

MINUTES
West Virginia University Faculty Senate
Monday, November 4, 2024, 3:15 P.M.

Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis brought the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Members and guests participated in person at the College of Law and by videoconference.

Members Present:

Abraham, J.	Davis, D.	Horstick, E.	Miller, C.	Sundararajan, V.
Adkins, B.	Deci, S.	Johnson, D.	Murphy, E.	Tack, F.
Ballard, D.	Demarco, F.	Jones, J.	Nguyen, J.	Tarabishy, A.
Beall, A.	Dilcher, B.	Jones, M.	Nolan, K.	Terry, D.
Bergeron, J.	Dumitrescu, C.	Kecojevic, V.	Olson, D.	Thomay, A.
Best, K.	Elliott, E.	Kelly, C.	O'Quinn, J.	Totzkay, D.
Bhandari, R.	Elswick, D.	Kerr, P.	Ostrowski, A.	Unger, K.
Bonasso, P.	Fidelman, E.	Kidd, K.	Peck, A.	Utzman, R.
Brewster, D.	Field, J.	Labus, A.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Valenti, M.
Bryner, R.	Fleming, S.	Lastinger, A.	Phillips, B.	Velichkovski, D.
Burnside, J.	Floyd, K.	Leary, B.	Powell, B.	Vester, M.
Celikbas, E.	Fullen, M.	Leary, M.	Prinzo, L.	Walker, J.
Chapman, K.	Graves, C.	Leight, M.	Reece, J.	Wartella, J.
Cohen, S.	Greenfield, J.	Li, H.	Ruseski, J.	Watson, K.
Collignon, S.	Gross, J.	Livengood, H.	Scally, J.	Wayne, S.
Corcoran, K.	Hairston, P.	Lucci, S.	Siekmeier, J.	Weislogel, A.
Costello, L.	Hambrick, G.	M'Bayo, T.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	Williams, D.
Cottrell, L.	Hamrick, A.	McCloskey, J.	Soccorsi, A.	Woloshuk, J.
Coy, A.	Hatipoglu, K.	McCluskey, C.	Sowards, A.	Woodberry, K.
Crichlow, S.	Hedrick, J.	McWilliams, S.	Staniscia, S.	Zeni, T.
Dahle, G.	Hood, C.	Milans, K.	Stueckle, J.	

Members Excused:

Abate, M.	Fonesca, C.	Martin, E.	Thayer, J.
Bilgesu, I.	Kim, D.	Moser, J.	Udassi, S.
Bresock, K.	Lituma, C.	Nix, A.	Vance, B.

Members Absent:

Bardes, J.	Cook, A.	Giacobbi, P.	Panta, Y.	Weatherford, L.
Barghouthi, N.	Descoteaux, J.	Hanif, A.	Phillips, T.	Witsberger, S.
Bianco, C.	Dietz, P.	Liller, B.	Pyles, L.	
Bogdansky, K.	Dimachkie, Z.	Murray, A.	Sizemore, J.	
Carducci, H.	Dionne, C.	Olgers, F.	Sokos, G.	
Chisholm, S.	Galvez, M.	Palmer, A.	Taylor, G.	

1. The [Minutes](#) of the October 14, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting were approved without correction.
2. The Faculty Senate entered executive session at 3:17 p.m. to discuss WVU honorary degree candidates. Attendees included attending Faculty Senators, Interim Provost Paul Kreider, and President E. Gordon Gee.
3. Faculty Senate resumed open session at 3:23 p.m. A motion to approve the selected honorary degree candidates was carried by unanimous vote.

4. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis
 - a. The Provost's Office is seeking faculty members for the University Promotion and Tenure Committee, which will review 190 cases this year. They aim to fill the committee with 18 faculty members, and interested faculty should contact Chris Staples in the Provost's Office.
 - b. The Faculty Ombudsperson position remains open and has been vacant since last fall. This position supports faculty in navigating university policy. Davis encouraged faculty to consider the position. Interested faculty should contact Melissa Latimer or Chris Staples and ensure departmental support for release time.
 - c. Faculty are reminded to submit spring textbook adoptions, due in mid-October, noting that delays in submission may cause a delay in material availability for students. A presentation on First Day Complete is expected at the December meeting.
 - d. Faculty Senate leadership has been advocating on behalf of faculty over concerns with the Office of Sponsored Programs. Developments are in process and a presentation from OSP to Faculty Senate is expected in the spring.

5. No items were requested for removal from the consent agenda. The agenda was approved as presented.

Curriculum Committee

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: [Epidemiology](#), Key: 1643

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: [Materials Science and Engineering](#), Key: 1617

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: [Museum Professions](#), Key: 1625

For Approval – Program Change – ACCT_MIN: [Accounting](#), Key: 982

For Approval – Program Change – GDIM_BA: [Game Design and Interactive Media](#), Key: 949

For Approval – Program Change – SCM_SCI_BS: [Supply Chain Management Science](#), Key: 1571

For Approval – New Course Report – [Annex III](#)

For Approval – Course Change Report – [Annex IV](#)

Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies

For Approval – Committee Appointments – [Annex VI](#)

6. Curriculum Committee Chair Darko Velichkovski had nothing to report, noting that the committee will meet on November 7.

