

Sul Ross State University

Faculty Senate Special Meeting – Summer 2026

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, July 27, 2026

Time: 3:35 PM - 4:51 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams Webinar Format

Meeting Type: Summer Special Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order after quorum was reached at approximately 3:37 PM by Faculty Senate President Jennifer Miller-Ray. The president thanked members for attending during the summer and noted that the agenda would focus primarily on review of proposed revisions to Faculty Handbook Policy 2.08, along with brief new business items on meeting times and the upcoming committee slate.

2. Attendance

Faculty Senate Members/Participants Present: Jennifer Miller-Ray, Jessica Velasco, Jose Mora, Maureen Frank, Bernie Cantens, Oguzhan Basibuyuk, Wesley Wynne and Billy Jack Ray. **Noted as unavailable or absent during call-up:** Ferhat Ozturk, James Cho, Minerva Gonzales, and Melissa Wesney

3. Faculty Handbook Policy 2.08 Review

The primary item of business was a detailed review of revisions to Faculty Handbook Policy 2.08, guided by President Miller-Ray.

- **Non-Tenure Track Language & Teaching Load:** Discussed broadening non-tenure track terminology beyond "instructors" (e.g., professors of practice, clinical faculty) to properly reflect equivalent 5-5 teaching loads.
- **Class Size Caps:** Reviewed proposed course caps (25–35 for undergraduate lectures, 15–25 for writing-intensive courses, and 10–15 for graduate courses) to serve as guidance, noting local room/program exceptions.
- **Remote Teaching & Office Hours:** Supported matching office hour modalities to teaching modalities for full-time remote faculty, while maintaining proportional in-person/online office hours and the 1.5 office-hours expectation for hybrid instructors.
- **Summer Teaching & Independent Studies:** Supported prioritizing non-administrative faculty for summer instruction, allowing multiple independent studies/arranged courses when necessary for student graduation, and setting a submission deadline by the 4th class day in short summer sessions.
- **Evaluation Categories & Professional Development:** Supported clarifying definitions for service, scholarly activity, and broad professional development within faculty evaluation categories.

- **Workload Tracks & Tables:** Clarified standard 4-4 tenure-track loads versus research-intensive tracks (max 2-2 load with variations like 2-1 or 1-1). Supported using Ferhat Ozturk's polished workload table and removing redundant tables.
- **Action Taken:** The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to support Policy 2.08 as presented with the discussed revisions and approved the removal of duplicate tables from the draft.

4. New Business

4.1 Regular Meeting Times for the Coming Year

President Miller-Ray proposed creating a regular calendar for Faculty Senate meetings in the coming academic year and suggested that the senate meet more regularly with the president and provost. Friday emerged as the preferred day among those present, though Thursday was also mentioned as a possible option.

Jessica Velasco suggested holding meetings earlier on Fridays, potentially from 3:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Oguzhan Basibuyuk noted that Curriculum Council typically meets on Friday afternoons beginning around 1:30 PM, and members discussed either moving that meeting later or ensuring the two groups meet on alternating weeks. The general consensus favored polling the senate and coordinating schedules to avoid conflicts.

4.2 Working Group and Committee Slate

Jessica Velasco provided an update on the committee or working-group slate based on survey responses she had compiled. She explained that she had sorted responses by working group, identified faculty already serving, and noted where some groups required full-time or full-professor status.

She also raised the issue of cross-college representation, observing that several working groups did not currently include representation from each college. She suggested that the senate consider whether broader college representation should be a goal when finalizing the slate for the new academic year.

5. Adjournment

After concluding discussion of Policy 2.08 and the brief new business items, the meeting moved toward adjournment. President Miller-Ray thanked all attendees for their time and engagement. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:51 PM.

Minutes Prepared By

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Date Prepared: 08/13/2026