the classroom tech survey, which was sent out in July
- C. Advancement Committee (K. Shively):
 - i. Committee has not met
 - ii. MUMF raised \$800k in 2026, \$280k of that was for scholarships at MU
 - iii. Endowment is up to \$3.2 million
 - iv. A form is available for LA scholarship donation; following up regarding weblink
- D. DEI Committee (X. Zhou): No Report
- E. Finance Committee (T. Welch): No Report
- F. Student Affairs Committee (L. Stocks / **C. Paddick**): No Report
 - i. First Year Experience Subcommittee (J. Demchak):
 1. New director, Karen Hammond from BU

V. Constituency Reports

- A. Alumni and Professional Engagement (D. Donlick and N. Lefelhoc):
 - i. See the slides
- B. Athletics (A. Petko):
 - i. Thank you to Facilities
 - ii. Women's Soccer team won today
- C. Center for Teaching and Learning (J. Demchak):
 - i. Back at School sessions the past two days, they were recorded
 - ii. Please read the weekly CTL emails

- iii. Let Jen know if there's anything she can do to help
- D. Student Government (N. Bliss):
 - i. First meeting is tonight
- E. Leadership (G. Sechrist / M. Kiec / L. Sharpe / J. Osgood):
 - i. Sechrist: thank you to Facilities, IT staff, all who moved
 - ii. Jeff:
 1. this was a tough budget cycle, but we have received another \$28 million, so we are now debt-free. CU got about \$38 million, and the legislature said we could take \$26-28 of it to pay the debt, and move some cash from Auxiliary to pay the rest. The other \$10 million was earmarked for Bloomsburg. (The Legislature gave the state system a one-time appropriation of about \$73 million, and we got \$38 of that)
 2. Retrenchment letter: not retrenching last year cost us \$13 million. This year will be another \$13 million. The previous administration designed a failed scholarship strategy which cost us hugely
 3. FY28 budget must be balanced- revenues must balance with expenditures.
 4. He wanted to get to 1209 employees with retirements, but we did not. We are at about 1306. A quarter of the faculty are eligible for retirement
 5. Since 2017, we've reduced the workforce by 30%, but those cuts only account for a 13% drop in base salaries, b/c average salary has increased by 25%
 6. In the last ten years, we had 7 years without a tuition increase
 7. These things, in combination with enrollment decline, make the budget impossible
 8. Chancellor has implemented a new metric (instead of the student faculty ratio)- faculty compensation cannot exceed 100% of net tuition and revenue, at all PASSHE institutions. Right now, faculty salaries at CU are 120% of net tuition and revenue.
 - a. There are four levers- reduce the number of temps (but we have very few of those), increase class size, reduce the amount we spend on university-funded scholarships, reduce number of faculty
 - b. If we don't touch the workforce, the estimate for '27-28 is, we need to cut about \$17 million from the budget. 74% of the budget is personnel
 - c. At MU in particular, we have very high needs for our physical plant. North Hall needs repairs. The football field is beyond its life cycle, and it's \$1 million to replace, but a large portion of our students are athletes.
 - d. We were projecting running out of cash in April, and were working on getting a line of credit to get us through, but we think we will be able to make it without the line of credit. We are looking at cash flow analysis every two weeks.
 - e. We need to work on getting buildings off line before we can repair the steam pipes- they will not release the money to repair the steam system until we know which buildings don't need that connection any more
 - f. There will be a town hall Sept. 14, and there will be regularly scheduled town halls

- g. Primary driver for retrenchment is seniority, secondary is ability to teach the coursework. The vast majority of faculty at MU have been here 7 years or more. For other bargaining units, it is campus-based
- h. We got here due to a lack of funding and due to failures in the way integration was implemented
- i. There will be a one for one exchange within the bargaining unit for any retirements beyond the expected number of retirements
- j. The first retrenchment letters have to be issued by Oct. 30. The plan will be for all faculty letters to be out on or before Oct. 30. Faculty with a retrenchment letter on the table have preferential hiring at all PASSHE schools, which is one of the reasons all letters will be issued as soon as possible, to make more MU faculty eligible for that preferential hiring. Staff retrenchment letters will be issued closer to Jan. 1, 2027.
 - i. Is there a way, during retrenchment, to move faculty around so they are in the places they belong? It is management's obligation to find work for faculty wherever they are.
 - ii. The email we received today is an opportunity for faculty to say that they are qualified to teach something else
 - iii. He said management cannot force you to teach at another campus (note from post-meeting discussion: but you can be retrenched if you don't)

VI. Open Forum

VII. Remarks for the Good of the Order

VIII. Adjournment Adrienne 5:16

Fall 2026 CU Senate and Local Assembly Meetings		
Mansfield Local Assembly	Thursday, August 27	3 pm in Butler 163 and via Zoom
Lock Haven Local Assembly	Thursday, September 3	3 pm in Willis 118 and via Zoom
Bloomsburg Local Assembly	Wednesday, September 9	3 pm in Hartline G42 and via Zoom
CU Senate Executive	Thursday, September 24	3 pm via Zoom
CU Senate (first reading of policy)	Thursday, October 1	3 pm via Zoom
Mansfield Local Assembly	Thursday, October 8	3 pm in Butler 163 and via Zoom
Lock Haven Local Assembly	Thursday, October 15	3 pm in Willis 118 and via Zoom
Bloomsburg Local Assembly	Wednesday, October 21	3 pm in Hartline G42 and via Zoom
CU Senate Executive	Thursday, November 12	3 pm via Zoom
CU Senate (second reading of policy)	Thursday, November 19	3 pm via Zoom