CAS Faculty Assembly

Meeting Agenda

August 18, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Richardson Ballroom

I. Welcome & Introduction of Officers – Casey Cothran

II. Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2026, meeting (Appendix A)

III. Update from Academic Affairs – Sebastian van Delden

IV. Admissions Liaisons to the CAS – Fátima Castro & Kyle Conrad

V. Celebration of College Faculty Award Recipients – Takita Sumter

   a. Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

   b. Scholarship Excellence Award

   c. Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award

   d. Lynn Harand Outstanding Advisor Award

VI. CAS Committees

   a. CAS Curriculum Committee – Tom Polaski

      i. Curriculum Items

      ii. Introduction of Officers

VII. New Faculty, Newly Promoted/Tenured Colleagues, Faculty in New Roles – Department Chairs

VIII. Old Business

   a. Zoom license

IX. New Business

   a. New Advising Model – Takita Sumter

   b. Blackboard security – Greg Oakes

   c. Student Voter Engagement Initiatives – Tony Hobert

X. Remarks from the Dean – Takita Sumter

XI. Announcements

XII. Adjournment

Note: Quorum (35% of full-time faculty) is 49 faculty members for Faculty Assembly.

The minimum attendance to do business (20% of full-time faculty) is 28 faculty members.

Appendix A

CAS Faculty Assembly Meeting
March 6, 2026 2:00 p.m.
Kinard Auditorium 018
Minutes

I. Welcome – Casey Cothran
   a. Called to order at 2:15 with Quorum

II. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2026, meeting (Appendix A)
   a. Motion and seconded, approved.

III. Dr. Kimarie Whetstone presented on the new Digital Accessibility Standards in Blackboard
   a. Web content, digital course materials, and mobile apps comply with updated Title II regulations (Americans with Disabilities Act).
   b. WCAG 2.0 Level AA standards in effect 4/24/2026
   c. Prioritize summer course compliance and then fall course compliance
   d. Upcoming Webinar Sessions (All at 11:00am Tuesdays and Thursdays for 1 hour) Registration: https://apps.winthrop.edu/cpe
      i. February: 03, 05, 10, 12, 17, 19, 23
      ii. March: 03, 05, 10, 12, 24, 26, 31\
   e. These standards apply to student-generated content that will be used by the whole class as part of the course. If submission for professor viewing and grading only, it does not apply.
   f. For more information contact: Dr. Kimarie Whetstone, *Director of Online Learning*
      Office: 803.323.2551
      Email: whetstonek@winthrop.edu

IV. CAS Committees
   a. CAS Curriculum Committee – Tom Polaski
      i. Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2026 meeting (Appendix B)
      ii. Course Edits
         1. FREN203: Cinema for French Conversation – title change for Dual Enrollment (approved)
         2. SPAN202: Intermediate Spanish II – course description change (approved)
         3. SPAN225: Spanish Composition – course description change (approved)
         4. SPAN250: Intermed. Composition & Conversation – course description change (approved)
         5. SPAN305: Spanish Law Professions – course description change (approved)

6. SPAN313: Advanced Spanish Conversation – course description change (approved)
7. SPAN385: Topics in Spanish/Hispanic Civ. – course description change (approved)
8. MLAN591M: Principles of Teaching Modern Lang Mechanics – prereq. change (approved)
9. MLAN591S: Principles of Teaching Modern Lang Skills – prereq. change (approved)
10. IMCO349: Digital Newsroom – prerequisite change (approved)
11. SCIE103: Eagle STEM Seminar – credit hours change (approved)
12. WRIT501: Digital Authorship Practices – title change (approved)

iii. New Courses

1. BIOL385/CHEM385/DSCI385: Special Topics Applications of AI in Science (approved)
2. FREN109/FREN110: Beginning French I/Beginning French II
3. FREN204: Past Tense in Tales and Comics (approved)
4. GERM109/GERM110: Beginning German I/Beginning German II (approved)
5. SPAN109/SPAN110: Beginning Spanish I/Beginning Spanish II (approved)
6. PLSC250: UN and Ios (approved)
7. PLSC357: Ethics and the Good Society LOTR (approved)
8. PLSC358: Political Theory and Film (approved)
9. PLSC359: Politics and Political Theory in MCU (approved)
10. PLSC360/PHIL360: Philosophy and Political Theory of Money (approved)
11. PLSC367/AAMS367: Hip-Hop and Politics (approved)
12. PLSC540: Comparative Constitutional Law (approved)
13. RELG375: Grief, Death, Afterlife (approved)
14. WMST380: Liberation Theologies (approved)
15. ANTH342: Environmental Justice (approved)
16. SOCL535: Advanced Criminology Theories (approved)
17. MCOM380: Event Planning (approved)
18. WRIT333: Writing in Context (approved)

iv. Program Edits

1. BA-IMCO: Add DESF161, streamline VCOM course sequence (approved)
2. BA-MCOM: Add DESF161, streamline VCOM course sequence (approved)

3. BA-MATH: Inactivate program (approved)
4. BS-MATH: Create two degree tracks in Theoretical Math and Math Education (approved)
5. MINOR-GERM: Inactivate program (approved)

v. New Programs

1. BA in Individualized Studies: Interdisciplinary Social Studies (approved)
2. BA in Individualized Studies: Strategic Applied Studies (approved)
3. BS in Individualized Studies (approved)
4. Minor in Digital Media and Communication (approved)

vi. Petitions

1. Blanket petition for MCOM441 approved.
2. One student petition approved.

vii. Next Curriculum Committee Meeting:
April 14, 2026 (materials submitted by April 7, 2026)
Kinard 105, 11:00 a.m.

Remember that curriculum materials MUST be entered in CourseDog **week before** the curriculum committee meeting to be considered!

b. CAS Nominating & Rules Committee – Gihanee Senadheera

c. Vacancies

i. University level committees

1. Carter Wolf (BIOL) was nominated for the Academic Council
2. Lauren Kohut (ENVS) was nominated for Academic Integrity committee
3. Kori Bloomquist (SCWK) and Gwen Daley were nominated for FCUP
4. Jessie Hamm (MATH) was nominated for the General Education Committee

ii. College level committees

1. Casey Cothran (ENGL) was nominated for CAS Faculty Chair
2. Duane Neff (SCWK) and Samsara Soto (PSYC) were nominated for the Curriculum committee.

V. Old Business - none

VI. New Business – SCWK/GRNT 501X Lessons from a Dystopian World will be offered this summer, taught by Sara English. Summer A, on-line elective, no text to purchase. This course will explore lessons from dystopian art, film, and television

VII. Remarks from the Dean – Takita Sumter

a. Kudos for successful interim grade timely submission

b. Transition to Watermark: timelines, training and contingency plans being established for successful transition. Annual reports for 25-26 are planned for Watermark

c. FY27 Budget Updates

    i. Estimates a 4% increase in enrollment over AY25-26

    ii. currently ~$2M requests above revenue assuming flat state funding

    iii. This doesn't account for changes to the tuition mitigation funding structures that was proposed by House

    iv. Adjunct pay structure adjustment requested

    v. Master Lease equipment process also underway ~$2.9M of equipment

d. SACSCOC Site visit April 6-8

e. Mark your Calendars: Annual Day of Giving 4/21/26

    i. Float Frenzy & Grand reopening of Sims and Dalton (Center for the Environment)

f. 2025 Survey Highlights

    i. Celebrations:

        1. There is good cooperation and teamwork within my work group.

        2. 88%- It is common practice in team meetings to ensure everyone has the opportunity to voice their opinion and be heard.

        3. 85%- My immediate manager supports me in my learning and development.

    ii. Opportunities for improvement: 43%- Physical working conditions where I work are good. The reduction in physical working conditions potentially due to building maintenance issues outside of CAS scope.

    iii. Request: Identify specific issues/concerns that can be addressed by CAS; what is in the CAS scope of influence that can be addressed?

g. Review of 3rd Party Development work related to the Farm area

    i. Highlighted the area this work would include

    ii. Master plan review focus

        1. Academic/Research

        2. Athletic

        3. Engage as Community Space

    iii. Faculty Kudos

        1. PSYC

            a. Water on the Move: An Integrated Unit for Second Graders. Joy N. Stapleton, Koti L. Hubbard, Crystal Glover, **Margaret Gillikin**, Miranda Sigmon, Tenisha L. Powell Social Studies and the Young Learner

January/February 2026 and Hubbard, K.L., **Gillikin, M.W**., Stapleton, J.N. (2026). Save one person, save the world: Nicholas Winton and the Czech Kindertransport. ***Social Studies Research and Practice***

b. Matt Hayes, Donna Nelson, Sarah Reiland, Darren Ritzer, and Merry Sleigh mentored 30 students who will offer 19 presentations at SEPA in March

c. *Journal of Psychological Inquiry* published Dr. Donna Nelson's research that has now won the Elizabeth A. Dahl Award for Best paper.

2. HIST

a. Dr. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight, Fall 2025 / Spring 2026: Published wonderful book *We Paved the Way: Black Women and the Charleston Hospital Workers' Campaign*. *We Paved the Way* has been selected as the winner of the 2025 George C. Rogers Jr. Book Award. The South Carolina Historical Society presents the George Rogers Award annually to the author of the best book of South Carolina history published during the preceding calendar year.

b. Dr. Ginger Williams (February 2025): Organized fundraising dinner at Oakland Presbyterian Church to support Frontera de Cristo and the Carolina Immigrant Alliance

c. Dr. Gregory Bell (and entire History Department faculty and staff support as well as Mike Lipscomb and Anita McCollough), February 2026: Hosted Phi Alpha Theta Carolinas Regional Conference - Winthrop alum Dr. Brooke Bauer was the keynote (University of Tennessee Knoxville)

d. Dr. Eddie Lee, March 2026: Keynote Address for the 2026 South Carolina Landmark Conference

3. MCOM

a. Honors student, Kayli Thorsen, studying abroad at Kingston University in Kingston-Upon-Thames which is a part of greater London.

b. MCOM French student, Margot Doutremepuich's design was selected for the logo for MCOM Student Awards Show.

4. ENGL

a. Dr. Devon Fitzgerald published “Lost Girl Fandom and Bisexual Community Building.” *Rhetoric Review*, 17 Nov. 2025.

5. BIOL

a. Dr. Victoria Frost and Dr. Kathryn Kohl published with the SEA Faculty in the *Journal of Microbiology and Biology Education*, “Science communication tools: rubrics for generating posters and manuscripts that are authentic to the practice of science.” Just published online: https://doi.org/10.1128/jmbe.00313-25

6. SOCL

a. Dr. Brent Woodfill: Peer reviewed journal article: 2026 Thinking through the Practical Implications of the Ontological Turn in Archaeol: Ethicalcal Chauvinism and Community Collaboration in the Southern Maya Lowlands. Current Anthropology; 67(2).

b. Dr. Brent Woodfill: *Edited Volumes* 2026 The Oxford Handbook of the Maya. Under contract with Oxford University Press (Thomas G. Garrison, Jeffrey B. Glover, and Brent K.S. Woodfill, eds.) — Almost out, finally!!!!

c. Dr. Brent Woodfill: *Edited Volumes* 2026 Living between Worlds: Archaeology and History at the Southern Edge of the Maya Lowlands. University of Alabama Press. (Megan E. Leight and Brent K.S. Woodfill, eds.

d. Dr. Brent Woodfill: *Presidential Lectures at Academic Conferences* 2026 Collaborative Archaeology as Networks of Mutual Assistance: The View from Central Guatemala. To be presented in the Presidential Session for the 91st Annual Meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, "Archaeology, Collaboration, and Community Empowerment," organized by Brent K.S. Woodfill. San Francisco, April 29.

e. Completed a successful visit with our External Review Team!

VIII. Announcements

a. CAS Faculty Awards 2026 – deadline April 1, 2026

i. Scholarship Excellence Award

ii. Outstanding Adjunct Award

iii. Lynn Harand Outstanding Advisor Award

iv. Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

b. Next Faculty Assembly Meeting: **TBD (August 2026)-Kinard Auditorium 018**

IX. Adjournment – motion to adjourn @ 3:58 pm

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