

Associate Deans Council
Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2026

Present: Tracey Baham, Sawyer Bowering, Steve Bullard, Kayla Carr, Tracy Craven, Anastasia Elder, Jim Dunne, Abigail Spreen (for K. Figueroa), Dana Franz, Robert Green, Kim Hall, Brett Harvey, Brien Henry, Christine Jackson, Jamie Larson, Matt Lavine, Dominic Lippillo, Bethany Mills, Lynda Moore-White, David Nolen, Alicia Olivier, Matthew Priddy, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Kevin Rogers, Peter Ryan, Emily Shaw, Courtney Siegert, Jason Tiffin, Lauren Wright, Madeline Demetriou

Dr. Tracey Baham called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

1. Consideration of the Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Robert Green and seconded by Dr. Kevin Rogers to accept the minutes from January 14, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Updates from the Chair

Dr. Baham noted that there were no policy updates since the previous Council meeting. Deans Council will meet again in February, and Executive Council was canceled due to the inclement weather day.

3. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines – Brett Harvey

Mr. Harvey began the discussion regarding an email sent to the DDD list about upcoming mandatory website accessibility guidelines. These guidelines were announced by the Department of Justice under Titles II and III of the ADA and must be implemented by April 26, 2026. Although these updates began in 2018, ITS has made significant progress with each phase of the regulations.

The most common updates will be:

- Canvas postings compliant with screen-reader accessibility
- Alt-text available for social media posts and online graphics
- Archived content being moved to a new subdomain rather than being listed as “archived”

Training and additional details will be made available soon for staff and faculty responsible for updating social media, public-facing web domains, and Canvas courses. ITS will monitor these implementations and do not expect deans or department heads to maintain. Further guidance and updates can be found at: <https://www.accessibility.msstate.edu/>.

4. AOP 31.10: Scheduling Planning and Registration

Dr. Anastasia Elder motioned and Dr. Rogers seconded the AOP 31.10: Schedule Planning and Registration.

- AOP 31.10: Schedule Planning and Registration was approved with the following revision:
 - All references to undergraduate advising now point to AOP 12.38 Undergraduate Academic Advising to prevent duplicating content (occurs in the first and third paragraph).
 - Language referencing “GI Bill recipients” was replaced with “students receiving veteran’s benefits.”
 - The following sentence was modified to remove the reference to good standing within the Honors College: “Students in the Shackouls Honors College program will also be assigned times for registration during the first three days of registration.”
 - The last two sentences in the policy were replaced with the following sentence: “Registration is permitted until the time specified in AOP 12.01 Academic Add/Drop.”

5. Announcements

- Mr. David Nolen encouraged Council members to invite their faculty and staff to the “Treasures from the Vault” event by Dr. Susannah J. Ural at 6 p.m. in the Grisham Room on Thursday, February 12, 2026.
- Ms. Tracy Craven announced that the Center for Innovation in Teaching Excellence is hosting a session by Todd Heilman, principal of consulting services with Education Advisory Board (EAB). He will be sharing national and regional insights into the adult learner, graduate, and online education market for the 2025-26 academic year along with key findings from EAB’s 2025 Adult Learner Survey of more than 8,000 adult students.
- Ms. Craven also reminded Associate Deans that nominations for the Online Teaching Awards are due by Friday, January 30.
- Dr. Elder announced that the Undergraduate Research Symposium is scheduled for April 8-9, 2026. The call for submissions is due by March 5.
- The deadline for the 2026 Foil-Wyatt Outstanding New Faculty Advisor, Wes Ammon Outstanding New Advisor Award, and the 2026 Irvin Atly Jefcoat Excellence in Advising Awards are due 5:00 PM on Wed. Feb. 18, 2026. There are more details on the Provost website at : <https://www.provost.msstate.edu/announcements>
- Ms. Lynda Moore-White announced that the College of Integrative Studies now has an online presence: <https://www.cois.msstate.edu/>
- Dr. Jim Dunne announced that Dr. Leslie Burger has been selected as MSU’s first Director of Faculty Recognition. More information is available in the MSU newsroom: <https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom>

Meeting adjourned 2:38 pm