



Senate Meeting Minutes September 21, 2026

Present: Doug Holub, Genevieve Salerno, Barbara Davies, Dan Gashler, Nathan Tweedie, Brian Bean, Kari Haugeto, Carrie Fishner, Cheri Rossi, Shannon Shoemaker, Rachel Seeber, Max Dehne, Erin Wagner, Heather Schwartz, Lori Tremblay, Barbara D'Anna, David Brower, Jack Tessier, Alice Krause, Shai Butler, Marc Evan, Beth Boyd, Sophia Barmen, Michael Tweed, Jason Cash, Shawn Brislin, Abigail Brannen-Wilson, Francesca Donancricchia, Eva Vega, Tanjia Hynes, Diana Pollard, Jack Tessier, Sanum Shafi, Nazely Kurkjian, Abby Brannen-Wilson

Proxies: Alice K. proxy for Lisa Tessier, Cheri R. proxy for Nicole Myatt

Meeting begins - 4:32 PM

Welcome! We hope everyone and their families are healthy and safe – please mute and keep your camera on.

Approval of September 7, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion to approve made by Michael T., second by Barbara A.

Discussion: None.

Vote taken - 20 yes; 0 no. Minutes approved.

o Updates: Provost; Presider

Provost: David B.: Academic portfolio optimization continues. Through APAC. Looking at deactivations, modifications, and any programs that could use extra support. Conversations ongoing with other institutions about support for students participating in the Restart Program. More info forthcoming. Opportunity to meet with pres of tomkins cortland community college and looking at ways to keep Reconnect students in the pipeline. Will be visiting campus on October 6 in order to see how they will be preparing students for our Bachelor's programs. Jointly registered programs with nursing and mechatronics conversation ongoing with SUNY Oneonta's president and provost. Thanks to Nikki Pickett for finalizing the final examination schedule. Please remember we are a 14+1 semester which means meeting with students on that final week (week 15) is critical. Be on the lookout for updates regarding our spring schedule as meetings with PDs and Deans is already underway. Chelsea, Matthew, and I had an opportunity last week to attend a joint Chief Academic Officer, Chief Business Officer conference that was hosted by ASCU, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, to discuss different ways that we can collaborate as

as individuals in each one of those respective roles. So, and how we can best, you know, utilize each other's talents and partner between academic affairs and business affairs. Academic Open Forum about cost cutting/cost savings measures will be happening tomorrow at 12:30 PM at Farrel 211. The SMS textbot we have implemented is already at work answering initial student questions. 131 student texts received in the first 24 hours once the platform was launched. 99% of students who received messages chose to further opt in.

Alice K.: Pedagogy of real talk is great. If you are thinking about doing it for the next cohort, please consider it because it is really valuable. Partnerships with area community colleges questions. We are already at capacity as far as space on our campus. Are we hoping that these new buildings that are in the works will be able to accommodate more students. Is that the directions this is going?

David B.: Yes, in part. We are also looking at ways to support online questions as well as in person. Looking at transfer students. Transfer students tend to perform better in courses. We want to make sure that multiple pathways exist for students to succeed, either physically or virtually.

Medical excuse policy - Tanjia Heines : Over recent weeks we have been inundated at Health Center from students who are saying they are being sent by faculty who are saying they need a medical excuse in order to be excused from class. Would like to address this. In order for a student to be excused from class, they have to actually be very sick. They have to make an appointment and they have to be evaluated. Students don't really understand that they do not actually get an excuse just because they come to the Health Office. It would be helpful if we are being more conscious regarding wording around when an excuse is given or not.

Genevieve S.: We can't make the determination as faculty of whether or not a an illness is excusable, and we cannot ask those kinds of questions. It could be that faculty are passing students on to you because we cannot make any determination and cannot ask certain health related questions.

Tanjia: Yes, I think it would be helpful if students understood what each syllabus said regarding absences, excused or otherwise. If medical excuses are the only reasons why some folks will allow students to miss classes then it's helpful to have more understanding around what this entails.

Francesca D.: Is there recommended language around this that could help guide us on how to help students understand.

Tanjia H.: We have started to help students by looking at their syllabus because a lot of them are unaware of that info being there.

Michael T.: Would like to go back to what Genevieve was saying and expand on that. Sometimes students don't pay any attention to the syllabus and it is also not uncommon for students to say something very different from what we have said to them. We have to let them know all of their

options, and sometimes the students will still say they were told by the faculty to go get an excuse. There may be a disconnect between what students say they understand and what has already been explained. I state what the policy is, but at the end of the day, they have to make their own calls.

Tanjia H.: Yes I believe that. It seems that specifically over the past two weeks the amount of students has really increased. Even with continued messaging from multiple offices. We want to assist students in how to be productive in a working environment. We are asking for some support in helping the students navigate the process a little bit better so that they don't expect that they are just going to get an excuse for showing up to the Health Office.

Eva V.: How do adjuncts get this information and are they able to get this info to the students? There are also students with allergies who could be coming in to play, especially now. Where are students who have financial hardship able to secure masks?

Heather S.: What other messaging modalities can be used for this problem? It is the responsibility of students to read and make sure they understand the syllabus, but there may also be a more direct way to educate the students on this. RAs or RDs could maybe be an option? Maybe some other direct means to help them understand this sort of criteria.

Tanjia H.: We educate them through the website and other places as well. It just seems like over and over again students are coming to us saying that faculty are telling them to go get the medical excuses from us.

Sophia B.: Here from the student senate, so I have the student perspective. I get sick a lot and I want to know what is expected of students. If I am truly sick, the last thing I want to do is go to the Health Center because I want to stay in bed. I have labs for many hours of the day. What am I supposed to do when I have to miss lab.

Kari H.: This might be a valuable thing to add to the universal syllabus template.

David B.: Messaging has gone out for this, but I will make sure it goes out again.

Presider - Doug H.: We now have a rolling Teams link that stays consistent across all of our calendar invites and we are currently looking in to getting that link posted on our public facing senate page as well. Minimum expectations for faculty using Teams, which applies to everyone. People should work with their supervisors on what those expectations are because those will be very locally based. Universal Syllabus Template is being worked on to accept talk to text. E-board has requested a survey be designed that will help the campus troubleshoot how to make hybrid meetings more equitable. Course cap exception process form to be sent out for the Spring semester. If you feel there should be an exemption to a course, you should be able to fill out this form so it can be evaluated. Innovation Council is looking for people to sign up, focusing on faculty and staff experience. Conversations are ongoing regarding student course evaluation response rate. Still in process. Evenden tower second floor classrooms now have door locks. Plan is to continue this process. Third floor will be worked on next, Looking in to outside funding.

Painting and landscape cleanup in the works for the Lower Valley Campus, as well as some restoration ongoing. New faculty academy planned to launch this Fall. Spring rollover courses: courses that are online will have a IN in them, and restricted courses will have an R in them.

Abby B.: Innovation Council date has been moved to next week, Wednesday the 30 from 3 to 4. Each area on campus and senate are welcomed to come chat about the employee journey and how to make our campus a great place to work. Refreshments and a survey included!

o Old Business

College Senate Bylaws Change Proposals (second viewing) -

Assessment Committee - Marc E.: Thanks. Changes to membership on the academic side. Applied Tech went from 4 to 2 members. Second Vet Sci representative has been added, specifically from the online program. Student Admin Services will have a representative added for College Advancement. Advancement and Services rep is now under David's purview as well.

Motion to approve made by Kari H., second by Carrie F.

Discussion: none.

Vote taken: 22 yes, 0 no. Motion passes.

Curriculum Committee - Erin W.: Membership update based on school divisions is what we are voting on at the moment.

Motion to approve made by Jason C.: second by Barbara A.

Discussion: none.

Vote taken: 21 yes; 0 no. Motion passes.

One Academic and one Non-academic College Senator For Budget & Planning Committee - Jack T.: Hoping to fill these final two seats because we will be reviewing programming so it's important to have everyone represented so please consider representing!

Doug H.: If anyone is interested please reach out to me or Cheri R. so we can put you on the ballot. Looking for someone to step up to be part of APAC. Anyone interested please let me know.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

- Kari H.: Community barbeque is coming up! There will be nature runnings, hamburgers and hotdogs, balloon animals, and other community groups as well! September 22, 2026 at courthouse square in downtown Delhi 5-7 PM.
- Call for faculty participation on the Commencement Committee.
- Call for faculty participation on Calendar Committee. Matters other than spring break are being considered (e.g. fall break(s) and Finals Week). Goal is to establish a 3-year plan that can be easily extended into the future.
- APAC is requesting a Faculty representative from each school.
- One Academic and one Non-academic College Senator For Budget & Planning Committee needed
- College Senate Representatives (senators) needed from the following areas:
 - LA&S
 - Finance & Administration
- Online Instruction Committee needs additional members. Please contact Paul Rogan if you are interested/have questions.

Meeting Minutes Availability: : <https://www.delhi.edu/academics/college-senate/minutes/index.phpS>

o Adjourn Meeting: 5:59 PM