Welcome to Faculty Senate!



Doug Downs

Professor, Faculty Senate Chair

English

Leila Sterman

Professor, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect

Library



Faculty Senate Meeting Reminders

- Faculty Senate is an open and public meeting
- Please, only Senators speak in the meeting, unless you are specifically called on by the Chair or Chair-elect
- Please let others speak; everyone should get a chance to speak before someone else speaks twice.
- The public may address the Senate during the designated public comment period (2 minutes per speaker).
- Be kind: assume positive intent and generate goodwill.

Approval of FS Minutes from Oct. 14, 2026

- Motion to approve?
- Second?
- Discussion?
- Those in favor of approval?
- Those opposed?
- Those abstaining?

Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda include undergraduate and graduate new course and course change proposals and any program proposals. All proposals are included in the meeting agenda with links to CIM pages for each proposal. Senators should review these items prior to meeting.

- Removal of any items for separate discussion?
- Motion to approve the consent agenda?
- Second?
- Those in favor of approval?
- Those opposed?
- Abstentions?

FYI Items

- Remaining Celebrate Ag events - https://agriculture.montana.edu/celebrateag/
- Nov. 2 - 994 Calling: Sweeney Windchief, 4 p.m., American Indian Hall 103
- Nov. 3 - Provost’s Distinguished Lecture Series, 7 p.m., Reynolds Hall – Dr. Jason Bolte, Director, School of Music
- Nov. 4 - Faculty discussion session: Digital accessibility experiences. 3:15 p.m., LJH 346

Council and Committee Updates

Graduate Council

Graduate Fresh Start Policy Draft – for feedback

A former Montana State University graduate student who returns to the University after a minimum absence of two calendar years may petition to begin a new cumulative (or Graduate Fresh Start) GPA. The process is as follows:

- After being readmitted, a graduate student must complete a minimum of six graded credits of 4xx/5xx level courses with a minimum GPA of 3.00 for new graded credits before petitioning for a Graduate Fresh Start GPA.
- During the semester immediately following completion of part 1, the graduate student may submit a Fresh Start petition to the Graduation and Admissions Requirements Committee (GARC).
- Graduate student petitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Graduation and Admission Requirements Committee (GARC). The decisions of the GARC will be final.
- Upon approval, a Graduate Fresh Start GPA would:
  - Recalculate cumulative GPA to include only coursework grades earned after re-enrollment at MSU.
  - Allow any credits previously earned to be included on a Program of Study if they meet other Graduate School and program requirements (e.g., age of courses and minimum grade).
  - Require a new program of study to be approved. The POS GPA would be calculated from all the credits included in the POS.

Students who participate in Graduate Fresh Start GPA can expect the following:

1. Participation in Graduate Fresh Start will be recorded on the student transcript.
2. Graduate cumulative GPA can be reset only once using the Graduate Fresh Start policy.
3. All courses taken at MSU with their corresponding credits and grades will remain on the student transcript, including those earned prior to reenrollment.

Students wishing to petition for a Graduate Fresh Start GPA should contact the Graduate School for questions about the process.

JAGS

- Working on annual review policy
- Linking more clearly to Faculty Responsibilities policy
- Figuring out how to continue using the Role & Scope-based annual review we're used to while making sure we have clear inputs for faculty general responsibilities so that they don't get mis-placed into teaching / research / service
- Work will be ongoing through November

Public Comment

(Two minutes per person)

Information Updates

Strategic Plan – Update on Rollout



President Brock Tessman

Classroom Design Standards

Office of Planning, Design, and Construction

Alisha Downs
Space Planner
Planning

Richard Rudnicki
Director
Planning, Design, and Construction


Classroom Design Standards
2026 Revisions
MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Planning, Design & Construction (PDC)

- University Facilities Planning Board
  - Classroom Committee
  - Public Art & Artifact Committee
  - ADA Facilities Advisory Committee
- Project Management
  - Design
  - Construction
- Space Management
- GIS

Classroom Committee

- Faculty (current representation)
  - College of Education, Health & Human Development
  - College of Engineering
  - College of Agriculture
  - Gallatin College
  - MSU Library
- Center for Faculty Excellence
- Office of the Registrar
- Office of Disability Services
- Academic Technology & Outreach
- ASMSU
- Staff Senate

Classroom Renovations

- Room Selection
  - Based on Classroom Inventory Assessment
- Design
  - Input from Classroom Committee and PDC staff
- Construction
- Feedback
  - Survey of faculty and students


