CU Senate Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 1 at 3:00 pm

https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/j/98797436711?pwd=ghXhXdswTAaBeJZyRompYan75CUtKA.1&from=addon

Meeting ID: 987 9743 6711 / Passcode: 735079

Participants: Amy Senefelder, Sarah Segraves, Heidi Warner, Kathy Kollar-Valovage, Robin Rockey, Doreen Jowi, Brad Lint, Jennifer Demchak, Mark Decker, Kerrie DeVries, Natalie Bliss, Kristin Vincenzes, Heather Feldhaus, Steven Miller, Karen Stefaniak, Dawn Ritter, Christopher Lapos, Tena Maurer, Jessy Defenderfer, Karinne Force, Judith Harry, Deborah Thomas, George Rusczyk, Jenna Spaid, Rebecca Baker, Michael McFarland, Annjane Ross, Jason Genovese, Tina Dorshefski, Stephen Lee, Tess Fosse, Peggy Carl, Kenneth Hall, Bob Sandow, Brett Comstock, Rebecca Garman, Maegen Borzok, Dain TePoel, Rick Lilla, Rachel Shaffer, David DeVallance, Rick Goulet, Lisa Sharpe, Ashlyn Boob, Taylor Donahue, Bill Kluge, Jeanne Kagle, Lynda Michaels, Elizabeth Dickinson, Nicholas Delaney, Lam Nguyen, Kevin Range, Stanley Berard, Amy Cunningham, Nichole Lefelhoc, Jeff Osgood, Stephanie Lamon, Erin Kennedy, Angela Boswell, George Abango, Sherry Moore, Barb Rossi, Melinda Phillips, Kelly Foran, Monica Johnson, Kristi Getty, Nichole Book, Julie Cimino, Amanda Sanko, Dan Knorr, Karri Verno, Sara Barchik, Curtis Grenoble, Emmy Borst, Brooke Harlowe, Carina Howell, Samantha Jo Holler, Karen Hamman, Peter Campbell, Julie Kontos, Brandy Hower, Michelle Lockwood, Andrea Swain, Taylor Donahue, Melinda Phillips.

I. **Call to Order:** Brad Lint, CU Senate President, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

II. **Approval of Minutes** (April 9, 2026 Meeting): Mark Decker made a motion to approve the April 9, 2026, meeting minutes. Lam Nguyen seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.

III. **Announcements:** Brad Lint welcomed Senate members and reviewed the Senate structure, policy workflow, and upcoming schedule. The current policy review period will remain open through October 26th at noon, with committees having additional time to review feedback before the November 9th draft deadline. Lint encouraged members to participate in the policy review process and emphasized the importance of reviewing policies that affect their constituencies.

Lint also noted that Senate had completed 53 policies over the previous three academic years and thanked the Academic Policy Committee and other committees for their work. He encouraged members to approach the current work with collegiality, compassion, understanding, and forgiveness.

I.V. Senate Committee Reports

A. **Executive Committee**

i. **Elections Subcommittee:** Nicholas Delaney reported that Elections Subcommittee bylaws had been submitted and would be posted on the Senate website. Because these are new bylaws, they do not require ratification. Existing committee bylaws that have been revised will require a simple majority vote of Senate Executive Committee.

ii. **Space and Facilities Subcommittee:** Nichole Book reported that the committee met and is updating its bylaws. The committee is forming working groups to address three policies targeted for November: Key Control, Disposal and Movement of Fixed Assets and Equipment, and Mandatory Fire Controls. The Interim Inclement Weather Policy was also identified for first reading.

B. **Academic Policy Committee**: No report

i. **Enrollment Management Subcommittee:** Christopher Lapos reported that the committee is working on the Regulation of Credit Card Marketing Policy and the Conferral of Posthumous Degrees Policy. The committee plans to continue its work and move drafts forward for a future first reading.

ii. **IT Subcommittee:** No report

C. Advancement Committee: Jason Genovese reported that the committee met and received updates from each campus. The committee is establishing working groups for the four newly assigned policies.

D. DEIB Committee: Kenneth Hall reported that the committee is meeting monthly and reviewing the Affirmed Gender Marker Policy, Sexual Misconduct Policy, and Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Senate leadership noted that faculty representatives are still needed from Mansfield and Lock Haven to serve through the next election cycle.

E. Finance Committee: Lisa Sharpe reported that the committee will meet October 9th to review bylaws and policies and to provide an overview of the budget and budget process.

F. Student Affairs Committee: Karen Stefaniak reported that the committee is establishing working groups for the Alcohol Policy, Fraternity, Sorority, and Life Recognition and Operations Policy, Smoking Policy, and Pet Policy.

i. **First Year Experience Subcommittee:** Jennifer Demchak reported that the committee is preparing an update to the FYS exemption policy and developing a Qualtrics student survey to serve as a new assessment tool. The committee meets bi-weekly.

V. Policy

A. First Reading: The following policies were opened for the 25-day Senate review and feedback period. No votes were taken on first reading.

i. CARE Team (Behavioral Intervention Team) Policy: Nicholas Delaney raised concerns regarding confidentiality and the ability of certain CARE Team members, including counseling and health center representatives, to share information. George Rusczyk reported that prior feedback had been incorporated into the draft, with additional confirmation to follow.

ii. Drug Policy

iii. Audit Policy

iv. Course Repeat Policy

v. Credit Hour Policy

vi. Grading System Policy

vii. Graduate Admissions, Withdrawal, Course Repeat, Transfer, and Graduation Requirements Policy

viii. Graduation Application Policy: Mark Decker asked when students are allowed to apply for graduation according to section 4.1. Jessy Defenderfer said that the policy recognized the deadline and says 15 days prior.