For Information – Deleted Course Report – [Annex V](#)

7. Committee on Committees Chair Ilkin Bilgesu had nothing to report.

8. Board of Governors Representative Lesley Cottrell had nothing to report and encouraged feedback regarding the presidential search committee using the survey linked below.

Survey – [Feedback for Board of Governors Faculty Representatives](#)

9. President E. Gordon Gee reported the following:

- a. Announced that Dr. Jerry Wallace is the new President of Potomac State College
- b. State-funded expansions for the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute and the WVU Ascend program, with the latter seeing great success compared to similar state programs

- c. WVU has received a million dollar grant to launch a Cyber Resilience Resource Center, led by Chris Ramazan, which is likely to be the first of its kind in the nation.
- d. Continued university achievements in the areas of retention rates, research, and outreach initiatives.

10. Interim Provost Paul Kreider reported the following:

- a. Reiterated the earlier announcement by President Gee regarding Dr. Jerry Wallace, adding the success Dr. Wallace has experienced in enrollment, community engagement, and workforce development while serving as the president of Danville Community College.
- b. WVU Tech received a \$100,000 NSF grant, awarded to Aida Jimenez Esquilin, which will support programs aimed at helping talented low-income Appalachian students in STEM fields.
- c. Added to President Gee's report on Cyber Resilience Resource Center, noting that it is a first-of-its-kind endeavor and aligns greatly with an increasing demand for professionals in related fields.
- d. Two individuals recognized by SHAPE West Virginia for their achievements: Assistant Professor James Wyant – Honor Award; Doctoral Candidate Lindsay Beren – Young Professional Award
- e. Assistant Professor Soumya Srivastava and her student team from the Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Department recognized with multiple poster awards, including the “Best Presentation” award for Ph.D. student Rafael Oladokun
- f. Applications are open for the Harriet E. Lyon Professorship in Women's and Gender Studies, with a deadline of January 21.
- g. The annual Undergraduate Research Symposium is set for December 7. Students must submit abstracts by November 14.
- h. Call for nominations for the Nicholas Evans Excellence in Advising award. Recipients will receive a \$1,250 reward. Submissions due November 29.
- i. WVU Libraries' Faculty Assembly is accepting nominations for their Outstanding Librarian and Distinguished Service awards, which are presented every three years and recognize excellence in expanding library services at WVU. Nominations are due by February 17.
- j. Kreider encouraged faculty to communicate notable student accomplishments directly to his office to ensure that they are recognized through channels like WVU Today.

11. Report from Vice Provost Mark Gavin Updates on Faculty Attrition and Budget Model Governance

- a. Faculty Separation Data – [Presentation Slides \(PDF\)](#)
 - i. Vice Provost Mark Gavin provided a report on voluntary faculty separations across the main campus and Health Sciences Center over a seven-year period, with attention to 2023-2024 in relation to academic transformation. Gavin noted that voluntary separations include resignations and retirements and clarified that data excludes separations that were part of the academic transformation process.

- ii. The number of voluntary separations in the 2023-2024 academic year (185) was slightly lower than in previous years, indicating no drastic rise in separations.
 - iii. When separating by campus, a modest increase in voluntary separations on the main campus was observed, driven mainly by non-tenure track faculty resignations. HSC saw a decrease in non-tenure track resignations.
- b. Budget Model and Governance Update – [Presentation Slides \(PDF\)](#)
[FY25 Budget Model](#)
- i. Lisa Sharp, Assistant VP of Financial Integrations, and Vice Provost Mark Gavin presented an overview of the budget model. The model is currently expense-focused due to limited positive margins, but there is an expectation to move toward greater clarity and shared governance over the next 4-5 years as the positive margins expand.
 - ii. Sharp and Gavin outlined a proposed University Budget Advisory Council that will include representatives from various departments and stakeholder groups. This is intended to begin when positive margins are achieved and will allow for broad input on resource allocation, with a main purpose of advising the distribution of surplus funds for reinvestment.
 - iii. Gavin reported that each department has an established budget and that the Office of the Provost has encouraged department chairs college deans to make these available to faculty members.

12. New Business

- a. Megan Leight asked for verification that there will be a presentation on First Day Complete at the December meeting, which Chair Davis confirmed.

13. Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m., to reconvene on December 2, 2024.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator

*You may access program proposals at <https://futurecatalog.wvu.edu/programadmin/> by using your login credentials. Search for programs using the 3- or 4-digit key provided above. Course Proposals may be similarly accessed at <https://futurecatalog.wvu.edu/courseadmin>