

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, February 9, 2026 – 3:15 P.M.  
 Location: College of Law; Zoom

Members Present:

Abate, M.	Curtis, R.	Hood, C.	Mukdadi, O.	Tanner, E.
Abraham, J.	Dai, F.	Horstick, E.	Mulligan, I.	Tarabishy, A.
Adkins, B.	Davis, D.	Hutchinson, J.	Nduaguba, S.	Taylor, G.
Benincosa, M.	Deci, S.	Johnson, C.	O'Quinn, J.	Terry, D.
Bergeron, J.	DeMarco, F.	Jones, J.	Ostrowski, A.	Thomay, A.
Bonasso, P.	Fidelman, E.	Jones, M.	Palmer, A.	Unger, K.
Bragg, R.	Fint-Clark, B.	Kidd, K.	Peluso, A.	Vance, B.
Brewster, D.	Fleming, S.	Leary, M.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Wartella, J.
Bryner, R.	Fonseca, C.	Leight, M.	Phillips, B.	Watson, K.
Burnside, J.	Fullen, M.	Li, H.	Powell, B.	Weatherford, L.
Carder, J.	Gabbert, K.	Liller, B.	Reaser, R.	Weirich, M.
Collignon, S.	Gorman, C.	Martin, E.	Reece, J.	Williams, D.
Corcoran, K.	Graves, C.	Matak, K.	Rogers, R.	Wilson, E.
Costas, M.	Greenfield, J.	M'Bayo, T.	Scally, J.	Woloshuk, J.
Costas, M.	Gritsenko, V.	McCluskey, C.	Soccorsi, A.	Woodberry, K.
Costello, L.	Gross, J.	McKenrick, S.	Song, X.	Zaynudinova, G.
Cottrell, L.	Hamrick, A.	McWilliams, S.	Sowards, A.	Zeni, T.
Coy, A.	Hatipoglu, K.	Metz, C.	Spong, B.	
Crichlow, S.	Hedrick, J.	Milans, K.	Stueckle, J.	

Members Excused:

Ameri, S.	Hairston, P.	Prinzo, L.	Singh-Corcoran, N.
Dadyburjor, D.	Lituma, C.	Ray Chaudhuri, N.	Valenti, M.
Dilcher, B.	Miller, C.	Siekmeier, J.	

Members Absent:

Ahmad, M.	Descoteaux, J.	Kim, D.	Nolan, K.	Thayer, J.
Bardes, J.	Dietz, P.	Labus, A.	Pyles, L.	Udassi, S.
Bogdansky, K.	Doyle, A.	Livengood, H.	Shannon, B.	Witsberger, S.
Bresock, K.	Hambrick, G.	McCloskey, J.	Sizemore, J.	
Chapman, K.	Kelly, C.	Murray, A.	Swiger, J.	

1. Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.
2. The Minutes of the January 12, 2026, Faculty Senate meeting were approved as distributed.
3. Report from Faculty Senate Chair R. Scott Crichlow

- a. Chair Crichlow reported that Faculty Senate leadership has been in regular contact with university administrators regarding faculty concerns, including faculty governance processes, academic freedom issues, and dean searches, particularly for Libraries and Eberly College.
- b. Senate leadership will continue to closely monitor legislative developments
- c. A special University Assembly meeting will be held one week from today to consider proposed revisions to the Faculty Constitution. The meeting will be hybrid, with registration information distributed by email. Faculty were encouraged to submit questions or concerns in advance to

assist with preparation. Following the assembly, a ballot will be distributed within 24 hours, and faculty will have 7 days to submit their votes.

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#### 4. The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

##### Curriculum Committee

New Course Report – [Annex I](#)

Course Change Report – [Annex II](#)

Program Report – [Annex III](#)

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#### 5. Committee and Officer Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Report (Cate Johnson)

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

- i. The Curriculum Committee has continued to implement the “pass with notation” system, which allowed minor issues on proposals to be flagged while still being permitted to move forward, resulting in improved efficiency.
- ii. Discussion centered on attendance policy language, specifically regarding punitive policies. Dr. Johnson noted that it has been longstanding committee practice to advise faculty to create attendance policies that grant points for attendance, as opposed to lowering a grade for a certain number of absences. Johnson noted that punitive policies are often ruled against in grade appeals.

- b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Cody Hood)

- i. Committee is scheduled to meet next week to review courses proposed for the GEF program, and to provide feedback on Honors foundation courses.

- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Ashlee Sowards)

- i. Faculty were reminded that the Early Semester Course Feedback tool is currently open, with a February 20 deadline for faculty to opt in, modify questions, or select items before surveys are distributed to students. Proposed new question items have been received by the committee for review and will be on the committee’s February 16 agenda.

- d. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)

- i. Board will meet next on February 19-20.
- ii. Board committees meeting this week include Academic Affairs, Divisional Campuses, and Strategic Planning. The Finance Committee and Governance Committee will meet next Monday and Tuesday, respectively.

- e. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Jason Gross)

- i. More than 2,100 bills have been introduced during the current legislative session, with approximately 50 related to higher education.
- ii. Dr. Gross highlighted the legislature’s bill tracking system and WVU Government Relations “[Under the Dome](#)” updates as useful resources.
- iii. Legislation tracking:
  1. HB 4002, West Virginia Collaboratory, which would establish a mechanism to fund research projects at higher education institutions for public benefit and practical use.
  2. SB 455 would make Potomac State College an eligible institution for the Learn and Earn Program.
  3. HB 4081 would create a higher education grant program addressing food insecurity and student health.
  4. SB 551, restoring board voting rights for student, faculty, and staff representatives, which Gross noted is unlikely to gain traction.

