

CU SENATE MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Date: April 9, 2026

Session: AY 2025-26, Spring semester Meeting II

Time: 3 pm

Location: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://commonwealthu->

[edu.zoom.us/j/91350788014?pwd=iGK7oWToyHxVocbj0txXpV243YUxXb.1&from=addon](https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/j/91350788014?pwd=iGK7oWToyHxVocbj0txXpV243YUxXb.1&from=addon)

Participants: Mohamed Abdallah, Hunter Hartford, George Agbango, Karen Stefaniak, Peggy Carl, Rick Goulet, Heather Feldhaus, Karen Hamman, Lam Nguyen, Justin Madaus, Jeanne Kagle, Rebecca Baker, Sarah Harry, Nichole Book, Barb Rossi, Matt McKeague, Blair Brown, Michelle Lockwood, Tess Fosse, Erin Kennedy, Kimberly Harris, Trinity Werstler, Heidi Warner, Samantha Jo Holler, Mark Decker, Brooke Harlowe, Doug Spatafore, Eric Hawrelak, Nichole Lefelhoc, Rebecca Willoughby, Terina Oman, Stanley Berard, Emmy Borst, Brett Comstock, Christopher Lapos, Jessy Defenderfer, Zebulun Davenport, Cori Myers, Brad Swenson, Mary Feeney, Curtis Grenoble, Brad Lint, Matt Slotkin, Taylor Tyczka, Jackie Borst, Kerrie DeVries, Kristin Vincenzes, Lisa Sharpe, Stephen Lee, Kenneth Hall, Michael McFarland, Stacy Wagner, Deborah Thomas, Rick Lilla, Gay Anne Spezialetti, Pamela Kathcart, Glorianne Dziuba, Bob Sandow, Erik Evans, George Rusczyk, Nicholas Delaney, Michelle Kiec, Gretchen Osterman, Annjane Ross, Carina Howell, Karri Verno, Cathy Workman, Maegen Borzok, Denise Chaytor-Zugarek, Rodger Benefiel, Adrienne McEvoy, Dan Knorr, Kara Workman, Robin Rockey, Julie Kontos, Melinda Phillips, Peter Campbell, Richa Sharma, Lisa Lister, Ashley A. Pechek.

- I. Call to order: Rick Goulet, (CU Senate President) called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.
- II. Announcements: Heidi Warner, (Executive Associate of the President's office CU) shared that additional updates to CourseDog will be made over the summer.
- III. Approval of Minutes (February 19, 2026 meeting): Approved by acclamation.
<https://www.commonwealthu.edu/documents/draft-senate-agenda-2-19-26-minutes>
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee: Rick Goulet items discussed during previous Executive Committee meeting.
 - B. Academic Policy Committee: Jessy Defenderfer, (Associate Professor Political Science, CU) said that the committee would be discussing members and terms during next meeting.
 - C. IT Subcommittee: Matthew McKeague, (Associate Professor Media & Journalism, CU) commented on who will be next committee chair.
 - D. Enrollment Management Subcommittee: Christopher Lapos, (Associate VP Undergrad & Transfer Admis, CU) reported that they met in March and had a great discussion.
 - E. Advancement Committee: Erik Evans, (VP Univ Advancement, CU) reviewed their campaign feedback and who the new committee members will be.

- F. DEI Committee: Kenny Hall, (Chief Diversity Equity Inclusion Officer, CU) stated that there has not been much movement in their committee.
- G. Finance Committee: Eric Hawrelak, (Professor Chemistry, CU) stated that they met the week of April 6th and heard from new CFO, Lisa Sharpe. Thanked Bob Thorn for his time as interim CFO. Working on a policy for next year.
- H. Student Affairs Committee: Karen Stefaniak, (Asst Dir/Student and Residence Life LO, CU) reported that she has transitioned to being the new chair and is looking to have a meeting before the end of the semester.
- I. First Year Experience Subcommittee: Rebecca Willoughby, (Assistant Professor, CU) held two informational sessions for FYS on changes that will be implemented for Fall 2026. Working on the exemption policy for fall.
- J. Elections Subcommittee: Nicholas Delaney, (Instructor, CU) stated that the elections closed on April 8th and Senate will be updated soon.
- K. Space and Facilities Subcommittee: Stacy Wagner, (Chief Facilities & Safety Officer, CU) said they held successful individual campus committee meetings.