EXIT


7:32
Wednesday, April 22




3:28
3:28




EXIT

Classroom Design Standards

- Provides guidance for architectural designer
- Last updated in 2018
- 2026 revision developed with Classroom Committee

Classroom Design Guidelines Overview

- Outlines design and construction process
- Defines instructional modes & classroom types
- Provides standards and guidelines
  - Systems and Interiors
  - Furniture and Fixtures
  - Technology and Infrastructure
  - Accessibility and Universal Design
  - Safety, Security, and Operations
  - Sustainability and Wellness
- Directs to authoritative codes and standards

Guiding Principles

- Pedagogy drives design decisions.
- Flexibility and adaptability are prioritized.
- Universal accessibility and inclusion are foundational.
- Materials and systems shall be durable, maintainable, and sustainable.
- Physical, digital, and social learning systems shall be integrated.
- Long-term stewardship of institutional resources is required.

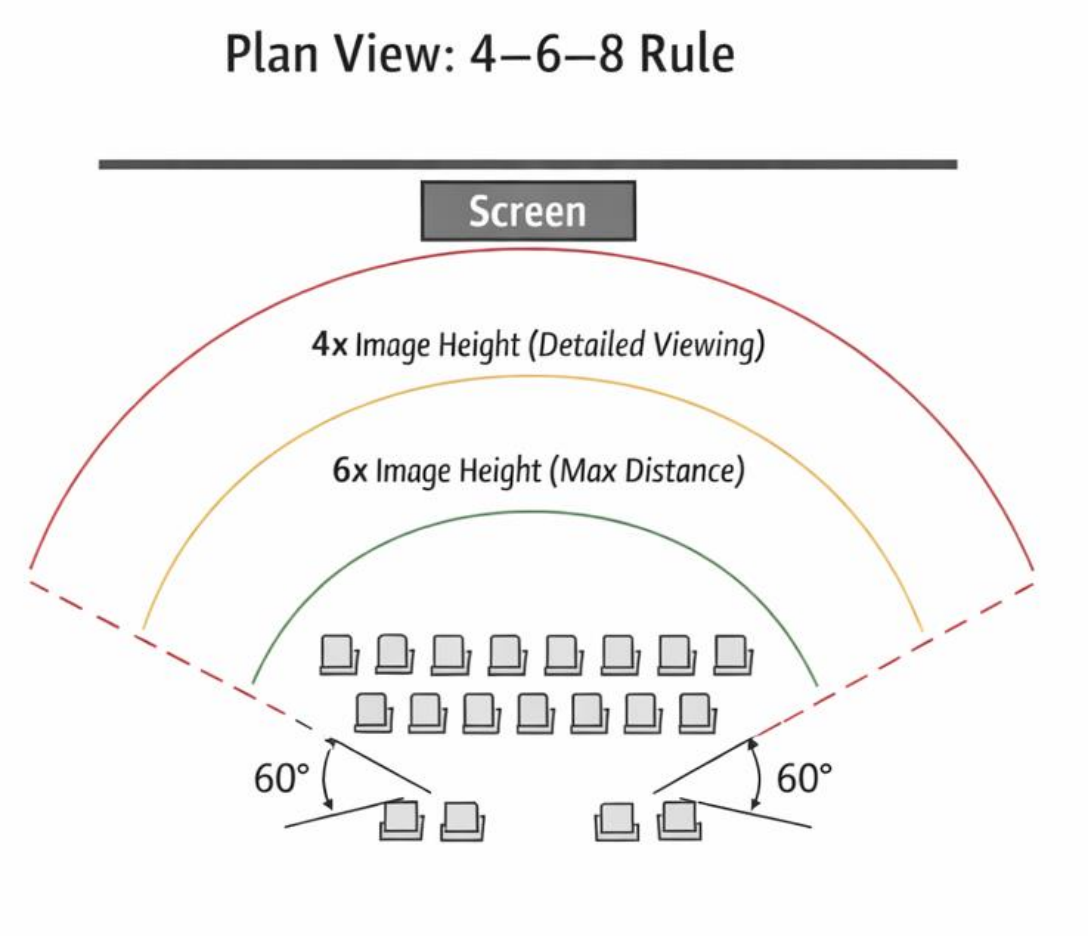
Instructional Modes

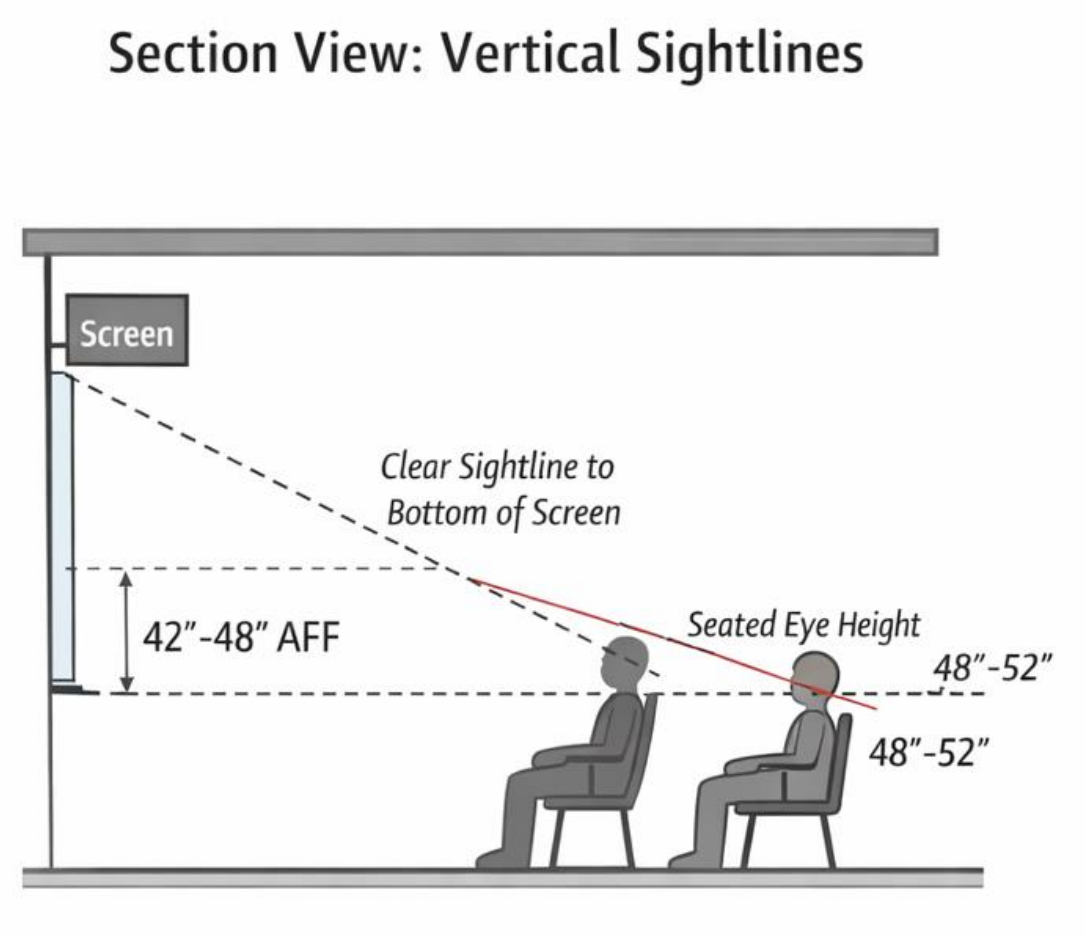
- Lecture
- Seminar
- Technology-Enhanced Active Learning (TEAL)
- Flipped Learning
- Hybrid/HyFlex

Room Typologies

Typology	Typical Capacity Range	Typical Layout	Supported Pedagogy
Flat	20–50	Rows or pods; movable furniture	Lecture; Seminar; Flipped; Hybrid
Seminar	8–25	Single table or clustered tables	Seminar; Flipped; Hybrid
TEAL	24–100	Pods with distributed displays	TEAL; Flipped; Hybrid
Tiered	50–100	Tiered rows; fixed or semi-fixed seating	Lecture; Hybrid
Auditorium	100+	Fixed tiered seating	Lecture; Hybrid

Sightlines


Plan View: 4–6–8 Rule
Screen
4x Image Height (Detailed Viewing)
6x Image Height (Max Distance)
60°
60°


Section View: Vertical Sightlines
Screen
Clear Sightline to Bottom of Screen
42"-48" AFF
Seated Eye Height
48"-52"
48"-52"

Accessibility & Universal Design

- Mobility Access
- ADA-Compliant Furniture
- Room Layout
- Adjustable Podium
- Assistive Listening System Support

Next Steps

- Faculty Senate Review
- Presentation to ASMSU
- PDC to Review Feedback & Update Classroom Design Standards
- Classroom Committee Final Approval

Resources

Classroom Committee Website

https://www.montana.edu/pdc/classroomguidebook/

Classroom Guidebook

https://www.montana.edu/pdc/classroomguidebook/

Contact

pdc@montana.edu

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Senate Open Discussion

Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Second?

Next regular meeting: **Nov 18, 2026**