Fitchburg State University

Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Published on October 8, 2026 at 7:59 PM EDT

Date and Time

Wednesday October 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM EDT

Location

This is a virtual meeting and it will be livestreamed

Public Live Stream:
https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/live

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**10:00 AM**
	A. Record Attendance		Jennifer Flanagan	2 m
	B. Call the Meeting to Order		Jennifer Flanagan	1 m
	C. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Jennifer Flanagan	2 m
	Approve minutes for Academic Affairs Committee Meeting on March 25, 2026			
II.	**Academic Affairs**			**10:05 AM**

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
A.	NECHE	FYI	Franca Barricelli & Jannette McMenamy	10 m
B.	Middle School Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure	Discuss	Franca Barricelli, Jannette McMenamy	20 m
C.	Recommendation, Middle School Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure - VOTE	Vote	Jennifer Flanagan	1 m
III.	**Closing Items**			**10:36 AM**
A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Jennifer Flanagan	1 m

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve Minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for Academic Affairs Committee Meeting on March 25, 2026 VOTE Minutes 03252026.pdf

APPROVED

Fitchburg State University

Minutes

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Wed Mar 25, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Location
This is a virtual only meeting and it will be live streamed:

Public Live Stream:
https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/live

Committee Members Present
E. Gregoire (remote), J. Flanagan (remote), M. Fiorentino, Jr. (remote), M. Morris (remote)

Committee Members Absent
S. King-Goodwin

Guests Present
Andrew Chan, Andrew Woods, Christa Marr, D. Hodge, Franca Barricelli, Jannette McMenamy, K. Lundgren, Mahmoud Al-Odeh, Nate Robichaud, PJ Norton, Pam McCafferty, Sara Levine, Stefan Dodd

I. Opening Items

A. **Record Attendance**

B. **Call the Meeting to Order**

J. Flanagan called a meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of Fitchburg State University to order on Wednesday Mar 25, 2026 at 1:03 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Gregoire made a motion to approve the minutes from Academic Affairs Committee Meeting on 01-22-26.
M. Morris seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Morris	Aye
E. Gregoire	Aye
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	Aye
J. Flanagan	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Absent

II. Academic Affairs

A. Academic Affairs Update

F. Barricelli provided an update, noting that herself and J. McMenamy are working to build momentum within academic affairs and reported accomplishments of students and faculty presenting nationally.

- General Education Program Reform:
  - F. Barricelli reported that a proposal, jointly sponsored by the President's Office and Academic Affairs, was submitted to the AUC today to constitute a committee for general education reform.
  - Goal and Timeline: The committee will meet during the remainder of the spring semester to discuss the scope, review five years of collected data, and consider national best practices, ensuring they are ready to begin work in early September. The goal is to develop initial recommendations by the end of the fall semester.
  - Revised recommendations will be circulated campus-wide for feedback, with a revised proposal submitted through AUC by the March 2027 deadline.
  - The goal is to implement the revised general education curriculum for the incoming class of September 2027.

Commencement and Graduation Fair:

- Commencement is scheduled for May 16th as a single-day event for both graduate and undergraduate students.
- The University is hosting a new two-day "graduation and commencement fair" in Hammond. This event is a celebration for graduates picking up regalia and

provides information on graduate opportunities, alumni benefits, and allows the career counseling office to implement the first destination survey.

B. Finance Major

The primary focus of the meeting was the proposed interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science degree in Finance.

Presenters: Christa Marr (Associate Professor of Economics), Andrew Chan (Professor of Accounting), Andrew Woods (Student, Economics), PJ Norton (Student, Business/Accounting).

- Mission and Core Values: The program aims to provide an accessible, high-quality, and inclusive education with core values focused on technical/practical skills, an interdisciplinary approach blending business and liberal arts, and financial literacy.
- Justification and Market Demand: The major is seen as a vehicle for social mobility, providing competitive compensation and defined growth paths. Job postings in Massachusetts and New Hampshire exceeded 8,000 per month with 12–20% projected growth, and nearly two-thirds of financial positions seek a bachelor's level candidate.
- Competitive Advantages:
    - The major requires only 45 credits, compared to 61–105 credit hours at other institutions, which allows students to pursue double majors (e.g., Business Administration and Finance).
    - Fitchburg State will be one of only three MSCA colleges to offer a Bachelor of Science in Finance.
- Curriculum: Includes standard courses (e.g., international finance) and three new unique courses:
    - Required: Corporate Finance and Investments.
    - Elective: Financial Statement Analysis.
    - Experiential Learning: Opportunities include the Fed Challenge competition and the elective Econometrics, as well as internships and potential co-ops.
- Budget and Enrollment: The departments utilized existing resources to keep costs low, with a full-time faculty hire not anticipated until Year 5, based on enrollment demands. Conservative enrollment estimates project $430,000 in net revenue by Year 5.
- Student Perspective: PJ Norton and Andrew Woods attested to the strong student demand and the lucrative nature of finance careers, noting that finance is currently the number one surging major by enrollment. Andrew Woods highlighted the opportunity cost of inaction, noting that students take their enrollment dollars to schools that already offer the program.

