

## Arts & Sciences Chairs Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2026 | 9:00–10:30 AM | Broome 2533

### Attendees

Philip Hampton, Liz King, Jacob Jenkins, Dana Baker, Javier Gonzalez, Ruben Alarcon, Julia Ornelas-Higdon, Sonsoles De Lacalle, Luis Sanchez, Blake Gillespie, Mary Adler, Jose Alamillo, Geoff Buhl, Jessica Lavariega Monforti, Edna Davoudi, Stacey Adler, Heather Castillo, Ashley Garcia, Alison Harris, Trina Darakjy, Cameron Harris, Kiki Patsch, Greg Wood, Lindsey O'Connor, Jaime Matera

### 1. Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 24, 2026 meeting were approved.

### 2. Time Certain Presentation

#### Provost Jessica Lavariega Monforti

The Provost outlined four divisional priorities: student success, enrollment, operational efficiencies, and campus climate. She emphasized faculty engagement with students and use of IR data for retention efforts. Enrollment must increase by a few hundred students to meet targets. Shifting focus from application numbers to yield is critical. A move to a dollar-based instructional budget will replace WTU-based allocations next year.

Efforts to improve operations include developing SOPs and exploring shared service models. Climate priorities include hosting informal faculty/staff gatherings and fostering optimism. The presidential search will begin in late spring/summer 2027 and is handled by the Chancellor's Office. Forums will be held beforehand to gather campus feedback. The Provost addressed dual enrollment, enrollment challenges and opportunities, and the need for early morning/evening in-person class offerings.

### 3. Discussion Items

#### Admitted Dolphin Day

Luis Sanchez provided updates on classroom and tabling session participation. He thanked departments for signing up for classroom presentations and would follow up with departments who had yet to confirm availability for the tabling portion.

#### Dual Enrollment Models

Dean Hampton reviewed two models: (1) CI faculty teaching at high schools with district-funded prorated tuition and (2) high school teachers delivering CI-approved courses. Chairs were asked to consider participation in dual enrollment opportunities.

#### Fall 2025 AI Schedule Analysis

Chairs were encouraged to review the AI-generated schedule feedback and determine its usefulness.

### **Exam Delivery via DASS**

An updated process for Fall 2026 will use duplex scanning to email completed exams to faculty. The Dean's office is working on getting DASS a Pharos scanner to utilize. In-person pickup at DASS remains an option.

### **STEAM Carnival**

More booths are needed for the May 9 event to highlight academic programs. Activity tubs are available for use.

### **Learning Communities**

Some programs still need to select learning communities for incoming students.

## **4. Chair Items**

### **Faculty Phones**

Chairs requested that a campus-wide email be sent explaining the phone system changes, timeline, and options.

### **AASCU Presentation – Geoff Buhl**

Geoff Buhl summarized key insights from the recent AASCU conference on student success. He emphasized the importance of programs fostering belonging, clear curricular pathways, and proactive mentoring. Schools that implemented guided pathways, integrated first-year experiences, and cross-departmental collaboration showed stronger student persistence. He encouraged chairs to align ongoing departmental efforts with national best practices.

## **5. Important Dates**

- University Budget Forum – Tuesday, April 7, 2026 (12:00–1:00 PM)
- Admitted Dolphin Day – Saturday, April 18, 2026
- STEAM Carnival – Saturday, May 9, 2026
- Honors Convocation – Friday, May 15, 2026
- Commencement – Saturday, May 23, 2026