

Academic Senate

Eastern Washington University

Minutes of February 23, 2026

Senators Present: B. Shaw, S. Finnie, L. Matos, B. Grinder, B. Lundgren, J. Klein, G. Sinekopova, E. Rodriguez-Marek, L. Speer, M. Breen, M. Holmgren, A. Van Wig, T. Haskins, G. Kenney, M. Binney, J. Ellsworth, M. Breen, M. Holmgren, A. Van Wig, T. Haskins, G. Kenney, M. Binney, J. Ellsworth, P. Porter, L. MacKenzie, L. Cebula, S. Milton, D. Garraway, M. Winer, J. Durfee, S. Wachtel, K. Garrison, H. Lott, N. Li, D. Sitzman, H. Hillman, L. Anidi, V. Loke, P. Gerber

Officers: G. Hustrulid, B. Idsardi, C. Tyllia, K. Taylor

University Officials: S. McMahan, L. Smith, L. Jarnagin, C. Portillo, C. Jensen, K. Edquist, C. Castillo-Garsow, J. Smith

1. Call to Order. a. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by G. Hustrulid, Faculty Organization President.

2. Chair's Report. G. Hustrulid report can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q0Eluzh6jknauySYZ3ayxVwV09lVnVGw/view?usp=sharing>

3. Approval of Consent Agenda including Minutes of February 9, 2026. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

4. ASEWU. C. Jensen reported: a. ASEWU has two final Senate meetings for the quarter on March 2nd and March 9th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in PUB 207. On March 2nd they will be sharing their February monthly report on what each individual senator has been working on. b. The Diversity and Social Justice Chair for ASEWU is hosting the Multiculturalism event next Wednesday, March 4th in PUB MCR from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to see the highlighted clubs that will be there. Everyone is welcome to attend.

5. UFE. K. Edquist reported: I'm pleased to announce that the UFE will resume bargaining with Management on March 10. We will be communicating with our members after that meeting and hope to hold a members' meeting before Spring break. In the meantime, the UFE has continued to serve its members and the bargaining unit. Actions have included • ensuring that the Provost's office maintains final signatory power on FAPs, as required by the CBA. We appreciate the Provost's help on this issue. • meeting with Management at the Joint Labor-Management Committee (JLMC). At this meeting, the UFE brought forward several concerns faculty have raised with us. They include 1. Workload approval processes and communication with faculty 2. Artificial Intelligence and its use in faculty work 3. The use of surveillance technology in the Quad on Jan. 21 4. Other issues pertinent to specific faculty The UFE has also fielded questions and requests for advice about tenure and promotion, assisted with workload and discipline concerns, and continued to represent two faculty in formal investigations.

6. Budget. C. Tyllia reported: thank you for the questions that he has forwarded to VP Baca. They will be meeting to discuss those next week. If you have any other questions or comments, please send them to him at ctyllia@ewu.edu

7. Administrative Reports. President. S. McMahan reported she wants to give a huge shout-out to the Faculty Organization representatives at the Thursday BOT meeting where they

Academic Senate

Eastern Washington University

Minutes of February 23, 2026

had a wonderful discussion. The Board is quite happy and want to make be involved. She would like to give a huge shout-out to the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences for their Jess Walter Week. A nomination came in for Jess Walter to receive his honorary doctorate which will be announced at the commencement ceremony in June. **Provost.** L. Smith reported he continues to work with many different stakeholders to help refine the PAMCAM model. He continues to work with the PAMCAM group and has a meeting with them on Friday. They are going to bring some really good questions and continue to bring analysis to help the model get better. He met with many different faculty members, individually and collectively, last week. He held three PAMCAM learning sessions that were well attended. He did feel the session were rushed but hopefully they were useful. They are continuing to consult with as many stakeholders as possible and recognize that people want to use it or at least understand how it is being used. The deans do have access to it as do the associate deans. As soon as he gets the green light from the PAMCAM focus group and the Office of Institutional Research, he will send it out. It's very important to him that your colleagues who you've selected to serve on that PAMCAM focus group have an opportunity to carefully look at it and to give their stamp of approval before it is sent out. He sent a PAMCAM user manual out over the weekend which has some pretty good content in it. He has found a few typos, so he is in the process of working on revisions. If you have any questions, please let him know. PAMCAM is useful for program management, supporting decision making around academic program management, budget development, course scheduling, informs decisions around assigned time, etc. They are continuing their work on the Academic Master Plan and recently sent out a survey. We are going to be distributing the results of those once they are processed. We're going to use that to inform some of the decision making that we need to make regarding the academic program portfolio. He would like to point out that the discussion around the 3-year degree option, his intention is not for all programs to be that way. If we find that there are opportunities for certain curriculum to transform from a 4-year to a 3-year we want to consider that. The momentum seems to be growing in terms of where we're going and this is part of the academic program portfolio. They are looking at online as well. Out registration to the SAM.gov website or the U.S. government website we use for registration to manage paperwork around federally funded grants and contracts has now been returned to normal. **Vice President for People and Culture.** C. Portillo reported he is happy to report this past weekend they attended an event held by Muestas Leices called "Viva Mina.