Discussion: Committee members, including M. Fiorentino and E. Gregoire, praised the interdisciplinary approach and the potential for the program to attract new students.

C. Approve the Bachelor of Science in Finance - VOTE

E. Gregoire made a motion to Recommend the Bachelor of Science in Finance Major to the full Board.
J. Flanagan seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
J. Flanagan	Aye
S. King-Goodwin	Absent
M. Morris	Aye
M. Fiorentino, Jr.	Aye
E. Gregoire	Aye

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Flanagan

Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

TO: Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Meeting	DATE: October 14, 2026
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: CM04-2026-2027
SUBJECT: March 25, 2026 meeting minutes	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Academic Affairs Committee vote to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2026 meeting.

Coversheet

Middle School Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure

Section: II. Academic Affairs
Item: B. Middle School Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: MS Math presentation for BoT Final.pdf

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Bachelor of Science

Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure

October 2026

Program Mission

Proposed Degree: Bachelor of Science, Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure (CIP: 13.1311)

Mission: To equip teacher candidates with the content knowledge and pedagogical skills to teach mathematics in grades 5-8, addressing an important workforce need in central Massachusetts.

1

Content knowledge

Core mathematics courses tailored to the needs of middle school educators, ensuring accessibility

2

Pedagogical skills

Middle school licensure requirements and experiential learning integrated into curriculum

3

Workforce development

Builds on long-standing partnerships; addresses shortage of mathematics teachers

Program rationale

Student retention
Retain teacher candidates in mathematics licensure pathway aligned with DESE requirements and content tailored to their needs. Reduce barriers to degree attainment through revised curriculum.

Workforce demand
Graduate qualified teacher candidates to alleviate teacher shortage, with projections of ~370 MS teacher openings each year in MA through 2032

Community collaboration
Strengthen collaboration with established PK-12 partners and develop early educator pipelines for careers in north central Massachusetts

Leverages existing resources
Curriculum designed around content and pedagogy courses that already exist; no new resources needed for implementation

Aligned with DESE licensure requirements
Revises current licensure pathway to align with new DESE requirements for middle school teaching licensure

Program Curriculum

Math Requirements (29 cr.)

- Precalculus
- Informal Number Theory
- Informal Mathematical Modelling
- Informal Geometry
- Calculus I
- Intro to Mathematical Thought
- Intro to Statistical Analysis
- Geometry
- History of Mathematics

Education Coursework (36 cr.)

Middle and Secondary Ed Minor (18cr)

- Introduction to Education (5-12)
- Diversity in Education
- Teaching the Adolescent Learner
- Inclusive Instruction (5-12)
- Methods of Teaching Mathematics I
- Methods of Teaching Mathematics II

Licensure specific coursework (15cr)

- Practicum Seminar
- Practicum in Middle School Math I
- Practicum in Middle School Math II
- Sheltered English Immersion

Other (3cr)

- Classroom Management and Behavior Support

Gen Ed (6 cr.) and electives

- Speech
- Lifespan Development

Suggested electives (9cr)

- Psychology of Learning
- Sociology of Education
- Arts and science of Education

Total Program Requirement: 71 Credits

Program curriculum comparison

Current MS Math pathway

Math Requirements (40 cr.)

- Calculus I
- Calculus II
- Intro to Mathematical Thought
- Symbolic Computational Mathematics
- Linear Algebra
- Geometry
- Multivariate Calculus
- Mathematics Seminar
- Probability and Statistics
- Abstract Algebra
- **Six** elective upper level math credits

Other required coursework (39 cr.)

Middle and Secondary Ed Minor (18cr)
Licensure specific coursework (15cr)
Gen ed and other (6cr)

Total Program Requirement: 79 Credits



Proposed MS Math pathway

Math Requirements (29 cr.)

- Precalculus
- Informal Number Theory
- Informal Mathematical Modelling
- Informal Geometry
- Calculus I
- Intro to Mathematical Thought
- Intro to Statistical Analysis
- Geometry
- History of Mathematics

Other required coursework (42 cr.)

Middle and Secondary Ed Minor (18cr)
Licensure specific coursework (15cr)
Gen ed and other (9cr)

Total Program Requirement: 71 Credits

Program distinctiveness

Feature	Fitchburg State (Proposed)	Regional Schools
Credit/degree requirement	**71 credits within 120 credit B.S.**	Credit heavy B.S. or 4+1 programs
Curriculum	**DESE-aligned mathematics content tailored to middle school level teaching needs; pedagogy incorporated into major.**	Math content for general B.S. in Mathematics with pedagogy added on.
Flexibility	**Fewer required credits for the major gives students more flexibility to take electives and increases likelihood of timely program completion.**	Credit heavy majors offer fewer elective options in a student's curriculum; increase risk of delayed graduation.

Fitchburg State will offer a unique pathway to middle school mathematics licensure, combining relevant mathematics content with pedagogical skills specific to middle school level needs.

Enrollment Projections

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
New Full-Time	2	2	3	3	4
Continuing Full-Time	0	2	4	5	8
Totals	**2**	**4**	**7**	**8**	**12**

The Middle School Mathematics Licensure pathway is designed around retention, but we anticipate attracting new students due to the distinctiveness of the curriculum.

Budget & Revenue

Costs

Cost Category	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5
Personnel (Full- and Part-Time Faculty; Staff)	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
General Admin. Costs	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Facilities/Add'l resources	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Costs*	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Revenue (In-State Tuition)

Revenue Source	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5
Tuition	$1,940	$3,880	$6,790	$7,760	$11,640
Fees**	$20,752	$41,504	$72,632	$83,008	$124,512
Total Revenue	**$22,682**	**$45,384**	**$79,442**	**$90,768**	**$136,152**
Net Revenue	**$22,682**	**$45,384**	**$79,442**	**$90,768**	**$136,152**

**One-time marketing startup = $5,000.*

***Fees include university, student activity, capital projects, and technology fees. Health insurance excluded.*

Summary: Program highlights

Curricular innovation	Workforce demand	Aligns with Mission & Strategic Plan	Community collaboration
• Mathematics content tailored to middle school level needs and DESE requirements • Direct-entry into Mathematics content, reducing barriers to degree attainment • Pedagogy incorporated into major • Experiential learning through required practica	• Teacher shortage in MA • Emergency license pathway ends June 2027 • Estimated 370 openings in middle school teaching per year through 2032 • High needs school districts in region	• **Mission:** Professional program (education licensure) with strong liberal arts & sciences foundation • **Strategic Plan:** Leverages existing curriculum to develop a new program that responds to workforce demands	• Builds on existing partnerships with local PK-12 schools • Strengthens educator pipeline in region • Provides region with qualified candidates needed to address workforce needs

New Program Approval Process: Campus

Phase 1

- DESE revises the subject matter knowledge requirements for licensure programs.
- Mathematics faculty initiate curriculum revision and conduct regional program comparison study.

Phase 2

- Chair of Program Area Secondary and Middle (PASM) for Mathematics confirms proposed curriculum meets DESE licensure requirements.
- Mathematics Department Curriculum Committees approve new program.

Phase 3

- Undergraduate AUC Curriculum Committee recommends program for approval.
- AUC recommends and President approves the program.
- President recommends new academic program to BOT for vote.

▲ **WE ARE HERE**

Approval Process: Board of Higher Education

1

Campus Prepares LOI

Local Approval (within FSU)

Campus Submits LOI to BHE

▼

2

BHE (AAC) reviews LOI, provides feedback, and votes

▼ ▼

3

Fast Track

Campus prepares full proposal, submits to campus BOT, then to Commissioner. DHE staff review and provide recommendation. Approval authority delegated to Commissioner.

Standard

AAC provides feedback for institution to address. Campus prepares full proposal, submits to BOT, then to Commissioner. DHE staff review for completion. Campus returns to AAC for BHE approval.

Coversheet

Recommendation, Middle School Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure - VOTE

Section: II. Academic Affairs
Item: C. Recommendation, Middle School Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure - VOTE
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: VOTE Middle School Math Major.pdf

Fitchburg State University
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

TO: Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee	DATE: October 14, 2026
FROM: The President	REQUEST NUMBER: CM05-2026-2027
SUBJECT: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure	

It is requested that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee approve the proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education, Middle School (5-8) Licensure for submission to the Full Board of Trustees.