- 5. SB 657, restoring board voting rights for student representatives only.
- iv. Dr. Gross provided a personal testimony to the impact of having student, faculty, and staff voices on the Board of Governors, noting his experience in that role as a student and the role it played in guiding him toward becoming a faculty member at WVU. He noted the extensive impact of WVU faculty on the state of West Virginia, including public outreach, economic impact, workforce development, and research.
- f. Sustainability Committee Report on Solar Panel Project (Hailin Li, ~~Andrew O’Neal~~)
  - i. Andrew O’Neal was unable to attend and did not report on the SGA solar panel project.
  - ii. Dr. Li reported on the committee’s first meeting, which included a presentation from Traci Knabenshue from the Office of Sustainability. Knabenshue answered questions raised about recycling material potentially being sent to the landfill, confirming that campus recycling materials are sent to recycling facilities. Confusion may be caused by shared landfill/recycling infrastructure and occasional use of alternate trucks.
  - iii. On behalf of O’Neal, Li reported that the Student Government Association is pursuing funding to install solar panels on campus, with the Downtown Library identified as a promising site. The committee voted to support the initiative and encouraged coordination with Facilities to ensure feasibility and structural readiness.

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## 6. Guest Reports

- a. Report from President Michael T. Benson
  - i. President Benson reported on WVU’s participation in WVU Day at the Capitol and testimony before the House Finance Committee, highlighting enrollment, retention, research, deferred maintenance, funding formula issues, coliseum HVAC needs, medical education expansion, and medical facilities upgrades.
  - ii. President Benson joined Marshall University President Brad Smith in a Universities United reception, where the two leaders emphasized the differing missions between the two institutions and the ways in which they can collaborate to address the academic needs of all 55 counties.
  - iii. Several projects have received congressionally directed funding in the new budget bill, including:
    - 1. \$15 million for Phase II of the School of Dentistry renovation
    - 2. Nearly \$12 million for development of an RNI neuromodulation center
    - 3. Approximately \$2.5 million for emergency room renovations
    - 4. \$6.4 million for PRT guideway improvements
  - iv. The CFO search will be relaunched to ensure that the best possible candidate is identified.
  - v. A national search for Vice President for Research will begin April 1, chaired by incoming Provost Beverly Windland. Dr. Ming Lei will continue serving as Interim Vice President for Research during the transition.
- b. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
  - i. Provost Kreider confirmed that the CIO search is moving forward with a hired search firm, while evaluation of the Chief Data Officer role continues.
  - ii. Dean search updates:
    - 1. Libraries: final candidate visit scheduled for tomorrow, and an announcement on the successful candidate is expected in the coming weeks.
    - 2. Eberly: search underway with Greenwood Asher; Zoom interviews later this month and campus finalists in March.
    - 3. The College of Law search has been extended. Interim Dean Susan Brewer will remain through December 31, 2026, to support transition.
  - iii. Provost Kreider announced the hiring of Erin Kelly as WVU’s first Digital Accessibility Program Director and the launch of the [digital accessibility resource website](#).

- iv. Faculty were reminded of:
  - 1. AI teaching and research survey distributed via email earlier today, which will help inform decisions on AI training and tools.
  - 2. Community Engagement Expo on February 12
  - 3. February 16 deadline for Provost's Office faculty award nominations.
- c. Report from Eric Horstick – University Culture Action Team
  - i. Dr. Horstick reported that a university-wide Culture Action Team was formed in response to faculty and staff focus group feedback, in addition to unit-level teams. Each college and most staff divisions have a culture action team, and the university-wide committee is composed of major stakeholders from across the institution.
  - ii. The team is addressing three themes: sharing opinion/feedback, recognition for good work, and growth and development. The group meets monthly and is developing prioritized recommendations for leadership.
  - iii. He noted that unit-level teams are also working on similar initiatives and that leadership is expected to begin receiving feedback soon. A future round of surveys is tentatively planned, and increased faculty participation was encouraged.
  - iv. Discussion included questions about whether resources would be allocated to support these initiatives and whether town halls might occur. Dr. Horstick noted that budgetary and policy changes are currently out of scope but emphasized that engagement is critical to shaping future action.
  - v. Horstick also noted that the teams were appointed by Amber Tenant, Director of Strategic HR Partners in Talent and Culture.
- d. Report from Rozaireo Jones, Student Body Vice President – Hardesty Festival of Ideas  
[Presentation Slides – PDF](#)
  - i. Jones addressed the Senate regarding student engagement and the importance of combating apathy among students. He reported that post-pandemic student organization participation is beginning to rebound.
  - ii. He announced plans to reinvigorate the [Hardesty Festival of Ideas](#), a historic WVU lecture series intended to foster intellectual curiosity, showcase faculty scholarship, and encourage debate. The festival will feature multiple events this semester, and faculty participation and collaboration were encouraged.
  - iii. Ethics of AI – Feb 16
  - iv. Business and Innovation – Feb 17
  - v. Understanding WV Polices – Feb 18 (Incorrect date on slide)

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## 7. Senate Business and Announcements

- a. No new business introduced.

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## 8. Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow adjournment the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Corey Hunt  
 Faculty Senate Office Administrator