

Faculty Association Minutes

November 18, 2025

MB2R7 and Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM

1. Welcome from Faculty Association Chair, Professor Donald Ross (BIT)
2. Staff Award
 - a. Presented to Eleanora Palen
3. Special Guest: VP for Information Technology, Innovation and Workforce, Mr. Michael Widell
 - a. Expressed desire for faculty input on improving employability of graduating students while working with Career Services and would also
 - b. Open door policy
 - c. Here to support what faculty need to be effective for our students
4. Approval of October 2025 meeting Minutes
 - a. Passed with the following votes:
 - i. Yay – 17 (in room) + 9 (Zoom)
 - ii. Nay – 0
 - iii. Abstain– 1 (Zoom)
5. Treasurer Report (Paul Buckelew)
 - a. Membership – 59 paid members currently
 - b. Balances
 - i. MidFirst Operating Fund
 1. \$11,088.72 (includes money raised from Chili Cook Off, which will be moved to the expendable fund in the near future)
 - ii. Endowed Fund: \$14,896.08 (9/30/24)
 1. Updated Expendable (Scholarship) Fund: \$11,317.11
 - c. Approval of Treasurer Report
 1. Zoom poll is not working. Will postpone vote to approve November Treasurer Report at next meeting.
6. Scholarship Committee
 - a. The Chili Cook Off raised \$1507.32 in scholarship money!
 - i. Presentation of gift bags on behalf of President Jones to Chili Cook Off first through third place winners.
 - ii. Chili ran out within first 90 minutes (with 11 donated chilis). May consider expanding chili donations beyond faculty.

- b. Reminder that nominations for the Fall 25 Faculty Association Scholarship are currently open. Application (including nomination) due Fri. 11/21/25.
- 7. Chair Report
 - a. President Meeting
 - i. Out of State Tuition Ruling for Undocumented Students
 1. Backdated to beginning of Fall 2025
 2. Approximately 30-40 students affected
 3. Federal government prevents institutional fundraising for this purpose
 4. A willing 501(c)3 nonprofit could potentially help cover these costs for students
 - b. VPAA Meeting
 - i. Food Pantry Drive
 1. Will run during the first eight weeks of Spring 2026 with all donations collected at March meeting
 2. Prior to the drive beginning, Chair Ross will contact Food Pantry to determine greatest needs.
 - ii. Academic Calendar Review
 1. Any faculty feedback should be sent to Chair Ross this week so that it can be shared with Assistant VPAA Jack.
 2. No Fall Break in next academic year.
 3. Spring 2027 – Due to holidays, Monday classes will lose 2 class periods. While this affects 16-week classes, it will have a larger impact on early 8-week classes. Instructors of Monday courses (especially those with required hands-on components, labs, or once weekly hybrid meetings) affected by Monday holiday closures may plan ahead to meet on a “make up day”. If using this option, the make-up day must be included in the literal for course catalog as well as syllabus. This will allow students to know about required days before enrolling and choose a section accordingly.
- 8. Open Issues
 - a. A faculty member raised a concern about consistent service recognition
 - i. May not receive service recognition during Convocation in timely manner. Example – 10th year of service may not be recognized until year 12 if begin employment after start of fiscal year.
 - b. Another faculty member raised a concern about lack of ease with finding one’s annual income and contract in the Portal.

- c. A suggestion was made for Spring silent auction baskets to include a minimum bid. Members present agreed.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM