

CAS Faculty Assembly  
Meeting Minutes  
*January 16, 2026*  
2:00 p.m.  
Kinard Auditorium 018

- I. Welcome – *Casey Cothran*
  - a. Called to order at 2:01 with Quorum
- II. Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2025, meeting ([Appendix A](#))
  - a. Motioned and seconded, approved.
- III. General Education Assessment in Blackboard – *KB Gwebu*
  - a. There's no changes from last semester to the current semester.
  - b. There's about 4 years of data that we are behind on.
  - c. The disconnect between class SLO and assessment outcomes should be brought up with the general education curriculum committee and is not the purview of assessment committee.
  - d. The process right now is focused on getting the data needed and offering opportunities for the future to update to potentially better processes in the future.
  - e. If there's questions about the process, there is a current FAQ in development, but reach out to Dr. Gwebu.
- IV. Downloading Annual Reports from Interfolio – *Margaret Gillikin*
  - a. You'll need to go into your annual reports and evaluations to save those. Use print to pdf to save that information.
  - b. If you think you might need it, save it.
  - c. Detailed written instructions are in the email from Sebastian.
- V. CAS Committees
  - a. CAS Curriculum Committee – *Tom Polaski*
    - i. Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2025 meeting ([Appendix B](#))
    - ii. Approval of Minutes from January 6, 2026 meeting ([Appendix C](#))
    - iii. Program edits
      - 1. BA in Social Studies: remove 6 credit hours from the program core, approved
      - 2. BA in individualized Studies adds IDVs 300 to program core, approved
      - 3. BS in Biology and biomedical and conservation concentrations: replace biol 300 with research/creative options; and adds new course options to lists
      - 4. B.S in environmental sciences (add envs 301 to program and revised electives) and B.A. in environmental studies (add envs 301 to program and reduced total hours)

iv. New courses

1. Biology

- a. BIOL 352H – Investigations in Ecology and Evolution
- b. BIOL 353H – Investigations in Cell and Molecular Biology
- c. BIOL 354H – Investigations in Organismal Biology
- d. BIOL 372 – Undergraduate Research in Biology
- e. BIOL 448H – Biology Thesis Research 1

2. Environmental Studies

- a. ENVS 170 – Drone Fundamentals
- b. ENVS 301 – Environmental Field Exploration
- c. ENVS 306 – Air Quality
- d. ENVS 342 – Environmental Justice
- e. ENVS 364 – Energy Resources

v. Course Edits

- 1. Nutrition 400, 500, 500H: change in hours from 1 to 1-3
- 2. Geography 305 and 308 (prerequisite change) and 306 (title edit)
- 3. Psych 322- prerequisite/corequisite changes
- 4. ScSt 590 and 590: corequisite changes
- 5. Biol 450H- prerequisite change
- 6. Geol 340- prerequisite change

vi. Next meeting Feb 24, business in by the 17th

VI. Old Business -none

VII. New Business-none

VIII. Remarks from the Dean – Takita Sumter

- a. Free Coffee offered by the Underground Coffee Club in Kinard 12- email will be coming of needs for donations
- b. BS in Health Sciences (CHE submission for 1/19) launching fall barring any issues
  - i. Not for pre-med students, but for students interested in health adjacent fields
- c. Academic Program reviews (PHRL 2025 and SOCL 2026)
- d. Model UN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary --March 25-27
- e. Dalton and Sims Science Buildings (currently opened)
  - i. SAVE THE DATE -April 21st official grand re-opening
- f. Continuing work to expand internships for students: new materials for further funding, small stipend scholarship for unpaid internships

- g. Over \$200,000 in NEW Foundation funding since July 1, 2025
  - h. Enrollment- overall is 1762 overall trending upward and heading towards old numbers (1900) with many majors also up
  - i. Research council grants to chairs before 1/28
- IX. Announcements
- a. New Social Work Faculty: Ms. Marie B. White, MSW pursuing PhD in Curriculum. Research in trauma informed practices.
  - b. Next meeting: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 2pm in Kinard 018; please submit materials by March 4
  - c. Math is doing their Pi run again
- X. Adjournment- motioned and adjourned @2:51pm

Note: Quorum (35% of full-time faculty) is 47 faculty members for Faculty Assembly.

The minimum attendance to do business (20% of full-time faculty) is 26 faculty members.