Milgard School of Business - Faculty Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, May 8, 2026

Time: 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM

Location: Milgard Hall Room 301

Attendees: Stephen Norman, Marion Eberly, Juliet Cao, Evy Shankus, Jinlan Ni, Fei Leng, Howard Smith, Michael Turek, Arindam Tripathy, Arthur Jago, Gary Viers, Daniel Bryan, Alireza Boloori, Ben Chen, Juan Wu, Ray Fang, Zoe Barsness, Abel Hernandez, Shalini Jain, Altaf Merchant, Stan Emert

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous Faculty Meeting were approved.

II. Non Voting Items

A. Dean's Updates (Altaf Merchant)

- Student achievements and engagement were highlighted, including the CSR case competition team placing third, the continued impact of VITA, four Milgard students being named to Husky 100, a Milgard student receiving the President's Medal, strong participation in the business plan competition and career fairs, and broader student participation in Husky Hacks and related events.
- Altaf reported ongoing fundraising and advancement work with the Milgard Executive Council as UW prepares for a multi-year campaign. Priority fundraising areas include the Milgard Success Center, Entrepreneurship Center, and Center for Financial Wellness.
- Academic outreach work continues, including China based relationship building for possible study abroad, faculty research connections, and AI related learning opportunities. Additional partnership possibilities were noted with a potential Fulbright visitor from France and with a fintech company interested in student projects and analytics work.
- Faculty leadership training and communication workshops are being explored for faculty leaders and the broader school community.
- Altaf announced an administrative change: Marion Eberly will return to the faculty for personal reasons, and Juliet Cao will continue as Associate Dean. Altaf thanked Marion for her intellectual contributions and service in the role.

B. Associate Deans' Updates

1. AACSB, Graduate Enrollment, and EMP 2.0 (Juliet Cao)

- Juliet reported that a new AACSB Peer Review Team chair has been identified, with the visit scheduled for Spring 2027. Work continues on data tables, report writing, Assurance of Learning materials, and monthly check-ins.
- Graduate enrollment trends remain challenging nationally and across campus. Juliet summarized current MSB graduate enrollment activity, including accepted and pending offers in MBA, MSAcc, and MCL, and noted that MSB is continuing recruitment and pipeline-building work in a difficult market.
- The Essentials of Management Program (EMP) refresh is being developed with input from the MEC workshop earlier and in-depth meetings with a MEC member with extensive experience of executive education. Abel Hernanzez helped with initial revisions. A revised curriculum plan is expected to be shared with MEC in June, with rollout targeted for the next academic year.

2. Undergraduate Enrollment, Strategic Planning, Workload, and Merit Review (Marion Eberly)

- Marion reported undergraduate enrollment activity, including transfer applications, offers, and acceptances, as well as direct admit acceptances. Outreach includes student engagement videos and collaboration with UW Tacoma Admissions.
- Strategic planning workshops generated substantial feedback. The next step is to draft an initial set of goals and gather additional feedback.
- The Workload Task Force is finalizing recommended factors for faculty workload and overload considerations, including service needs and distribution across the school. Recommendations are expected at the next Faculty Meeting.
- Merit review materials and reminders will be sent in advance of the upcoming merit review process.
- In response to a question about workload data, Marion noted that the task force has primarily been working with 2020-2025 data and was not yet certain whether current-year data would be included.

C. Financial Update (Jaime Core)

- Jaime summarized the school's constrained AY25-26 budget environment, noting that General Operating Funds are almost entirely salary driven and leave very limited operating flexibility.
- The first half of the year involved recovering more than $800,000 in overpayments and allocation mistakes. The school has also reduced spending on events, food, parking, and other discretionary areas.
- Staffing has been reduced by six positions, and the school now has 18 staff. Despite these reductions, nearly all programs and events have been sustained.
- Year to date expenses in non appropriated funds are down approximately 30%. The school is currently projecting a GOF deficit of about $125,000, expects substantially less summer support, and is still awaiting final information about budget cut requirements for next year.

III. Voting Items

A. Delegation of Authority to Faculty Council

Proposal: Delegate specified authority to Faculty Council rather than bringing those items to the full faculty. Marion noted that this delegation must be renewed annually.

Outcome: Approved with all but one voting member in favor and one abstention.

B. MSAcc Refresh

Proposal: Approve the MSAcc refresh presented by Daniel Bryan, following Graduate Program Committee approval. Daniel described the changes as responsive to program needs and intended to improve program quality.

Outcome: Motion by Daniel Bryan; second by Gary Viers. Approved unanimously.

C. UPC Items

1. Retirement of 100-Level Placeholder Courses

Proposal: Retire unused 100-level placeholder courses. Gary Viers explained that the placeholders have not been used and do not contain course content; future special topics or shell courses could be created through the normal course approval process if needed.

Discussion: Faculty discussed whether retaining placeholders would preserve useful flexibility, whether existing course numbers such as TBUS 101/102 served a different purpose, and whether academic services staff should be consulted. The discussion also noted that no current student progression issue appears to depend on the unused placeholders.

Outcome: Motion by Gary Viers; second by Alireza Boloori. Approved unanimously.

2. TBUS 495 ESG: A Global View

Proposal: Approve TBUS 495 ESG: A Global View as a permanent undergraduate course and MSAcc elective. Gary Viers and Arindam Tripathy noted that the course has been offered successfully as a pilot, attracts students from across UW campuses, and must become permanent to continue.

Discussion: Faculty expressed support for the course and the value students receive from it.

Outcome: Motion by Gary Viers; second by Arindam Tripathy. Approved unanimously.

IV. Canvas Access Issue

- Faculty discussed fluctuating Canvas access and were encouraged to download gradebooks as soon as access permits.
- Faculty noted that rosters can be accessed through the BI Portal or MyUW if Canvas remains unavailable, and discussed the need for consistent student communication.
- Discussion included possible short-term responses such as assignment extensions, follow-up messages to students, and alternate submission plans if the outage continues.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.