

CAS Faculty Assembly
Meeting Agenda

March 6, 2026

2:00 p.m.

Kinard Auditorium 018

- I. Welcome – *Casey Cothran*
- II. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2026, meeting ([Appendix A](#))
- III. New [Digital Accessibility Standards in Blackboard](#) – *Dr. Kimarie Whetstone*
- IV. CAS Committees
 - a. CAS Curriculum Committee – *Tom Polaski*
 - i. Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2026 meeting ([Appendix B](#))
 - b. CAS Nominating & Rules Committee – *Gihanee Senadheera*
 - i. Vacancies
 - 1. University level committees
 - 2. College level committees
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Remarks from the Dean – *Takita Sumter*
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

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.

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 50th 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 6th, 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

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Appendix B

CAS Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes February 24, 2026, 11:00 AM, Kinard 105

Minutes approved for meeting January 6, 2026

Attending: Gwen Daley, Anthony Hobert, Jessie Hoffman, Heather Listhartke, Greg Oakes (ex-officio), Tom Polaski (chair), Jeff Sinn (secretary), McKenna Bruce (student rep).

Course Edits

FREN203 Cinema for French Conversation	Approved. Put pre-req in free-form; maApproved. repeat hours should be 3
IMCO349 Digital Newsroom, Social Media and Marketing II	Approved.
MLAN591M Principles of Teaching Modern Languages Mechanics	Approved.
MLAN591S Principles of Teaching Modern Languages Skills	Approved.
SCIE103 Eagle STEM Seminar	Approved.
SCWK550C Special Topics in Social Work	Not approved - Justification references different name; Correct max repeat; remove space between “basis” and “notes”
SPAN202 Intermediate Spanish II	Approved.
SPAN225 Spanish Composition	Approved. Put pre-req in free-form; should show meeting to 3 contact hours and 3 lecture hours
SPAN250 Intermediate Composition and Conversation	Approved. -Put pre-req in free-form
SPAN305 Spanish Law Professions	Approved. -Put pre-req in description
SPAN313 Advanced Spanish Conversation	Approved. -Put Pre-req to free-form
SPAN385 Topics in Spanish/Hispanic Civilization	Approved.
WRIT501 Digital Authorship Practices	Approved.

Program Edits

BA in Integrated Marketing Communication	Approved
BA in Mass Communication	Approved
BA in Mathematics	Approved
BS in Mathematics	Approved
Minor-German	Approved
MLA in Lib Arts - Pol & Civic	Approved
MLA in Liberal Arts	Approved

New Courses

AAMS 367 Hip-Hop and Politics	Cross-list PLSC 367
ANTH342 Environmental Justice	Approved
BIOL385 Special Topics Applications of AI in Science	Approved
CHEM385 Special Topics Applications of AI in Science	Approved Doesn't list BIOL385 as crosslist
DSCI385 Special Topics: Applications of AI in Science	Approved
FREN109 Beginning French I	Approved. Pre-req in free form, make repeat hours 3
FREN110 Beginning French II	Approved. Pre-req in free form, make repeat hours 3
FREN204 Past Tense in Tales and Comics	Approved. Pre-req in free form, make repeat hours 3
GERM109 Beginning German I	Approved. Pre-req in free form, make repeat hours 3
GERM110 Beginning German II	Approved. Pre-req in free form, make repeat hours 3
LART694 Grad Studio in Liberal Arts	Approved.
MCOM380 Event Planning	Approved. Add Pre-req to course description; free-form requirements need to move to that field (now in gen requirements)
PHIL360 Philosophy and Political Theory of Money	Approved. Notes for catalog and cross-list need update
PLSC250 UN and IOs	Approved.
PLSC357 Ethics and the Good Society LOTR	Approved.
PLSC358 Political Theory and Film	Approved. cross-listing in notes for catalog
PLSC359 Politics and Political Theory in MCU	Approved.
PLSC360 Philosophy and Political Theory of Money	Approved. Notes for catalog and cross-list need update
PLSC367 Hip-Hop and Politics	Approved. Cross-list AAMS 367
PLSC540 Comparative Constitutional Law	Approved. Need pre-reqs in course description
RELG375 Grief, Death, Afterlife	Approved.
SOCL535 Advanced Criminology Theories	Approved. Pre-req add graduation standing to descriptions
SPAN109 Beginning Spanish I	Approved. Pre-req in free form, make repeat hours 3
SPAN110 Beginning Spanish II	Approved. Pre-req in free form, make repeat hours 3
WMST380 Liberation Theologies	Approved.
WRIT333 Writing in Context	Approved.

New Programs

Minor in Digital Media & Communication	Approved. Delete simple requirements keep language in free form.
BA in Individualized Studies: Interdisciplinary Social Studies	Approved.
BA in Individualized Studies: Strategic Applied Studies	Approved.
BS in Individualized Studies	Approved. Math should say just 241
MLA in Lib Arts - Crim and CJ	Approved. Description says MA instead of MLA

Approved 1 blanket petition for MCOM 441

Approved 1 student petition

Next meeting April 14, 2026, 11:00 am in Kinard 105.