ix. Undergraduate Academic Renewal Policy: Robin Rocky raised a concern about students trying to return after a long absence. Students could be stuck with old course grades that no longer exist. Brooke Harlowe explained that the policy was intended primarily to help students returning after academic difficulty—not necessarily to help someone qualify for a particular major—Robin said she would send Brooke examples illustrating the problem.

x. Undergraduate Dual Degree and Dual Major Policy: Erin Kennedy asked how the determination that two programs are sufficiently differentiated would be made. Jessy Defenderfer indicated that the question would be taken back to the Academic Policy Committee. Kennedy also asked about the credit-hour requirements for dual degrees; discussion clarified that students may pursue both degrees with 120 credits under current requirements.

xi. Interim Graduate Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Policy: The policy was identified as ready to move forward for first reading following discussion of its prior issuance and posting history.

xii. Interim Inclement Weather Policy: The policy was confirmed as ready to proceed through the Senate review process.

Brad Lint reminded members that first reading begins the review process and that no vote occurs at this stage. Feedback may be submitted through the Senate feedback form and through CourseDog. The policies will proceed through the three local assemblies before the feedback period closes.

B. Interim Policy

i. Interim Policy Process: Brad Lint reviewed the seven-step process for interim policies. The process includes submission of a draft, Executive Committee consultation, issuance, posting, assignment to a responsible Senate committee, first reading and feedback, and second reading and Senate action. Interim policies remain operational while under review. At second reading, Senate may endorse, amend, table, return, or not endorse an interim policy.

ii. Backlog: The Executive Committee has been reviewing interim policies that became stalled during the issuance, posting, or committee-review stages. The goal is to identify the responsible committee and move each policy through the process. Interim policies remain operational while awaiting review.

   a. Interim University Fee Approval: The policy had completed the initial stages and was ready to move forward.

   b. Interim Digital Accessibility: The policy remains in the review process, with follow-up regarding its documentation and status.

   c. Interim Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct: The policy remains in the interim-policy review process.

   d. Interim Graduate Academic Progress, Probation, Dismissal, and Renewal: The policy was discussed as part of the backlog and will continue through the process when the responsible committee is ready.

   e. Interim Elections Policy: The Elections Subcommittee accepted responsibility for moving the policy forward either as part of the constitution or policy review.

The interim policy backlog was considered cleared for continued processing, with follow-up work remaining. CourseDog is expected to reduce issues related to multiple versions, missing documentation, and posting status.

C. Consent Agenda: Subsequent Degrees Policy was placed on the consent agenda. No concerns were raised about retaining the policy on the consent agenda.

D. Second Reading: None

E. Withdrawn Policies: None

VI. Open Forum

A. CU Common Time: Brad Lint opened discussion regarding the possibility of establishing a common time across Commonwealth University. Members discussed the different common-time practices that existed on the three campuses before integration, including Bloomsburg's Friday 3:00–5:00 pm time, Lock Haven's Tuesday/Thursday 12:30–2:00 pm time, and Mansfield's Tuesday/Thursday 11:30 am–1:00 pm time.

Discussion included the potential benefits of a common time for faculty governance, student organizations, committees, and campus activities; the challenges created by existing class schedules, labs, studios, and different faculty teaching assignments; and the possibility of developing a CU Central Calendar in conjunction with a common-time initiative.

The discussion was informational and exploratory; no vote was taken. Lint proposed continuing the discussion at the three local assemblies and considering whether a Senate resolution should eventually be developed. Members emphasized the importance of including student perspectives and hearing from those who may have concerns with a common-time proposal.

B. General Questions, Comments, Discussion: Mark Decker raised the issue of emeritus faculty access to offices and software. Dan Knorr reported that discussions were underway to better align technology and software access with the University's emeritus policy and that additional communication would be provided.

VII. **Remarks for the Good of the Order:** Brad Lint encouraged members to practice compassion, calm, rest, and healing during a period of heightened tensions. He emphasized the importance of supporting students, colleagues, and one another and working together across Commonwealth University.

Michelle Lockwood announced a new exhibit, *That Which Cannot Be Spoken*, by artist and printmaker John Fitzsimmons at the Loomis Gallery in Allen Hall at Mansfield. An artist talk and reception are scheduled for October 22nd.

VIII. **Adjournment:** Mark Decker made a motion to adjourn. Michelle Lockwood seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

AY 2026-27 CU Senate Schedule

Fall 2026 CU Senate and Local Assembly Meetings		
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	Thursday, November 19	3 pm via Zoom

Policy Draft and Feedback Deadlines:
Fall feedback by noon Monday, October 26
Fall first/second reading draft in Coursedog by noon Monday, November 9

Spring 2027 CU Senate and Local Assembly Meetings		
Mansfield Local Assembly	Thursday, January 21	3 pm in Butler 163 and via Zoom
Lock Haven Local Assembly	Thursday, January 28	3 pm in Willis 118 and via Zoom
Bloomsburg Local Assembly	Wednesday, February 3	3 pm in Hartline G42 and via Zoom
CU Senate Executive	Thursday, February 18	3 pm via Zoom
CU Senate	Thursday, February 25	3 pm via Zoom
Mansfield Local Assembly	Thursday, March 4	3 pm in Butler 163 and via Zoom
Lock Haven Local Assembly	Thursday, March 18	3 pm in Willis 118 and via Zoom
Bloomsburg Local Assembly	Wednesday, March 24	3 pm in Hartline G42 and via Zoom
CU Senate Executive	Thursday, April 15	3 pm via Zoom
CU Senate	Thursday, April 22	3 pm via Zoom

Policy Draft and Feedback Deadlines:
Spring first/second draft in Coursedog by noon Monday, February 15
Spring feedback by noon Monday, March 29
Spring first/second reading draft due in Coursedog by noon Monday, April 12