They were joined by faculty and staff, and it was a wonderful event. They had lots of fun. The wonderful thing about the organization is it's such a strong partner with Eastern Washington University. Many of their students and their interns are from EWU and it's such a joy to support an organization that cares about our students and about our community. As announced by Interim President Edquist we have a date and have decided to focus on Tuesdays as meeting dates going forward to continue the negotiation of the UFE contract. The Ascent Program is continuing to meet. It's an exciting leadership development program. A couple of people from Seante have attended in the past and are current participants. It is a wonderful leadership development program. It does bring us together, it allows us to share our common interests and to break down those barriers and biases that we do have. H. Hillman stated she appreciates they have a negotiation date of March 10th, but they are going on 175 days past their contract. Can there be something sent out about what is going on in the admin side of the negotiations? C. Portillo stated they rarely send out stuff regarding negotiations. When management sends out a message it is only if there is a different perspective than what they heard which isn't happening here. They are technically not operating without a contract because they are operating on the old

Academic Senate

Eastern Washington University

Minutes of February 23, 2026

contract with an MOU. D. Garraway stated he has been here for 23 years and they have never been this long without a new contract. It is a cop-out to say we technically have a contract. Technically we have a contract, but we've also gone almost 190 days without a new one. J. Ellsworth stated a few Senate meetings ago L. Reeves asked a question about our faculty being respected by Eastern and the BOT. I want to say that being so stubborn about this contract makes me feel not respected and valued as an Eastern faculty member. She would urge administration the next time you bargain to think about it from that perspective. C. Portillo stated he wants to ensure you know we do respect faculty. There have been extenuating circumstances that have been shared with Senate, and they are trying really hard to find mutually agreeable dates and bring people together. They are where we are because of actions that took place. We have never been in a situation like this before. We are in a unique situation and hope to never be in this situation again. L. Mac Menzie stated she is glad the SAM.gov has been restored. Think it would be great for faculty to see there were no impacts in regard to tenure and promotion. She had a colleague that had a grant denied because of the lapse in that. Hope that they won't be held responsible for the lapse of that. L. Smith stated one thing that should be done is to document the facts and make sure that document is included in their review packet, which is his recommendation. L. Mac Kenzie stated her colleague asked about inter-Library loans and they talked about that. They are minimally staffed and there is only one person who is in charge of that. They have made cuts to online journals as it is but with the focus on undergraduate research how can we go weeks at a time without the documents. She does appreciate the Library has staffing issues but what will your office do to mitigate that in the future. L. Smith stated it is a concern. When there is an issue with inter-Library loan and they aren't able to get documents, he sees that as a temporary service. He met last week with the Library director and with Interim Dean Reedy and one of the things they confirmed the Library staff is very stretched. There could be certain pockets in the Library where they are stretched. We did have a study that came out in December 2025 that looked at the Interlibrary Loan issues with only one individual managing Interlibrary loans. There are positions that overlap in different areas and that is an important perspective to look at. They should have someone identified to be there to help during their leave but that isn't unique to the Library. They would have to recognize if they were to hire an additional person that would have to come from Academic Affairs. They would have to look at all the other positions to see if it is more important and another. We do have a budget reduction from the state and have to recognize that. They need to assess the needs of the Library more carefully. Is it reasonable to hire someone new or does it make more sense to say I wonder if any other Librarians that could step in for a week if necessary. That would be one question he would ask not only the Library but all other areas. E. Rodriguez-Marek asked who is going to keep the data from the camera that is being used? Do we own the data or the camera own the data? L. Smith stated that it is something to ask VP Baca and he isn't here today. You can ask him at the next Senate meeting. **Vice President for Student Affairs.** L. Jarnagin reported they had the opportunity to come together as a group of individuals who have the common purpose of understanding how to support our first-year students. The energy swelled as they were in Seattle. That energy and passion has stayed with them as they came back to campus. They have put together a group of people to work toward a focus for the FYS and that group will begin in fall 2026. They want to hear from everyone and will be sending out a group of surveys. The members of our group will be reaching out to those who have been teaching the FYS and will work on what a model of support for the first-year will look like. How can we support students from the time of confirmation to

Academic Senate
Eastern Washington University
Minutes of February 23, 2026

their 2nd year? They are relooking at the orientation and will be making changes to the orientation experience. That will be the first day in college and there are decisions they will need to make. Ultimately helping those 17-18 years olds, to let them know there are people who are here to support them, and they are a college student now. They see in addition to the group that will be working on fall 2026 another group that will be looking at fall 2027. They have a commitment from the provost to support the faculty in the summer if you would like to put in some time and the provost will provide funding. They have a collaborative group and looking forward to seeing where they will go in the future.

8. New Business. a. AP 303-23 Classroom Attendance; Sec 1-10 Graduate Students.

V. Loke stated he has an issue with the language that excludes weekend courses. They do have weekend classes. **This will go back to UAC at their meeting on Thursday.**

b. AP 303-30 Registration; Sec 2-5 Course Loads; b. Graduate Students. G. Hustrulid stated this change is for lowering the students being able to register for 2 days if they are in an internship, etc. This will be unfinished at the next meeting.

9. Information Items. a. FO Leadership Re-Structure Proposal. C. Castillo-Garsow and J.

Smith are reporting on this proposal. The idea is to change to a 2-year term rather than 1 year term. J. Smith stated this would give more time for the FO President to do more and would allow for people to plan further in the future. C. Castillo-Garsow stated it wasn't until spring when you figure out the best way to do things. B. Grinder stated J. Smith served more than one year. How was that? J. Smith stated she was more effective the second time around. For some people one year is all they can take. For some, one year is all they can handle and others not. More time would make people effective. The habit of not having elections as often is effective as well. L. Cebula stated two years would be great and he advocates it but maybe they can still have elections. C. Castillo-Garsow stated in the current system the past-president and they are in a mentor role to help the incoming president learn the job. They aren't on the Academic Senate and they receive no compensation. One of the abilities to get stuff done is relationships. The relationships they developed with Senators, faculty, administrators, etc. It doesn't have a lot of power but the influence on it depends on how well you work with others. Those relationships need to be maintained. L. Matos stated if we do this, we will need to have full professors. G. Hustrulid stated that is limiting the pool who could apply for the pool. We want there to be some kind of competition for those running. The limiting of semester programs who could serve since they are out earlier. L. Matos asked what the drawback would be of a system where they don't have a president-elect. J. Smith stated the one drawback is they are doing a lot of relationship building, and it would be more difficult if you weren't the president-elect. G. Hustrulid stated it is a large job and B. Idsardi was included in meetings she had with the president and provost around this time of year. It seems to work really well and the release time is different. B. Idsardi gets 12 credits release time and she gets 18. M. Holmgren stated there is release time for president/vice president, but would there be release time for the VP for Governance. J. Smith stated that is her understanding of the proposals. She will check with S. Ligon and will get back to Senate. C. Castillo-Garsow stated the VP is the role that does serve on certain committee memberships and it would make sense it would have the same release time. Will discuss this at a later meeting.

Academic Senate
Eastern Washington University
Minutes of February 23, 2026

b. PRC/PRD Recommendations from GAC. G. Hustrulid stated this was discussed in Rules about whether they should submit PRD recommendations as they come in or wait until the entire group is approved. She would like to get feedback from senators whether they should wait for the group or bring them as they are approved. L. Matos asked if she sees the benefit of bringing them forward as a slate. G. Hustrulid stated that is why she thought it should come forward. J. Ellsworth stated she would appreciate seeing them as they come in.

10. Good of the Order. **a.** S. Finnie stated the Centennial Celebration of Black Christian Month. 1926 is when Mr. Woodson started this. We have an event tomorrow and Betsy Wilkerson, the Spokane City Councilor, will talk about the challenges of the politics of change. That is from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. in HAR 201. All are invited. On the 26th they will have their annual silent auction. They will have a number of items there that will help our students in light of the recent events in Washington, D.C. so there's been a large cut in their financials. **b.** G. Hustrulid stated the Cybersecurity team competed in Texas and they got King of the Losers. They have three more competitions coming up. It was stiff competition, but the students did brilliantly. P. Porter stated March 6th is the opening of the spring play Spring Awakenings, March 6th, 7th, 13th, and 14th at 7:00 p.m., March 8th at 2:00 p.m. and the 12th at 5:00 p.m. This is a play for mature audiences only. The Spokane International Film Festival, which EWU is a presenting sponsor. That opens on March 6th and runs March 6th, 7th, and 8th. Part of the sponsorship that Eastern does for SPF is they have 30 free tickets for opening night. That will be at the Myrtle Wilson Performing Arts Center at Gonzaga University. At the Friday matinee, they will be doing a panel of local cast and crew who worked on Train Dreams, which is currently nominated for four Academic Awards of which multiple of them are EWU grads.

11. Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on March 9, 2026.