V. Interim Policies: none

VI. First Readings: none

VII. Second Readings: [Click here for link to 2nd readings](#)

- A. Academic Distinction Policy: Tess Fosse, (Chief Accessibility Officer, CU) made a motion. Adrienne McEvoy, (Associate Professor Philosophy, CU) seconded it. Policy passed.
- B. Final Examination Policy: Brooke Harlowe, (Professor Political Science, CU) said that they updated the policy name, added the superseded policy number and put a cap on the final grade weight. There is a priority system for students with more than one exam. Tess Fosse made a motion. Rebecca Willoughby seconded it. Erin Kennedy, (Professor Psychology, CU) asked about the language on no assessment in finals week. Brooke Harlowe said it is defined in the definitions. Policy passed.
- C. Declaration of Academic Major and Minor Policy: Tess Fosse made a motion. Karen Hamman, (Associate Professor, CU) seconded it. Policy passed.
- D. Add/Drop Policy: Tess Fosse made a motion. Karen Hamman seconded it. Policy passed.
- E. Attendance Policy: Tess Fosse explained that there were substantial changes made to this policy. Mark Decker, (Professor Dept Chair, CU) made a motion. Erin Kennedy seconded it. She then commented on section 5.3 being confusing and unnecessary. Tess Fosse explained the necessity because not everyone will be willing to work with students. Brooke Harlowe made a motion to strike section 5.3. Erin Kennedy seconded. Motion does not pass. Brooke Harlowe suggested moving section 5 out of policy and making it a procedure. Tess Fosse made a motion to approve the policy without Section 5. Adrienne McEvoy seconded it. Policy passed.
- F. Commencement Participation Policy: Tess Fosse made a motion. Emmy Borst, (Executive Director of Student Success, CU) seconded it. Policy passed.

- G. Academic Grievance Policy: Brooke Harlowe made friendly amendments. Tess Fosse made a motion. Anna Turnage, (Associate Professor Comm Studies, CU) seconded it. Policy passed.
- H. Grade Appeal Policy: Brooke Harlowe made a motion. Mark Decker seconded it. Policy passed.
- I. Pass/Fail Grading Option (Undergraduate) Policy: Tess Fosse made a motion. Adrienne McEvoy seconded it. Policy passed.
- J. Student Disruptive Behavior Policy: Tess Fosse explained that they changed the title of policy and added more inclusive language. She then made a motion to approve. Adrienne McEvoy seconded it. Policy Passed.
- K. Undergraduate Student Academic Standing and Dismissal Policy: Tess Fosse made a motion. Emmy Borst seconded it. Policy passed.
- L. Americans with Disabilities Policy: Kenny Hall made a motion. Tess Fosse seconded it. Policy passed.
- M. Constitutional Amendments not on Consent Agenda: Mark Decker discussed the proposed constitutional changes. Rick Goulet made a motion to make a change to article 9. Mark Decker seconded the motion. Motion to change article 9 passed. Erin Kennedy made a motion to approve the proposed constitutional changes. Mark Decker seconded it. Motion passed.

VIII. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Records Retention Policy and Standard: Rodger Benefiel, (Associate Professor Criminal Justice, CU) made a motion. Stanley Berard, (Professor Political Science, CU) seconded it. Policy passed.
<https://www.commonwealthu.edu/documents/records-retention-policy>
<https://www.commonwealthu.edu/documents/records-retention-standard-01-18-25>
- B. Constitutional Amendments – Changes to Articles II, IV, V, and Basic Editorial Changes: Mark Decker made a motion to approve the basic editorial changes. Matthew McKeague seconded it. Stanley Berard made a motion to remove 3-A-2-A of Article 3. Marck Decker seconded it. Motion passed. Mark Decker made a motion to approve Article 6. Erin Kennedy seconded it. Motion passed. Mark Decker made a motion to approve Article 10. Erin Kennedy seconded it. Motion passed.

IX. Withdrawn Policies: none

- X. Other Business: Rick Goulet thanked the Academic Policy Committee and the DEI committee on all their hard work on policies this semester. Brad Lint, (Associate Professor, CU) thanked Rick Goulet for his term as CU President. Rick Goulet thanked all Senate Leadership.

XI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm by acclamation.