

Slavic Department Faculty Meeting Minutes 1/23/2026

In attendance: Barbara Henry, James E. Augerot, Ileana Marin, Katarzyna Dziwirek, Agnieszka Jezyk, Zoya Polack, Piotr Florczyk, Sasha Senderovich, Michael Biggins, Valentina Zaitseva, Bojan Belić

Update from the Chairs' Meeting

Barbara updates faculty based on José's notes.

- Student Preview Day

Student Preview Day is scheduled for April 4, 2026 (most likely at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture or Denny Hall).

- Provost Tricia Serio's visit

The provost asks that the Humanities Division engages in cross-division project ideas to highlight the division's talent and relevance to the nation/world ("research big bets"). Ideas are to be directed to José.

The provost engaged in a wide-ranging discussion (UW's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; online courses; the humanities division; language teaching) with the meeting attendees.

- Sabbaticals

They are not yet approved, but the process is moving along.

Discussion Items

- 2026-27 scheduling

Barbara, together with faculty, discusses 2026-27 scheduling. Remaining issues (3rd-, 4th-, 5th-year Russian language courses; POLSH 405; Ukrainian language courses) are addressed in some detail. The topic of providing more Russian language instruction outside of language courses themselves is entertained. Also, current and prospective graduate students' issues are mentioned along the way.

- Voting on Spring 26 and annual reappointments

Faculty votes on reappointments.

Travel Funding Requests

Barbara conveys José's message with regard to departmental funds for research-based travel.

Faculty members are invited to express their interest in receiving the funds no later than January 31, 2026, after which time José will determine exactly how much money each individual will be able to use.

AI in the Humanities Best Practices

Barbara invites faculty to discuss the topic of artificial intelligence in the humanities. She indicates that there is no singular university policy, which ultimately results in each person's dealing with the situation at hand in their own way. Different faculty explain their own

strategies. Barbara concludes that starting an email thread on the topic of highlighting various approaches may be a good way for the department to go.

Events

- Slovene Culture Day at the UW Waterfront Activities Center, weekend date in late Feb or Mar TBA.
- March 10, 2026 6:30 Sasha Senderovich's book launch, Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall