

Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Members Present:

Abate, M.	Costello, L.	Hamrick, A.	Miller, C.	Sowards, A.
Abraham, J.	Cottrell, L.	Hanif, A.	Moser, J.	Stueckle, J.
Adkins, B.	Coy, A.	Hatipoglu, K.	Murphy, E.	Tack, F.
Ameri, S.	Crichlow, S.	Hedrick, J.	Nix, A.	Thayer, J.
Ballard, D.	Dadyburjor, D.	Hood, C.	Nolan, K.	Thomay, A.
Beall, A.	Dahle, G.	Horstick, E.	O'Quinn, J.	Totzkay, D.
Bergeron, J.	Davis, D.	Johnson, D.	Ostrowski, A.	Valenti, M.
Best, K.	Deci, S.	Jones, J.	Peck, A.	Vance, B.
Bhandari, R.	Descoteaux, J.	Kelly, C.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Velichkovski, D.
Bilgesu, I.	Dilcher, B.	Kidd, K.	Phillips, B.	Walker, J.
Bonasso, P.	Elliott, E.	Kim, D.	Phillips, T.	Wartella, J.
Bresock, K.	Elswick, D.	Leary, M.	Powell, B.	Watson, K.
Brewster, D.	Fleming, S.	Leight, M.	Prinzo, L.	Wayne, S.
Bryner, R.	Fonseca, C.	Li, H.	Reece, J.	Weatherford, L.
Burnside, J.	Graves, C.	Lituma, C.	Scally, J.	Weislogel, A.
Chapman, K.	Greenfield, J.	Martin, E.	Siekmeier, J.	Williams, D.
Cook, A.	Gross, J.	M'Bayo, T.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	Woodberry, K.
Corcoran, K.	Hambrick, G.	Milans, K.	Soccorsi, A.	

Members Excused:

Collignon, S.	Livengood, H.	Staniscia, S.	Woloshuk, J.
DeMarco, F.	Peralta, M.	Vester, M.	Zeni, T.

Members Absent:

Bardes, J.	Dionne, C.	Kerr, P.	Murray, A.	Sizemore, J.
Barghouthi, N.	Dumitrescu, C.	Labus, A.	Nguyen, J.	Sokos, G.
Bianco, C.	Fidelman, E.	Lastinger, A.	Olgers, F.	Sundararajan, V.
Bogdansky, K.	Field, J.	Leary, B.	Olson, D.	Tarabishy, A.
Carducci, H.	Floyd, K.	Liller, B.	Palmer, A.	Taylor, G.
Celikbas, E.	Fullen, M.	Lucci, S.	Panta, Y.	Terry, D.
Chisholm, S.	Giacobbi, P.	McCloskey, J.	Pyles, L.	Unger, K.
Dietz, P.	Hairston, P.	McCluskey, C.	Rakipi, R.	Utzman, R.
Dimachkie, Z.	Jones, M.	McWilliams, S.	Ruseski, J.	Witsberger, S.

1. The [Minutes](#) of the April 7, 2025, Faculty Senate meeting were approved without corrections.

2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis

- a. Davis, noting that this was her final meeting as Faculty Senate Chair, spoke of the importance of faculty engagement in governance while expressing appreciation and gratitude to the Executive Committee, Provost Kreider, President Gee, and members of the Faculty Senate leadership team.
 - b. Faculty were encouraged to continue being active in institutional processes, shared decision making, and in the development of department and college-level guidelines.
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3. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Curriculum Committee

For Approval – Program Report – [Annex I](#)

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

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

4. Standing Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Report (Darko Velichkovski)
 - i. Approved proposals included five academic programs and 71 course proposals.
 - ii. Velichkovski expressed appreciation for the contributions of the Curriculum Committee.
 - b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Cody Hood)
 - i. No updates to report. Hood thanked faculty for engagement and support.
 - c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Chair (Sheri Chisolm)
 - i. Chisolm was unable to attend due to a conflicting final exam schedule.
 - ii. Chair Davis noted that faculty will soon receive an email concerning the process for redacting student comments.
 - d. Committee on Committees Report (Ilkin Bilgesu)
 - i. Committee population has begun, and roster invitations are actively being distributed. Faculty were encouraged to respond to committee appointment requests as soon as possible.
 - e. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government Eloise Elliott
 - i. HB 3279 was signed by the governor in late April, and as such the BOG will have 19 members with 15 being appointed by the governor. The faculty, staff, and student representatives are no longer voting members and serve an advisory role.
 - ii. SB 474 – DEI bill, signed by Morrissey on April 30
 - iii. HB 3297 – Washington Center at WVU also signed on April 30
 - f. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell had no updates to report, as the BOG had not met between the April and May Faculty Senate meetings. Faculty were encouraged to attend the scheduled meeting is June 13, 2025, at the Alumni Center, when Cottrell and Frankie Tack will present the annual faculty report.
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5. Guest Reports

- a. Report from Vanessa Yerkovich, Director of Education Abroad – Study Abroad Process and Costs
[Link to Presentation Slides – PDF](#)
 - i. Yerkovich highlighted the recent policy changes requiring the use of a third-party logistics provider. The change was designed to ensure consistent planning, improved safety, and better financial management of abroad programs.

- ii. In response to faculty concern over rising prices, loss of flexibility, student accessibility, and other matters, Yerkovich encouraged faculty to engage with the International Travel Advisory Committee, which actively reviews faculty feedback on study abroad policies.
- b. Report from Katie Stores, Associate Vice President for Finance, Operations, and Research Administration – Office of Sponsored Programs Process Improvements
[Link to Presentation Slides – PDF](#)
 - i. Presentation outlined process improvements for the Office of Sponsored Programs. Key improvements included:
 - 1. Centralizing award submissions process.
 - 2. Reducing processing time for awards, with average times going from 18 days to less than six days.
 - 3. Implementing a new research portal to expand tracking and transparency.
- c. Report from Associate Provost Lou Slimak – Accessing Program Level Data
 - i. Review of faculty access to program-level data that is used in annual reviews.
 - ii. Dashboards are available through Tableau, but additional steps may be needed for department-specific data. Faculty may direct requests for that data to:
Dataoffice@mail.wvu.edu
- d. Report from President E. Gordon Gee
 - i. Gee reflected on his time serving as the president of West Virginia University.
 - ii. Appreciation was noted for Diana Davis’s leadership and the contributions of members of the Faculty Senate.
 - iii. Gee expressed confidence and optimism in the university’s future moving forward, despite challenges in higher education.
- e. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
 - i. Kreider shared updates on multiple faculty and student achievements, including:
 - 1. Mark Brazaitis of the English Department received the 2025 faculty award in Graduate Research Mentoring
 - 2. Travis Stimeling Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Students awarded to five faculty and one graduate student.
 - 3. National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship awarded to graduate students Camila Romeo and Christopher Smith.
 - 4. Sophie Slaughter recognized as the 27th Truman Scholar of WVU
 - 5. Three students awarded the Goldwater Scholarship
 - ii. Administration expects to hear back on HLC report in August
 - iii. General Education reform process has identified six faculty to help lead the process, and the Office of the Provost is working with those faculties’ departments and deans on arrangements.
 - iv. Announcement distributed today seeking faculty interested in participating in the Provost search.
 - v. Kreider noted appreciation for Diana Davis’s leadership as Faculty Senate chair.

- a. Matt Valenti has been elected as Faculty Senate Chair-Elect and will serve as Faculty Senate Chair in 2026-2027.
 - b. Confirmation of Faculty Senate Officer Appointments
 - i. Lauren Prinzo was appointed as Faculty Secretary. Appointment confirmed by acclamation.
 - ii. Jason Gross was appointed as Faculty Senate Representative to State Government. Appointment confirmed by acclamation.
 - c. Faculty Senator Election Teller's Report – [Annex IV](#)
 - d. New Business
 - i. Joe Jones, CCAM, noted that his department received a budget cut and mentioned a rumor that school funding had been removed for use in athletics.
 - ii. Lauren Prinzo moved to form a special committee to review the ombudsperson position over the summer, with a goal of comparing the position to those of institutional peers and ultimately making changes that result in filling the vacancy. The motion carried.
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- 7. Diana Davis yielded the floor to Chair-Elect Scott Crichlow to adjourn the meeting. Crichlow adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator