

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 Monday, August 18, 2025 – 3:00 P.M.
 Location: Virtual via Zoom



Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Members Present:

Benson, M.	Graves, C.	Leight, M.	Prinzo, L.	Valenti, M.
Cottrell, L.	Gross, J.	O'Quinn, J.	Sowards, A.	
Crichlow, S.	Hood, C.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Stueckle, J.	
Davis, D.	Kreider, P.	Prinzo, L.	Terry, D.	

Members Excused:

Murphy, E.

1. The [Minutes](#) of the April 21, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting were approved without corrections.

2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair R. Scott Crichlow

- a. Chair Crichlow provided updates on the start of the new administration. He noted the positive tone set by the President's Faculty Advisory Board meeting held prior to the semester's start and highlighted the administration's commitment to collaborative work with faculty.
- b. Confidence was expressed in Past Chair Diana Davis as co-chair of the provost search committee. On-campus interviews are expected in November.
- c. Chair Crichlow discussed ongoing biweekly meetings with Interim Provost Paul Kreider and other administrators, including meetings with VP of Strategic Marketing and Communications Heather Richardson, Interim Dean of Students Carrie Showalter, and SGA President Colin Street.
- d. Crichlow yielded the floor to Lauren Prinzo for an update on the Ombuds position. A Senate workgroup has revised the job description to broaden the applicant pool by adjusting mediation requirements. The next step is review by the Provost's Office. Interim Provost Kreider requested early inclusion in the review process. Feedback will be solicited from Executive Committee members.
- e. Constitution revisions will be an important topic for the year. Crichlow emphasized an inclusive process, with an initial Senate conversation expected in October and possible faculty assembly consideration in spring.

3. Consent Agenda unanimously approved as presented.

Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies
 For Approval – Committee Rosters – [Annex I](#)

4. Standing Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Chair Cate Johnson was absent and did not report.
- b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Cody Hood)

*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>

- i. The GEFCo has been working with the Honors College over the summer on fellow courses and the associated approval process.
 - ii. Hood noted that the university is beginning a transformation of general education. That process is coming out of the Office of the Provost, not Faculty Senate and GEFCo.
- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Ashlee Sowards)
 - i. Sowards reported on ongoing work with SPOT course evaluations, digital accessibility guidance from the Department of Justice, and an upcoming meeting on the Blue system upgrade.
- d. Committee on Committees Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell noted continued adjustments to ensure balanced membership and chair-elect appointments. She clarified that all membership decisions require Senate approval and outlined composition requirements.
- e. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell reported on the summer retreat with the Board and leadership, which focused on strategic planning. Faculty representatives continue to participate fully despite the loss of voting privileges.
- f. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Jason Gross)
 - i. Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) agenda has largely been focused on promoting awareness and purpose, with intent to work more proactively with legislators. Gross was elected as legislative coordinator for ACF.
 - ii. Regular meetings between Gross and the WVU Government Relations team have already been established.

5. Guest Reports

- a. Report from Ming Lei, Interim Vice President for Research
 - i. Dr. Lei addressed three key topics: organizational changes in the research office, impacts of federal policy shifts on research funding, and the freeze on startup and indirect recovery funds.
 - 1. Research Corp employees (approximately 560) transitioned to WVU as of July 1, with minimal disruption to research operations. Dr. Lei outlined a new organizational structure with associate vice presidents overseeing sponsored programs and electronic research systems (Katie Storr), research development and faculty collaboration (Sheena Murphy), and compliance functions (Melanie Page). He noted a growing emphasis on technology transfer and commercialization, supported by collaborations with Clay Marsh, Jim Hoyer, and Stephanie Taylor.
 - 2. On federal policy, Dr. Lei acknowledged significant uncertainty due to conflicting executive, legislative, and judicial actions but reported that the direct impact on WVU research has so far been limited. Only 17 smaller grants were affected,

while major funding streams from NIH, NSF, and DOE remain intact. WVU continues to receive its negotiated 53% indirect cost rate on new awards.

3. Confirmation that startup funds and indirect recovery remain frozen in many colleges, but practices vary across units. Some colleges have provided temporary relief for faculty in need. Dr. Lei emphasized that financial decisions now largely reside at the college level under the new budget model. He expressed cautious optimism for federal research support going forward and stressed the importance of faculty communication to dispel rumors.

b. Report from President Michael T. Benson

- i. President Benson reflected on the summer Board of Governors retreat and emphasized faculty and student representation in the process. He reiterated the importance of the Provost search and commended the composition of the search committee.
- ii. Highlighted efforts from the statewide outreach tour and campus visits, and underscored the value of service and engagement activities by WVU students.
- iii. The importance of recruitment and enrollment was stressed, with emphasis regarding the need for out-of-state recruitment. Fabrizio D'Aloisio has been hired as VP of Enrollment Management, and President Benson encouraged Faculty Senate to recruit him to a future meeting for further discussion.
 1. At the time of reporting, WVU had 4,498 registered students, which is 328 students over our budgeted enrollment systemwide. It was noted that there are still several weeks to go before the census date, so that number is likely to fluctuate.

c. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider

- i. Susan Brewer is serving as Interim Dean of the College of Law. A search for the permanent dean is underway.
- ii. Acknowledged faculty concerns regarding budget pressures, particularly support for graduate programs and research activities. Kreider emphasized that his office remains committed to transparency and open communication with faculty, noting the continuation of his biweekly meetings with Senate leadership.
- iii. Collaborative efforts to address student retention and enrollment challenges were highlighted, and appreciation was noted for faculty leadership in advancing curriculum and program initiatives despite resource constraints.
- iv. New faculty and GTA orientations were completed last week. The Office of the Provost will be coordinating those efforts moving forward.
 1. Melissa Latimer is no longer with the Office of the Provost, and her responsibilities have been distributed: TLC to Lou Slimak; Women's Resource Center and LGBTQ+ to student life; WVU Press to WVU Libraries;
 2. Paul Headings and the Office of Academic Integrity will now report to Evan Widders, instead of Student Life.

d. Report from Paul Heddings, Director of Academic Integrity – AI Modules

- i. Heddings provided an overview of the new AI integrity modules being developed for integration into student orientation and selected courses. He explained that these modules are designed to help students understand appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI tools in academic settings. Feedback gathered from faculty across disciplines on module content has been positive. The modules will emphasize critical thinking, academic honesty, and responsible innovation. Heddings encouraged faculty to review the draft modules once available and noted they will be piloted in several first-year courses this fall.
-

6. Senate Business and Announcements

- a. For Information – Committee Annual Reports – [Annex II](#)
 - b. For Approval – Renewal of the Collaboration Committee as a Special Committee – [Annex III](#)
Motion to approve (Davis) carries by unanimous vote.
 - c. For Approval- Renewal of the Student Recruitment and Retention Committee as a Standing Committee – [Annex IV](#)
Motion to approve (Cottrell) carries with 14 in favor and one opposed.
 - d. No new business introduced.
-

7. Chair Crichlow adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m., to reconvene on September 22, 2025.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator