

Faculty Senate Minutes
Monday, June 8, 2026 – 3:15 P.M.
Location: College of Law Event Hall; Zoom



Members Present:

Abate, M.	Dai, F.	Hood, C.	O'Quinn, J.	Sowards, A.
Abraham, J.	Deci, S.	Horstick, E.	Ostrowski, A.	Spong, B.
Adkins, B.	DeMarco, F.	Hutchinson, J.	Peluso, A.	Stueckle, J.
Ameri, S.	DeMarco, F.	Jones, J.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Taylor, G.
Benincosa, M.	Dilcher, B.	Jones, M.	Phillips, B.	Terry, D.
Bergeron, J.	Doyle, A.	Kidd, K.	Prinzo, L.	Thomay, A.
Bonasso, P.	Fidelman, E.	Leary, M.	Ray, N.	Valenti, M.
Brewster, D.	Fleming, S.	Leight, M.	Reaser, R.	Watson, K.
Bryner, R.	Fonseca, C.	Li, H.	Reece, J.	Weatherford, L.
Carder, J.	Gabbert, K.	Livengood, H.	Rogers, R.	Weirich, M.
Collignon, S.	Gorman, C.	Matak, K.	Scally, J.	Williams, D.
Costas, M.	Graves, C.	McKenrick, S.	Siekmeier, J.	Wilson, E.
Costello, L.	Gritsenko, V.	Metz, C.	Siekmeier, J.	Woloshuk, J.
Cottrell, L.	Gross, J.	Milans, K.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	Woodberry, K.
Coy, A.	Hairston, P.	Miller, C.	Sizemore, J.	Zaynutdinova, G.
Crichlow, S.	Hatipoglu, K.	Mukdadi, O.	Soccorsi, A.	Zeni, T.
Curtis, R.	Hedrick, J.	Mulligan, I.	Song, X.	

Members Excused:

Dadyburjor, D.	M'Bayo, T.	Tanner, E.
Fint-Clark, B.	Powell, B.	Tarabishy, A.

Members Absent:

Ahmad, M.	Davis, D.	Johnson, C.	McCloskey, J.	Pyles, L.
Bardes, J.	Descoteaux, J.	Kelly, C.	Mccluskey, C.	Shannon, B.
Bogdansky, K.	Dietz, P.	Kim, D.	McWilliams, S.	Swiger, J.
Bresock, K.	Fullen, M.	Labus, A.	Murray, A.	Thayer, J.
Burnside, J.	Greenfield, J.	Liller, B.	Nduaguba, S.	Udassi, S.
Chapman, K.	Hambrick, G.	Lituma, C.	Nolan, K.	
Corcoran, K.	Hamrick, A.	Martin, E.	Palmer, A.	
Unger, K.	Vance, B.	Wartella, J.	Witsberger, S.	

1. Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.
2. The Minutes of the May 11, 2026, Faculty Senate Meeting were approved as distributed.
3. Report from Faculty Senate Chair R. Scott Crichlow
 - a. Chair Crichlow thanked all faculty who participated in graduation ceremonies across commencement weekend.
 - b. Crichlow also expressed appreciation to outgoing Interim Provost Paul Kreider for his active participation and availability to Senate leadership during the transition.
 - c. Noted that the agenda included two proposals, merging four committees into two, in what is the first phase of a larger committee reorganization planned through the 2026–2027 academic year to address faculty service overextension.
 - d. Crichlow introduced the Faculty Senate to two new deans:
 - i. Dr. Mark Paris, Dean of WVU Libraries and Press

*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>

- ii. Dr. Clayton Thyne, Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
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4. The consent agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Curriculum Committee

New Course Report – [Annex I](#)

Course Change Report – [Annex II](#)

5. Committee and Officer Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Report (Ron Reaser)
 - i. No additional business beyond the consent agenda items.
 - b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Cody Hood)
 - i. GEF course update surveys have been distributed to associate deans for review over the summer.
 - c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Ashlee Sowards)
 - i. Ashlee Sowards reported that TACO concluded reviewing all Spring 2026 SPOT/eSEI redaction request surveys in coordination with the Provost's office (with the College of Law following an extended timeline through Friday)
 - d. Committee on Committees Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. For Approval – Resolution to Merge Faculty Welfare, Inclusion and Diversity Committees – [Annex III](#)
 - 1. Member inquired whether output regarding DEI issues would be lost. Daniel Brewster explained that Faculty Welfare has already been absorbing DEI issues over the past several years. Chair Crichlow reaffirmed that the merged committee structure retains strong historical representation.
Motion to approve carried by show of hands.
 - ii. For Approval – Resolution to Merge Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Recruitment and Retention Committees – [Annex IV](#)
 - 1. Member asked if combination with Academic Technology was considered due to surveillance technology topics. Cottrell noted that further committee alignment, including Academic Technology, will be evaluated during 2026–2027.
Motion to approve carried by show of hands.
 - iii. For Approval – 2026-2027 Committee Rosters – [Annex V](#)
Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent.
 - e. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Lesley Cottrell reported that BOG subcommittees are meeting ahead of the final annual budget and approval meeting on June 18–19, 2026, which will be held virtually via Zoom. Cottrell and Chair Crichlow will deliver the annual faculty presentation during the public session.
 - f. Service Committee Report – Community Engagement Grants
For Information – CE Grant Recipients – [Annex VI](#)
 - i. Lauren Prinzo, reporting on behalf of Becca Fint-Clark, announced that 37 applications were received for the returning Community Engagement Grants. Nine proposals were funded for a total of \$60,000 in awards, with \$30,000 slated for 2026–2027 distribution.
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6. Guest Reports

- a. Report from Provost Beverly Wendland
 - i. Incoming Provost Beverly Wendland addressed the Senate prior to her official July 1 start date:
 - 1. Highlighted key appointments, including Mark Paris (Dean of Libraries) and Clayton Thyne (Dean of Eberly).
 - 2. Confirmed active searches for Dean of the College of Law (chaired by Josh Hall) and Vice President for Research (chaired by Provost Wendland).
 - 3. Emphasized a proactive, collaborative, and process-oriented approach to leadership grounded in transparent shared governance.
 - 4. Addressed President Benson's target of aspiring to Association of American Universities (AAU) membership, clarifying that the focus is on elevating internal faculty research/teaching infrastructure and institutional excellence rather than metric-chasing.
 - 5. Outlined plans for informal monthly coffee/lunch engagement sessions with small faculty cohorts alongside Senate Chair Matt Valente, as well as launching seed funds for cross-disciplinary collaborations and expanded postdoctoral programs.
- b. Report from Associate Provost Evan Widders and Director of Academic Integrity Paul Headings – Turnitin Contract
 - i. Associate Provost Widders noted that the Turnitin contact was up for renewal over the summer and sought faculty feedback on whether to continue with the AI module that was added in January 2026.
 - 1. 27,000 student submissions were run through Turnitin's AI module during the 6-month trial (ending June 30; annual renewal cost \$23,500). ~75% showed 0% AI, ~15% showed 100% AI, and ~10% showed partial AI.
 - 2. Academic integrity cases referencing AI increased from 80% (2024–2025) to 90% (2025–2026). Paul Headings emphasized that Turnitin is treated as a conversation starter/indicator rather than definitive evidence due to known false positive issues with student names, title pages, standard phrasing, and heavy editing tools such as Grammarly.
 - ii. Faculty feedback provided mixed perspectives, with some faculty citing it as a useful starting point for conversations with students, while others noted that the tool was unreliable, created false positives, and raised concerns over student surveillance.

7. Senate Business and Announcements

- a. Report from Jessie O'Quinn and Douglas Terry – Divisional Campus Updates [Presentation Slides - PDF](#)
 - i. Highlights: WVU Tech Nursing enrollment increased up to 79%; Dr. Peggy Lambert Frink was named 2025 Professor of the Year; \$50,000 in Tech mini grants were awarded; Potomac State's \$4.9M Science Hall renovation is underway; expansion of Metro and Ohio reciprocity tuition rates.
 - ii. Challenges: Enrollment fluctuations, competitive salary barriers in faculty recruitment/retention, and severe faculty service overextension due to smaller faculty bodies.
- b. For Information –Executive Committee Election Teller's Report – [Annex VII](#)
 - i. Chair Crichlow acknowledged the Teller's Report for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee election, noting significant membership turnover for 2026–2027 and thanking outgoing long-serving members.
- c. Faculty Senator Attendance Report – [Annex IX](#)

- i. Faculty Office Administrator Corey Hunt presented the annual Faculty Senator Attendance Report required under recent constitutional amendments (mandating a spring report on senators missing two or more meetings per semester):
 - 1. Hunt noted that excused absences were filtered out from the final list. The unexcused non-attending list was attached to the agenda as an item "For Information." Hunt declined to project the list publicly on screen, reiterating that the intent is informational rather than punitive and that no formal Senate action is inherently attached to the report
 - 2. Reaffirming past practice, Hunt emphasized that academic constituencies should self-police their elected representatives. He clarified that under the Faculty Constitution, senators or officers may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote, provided a formal motion is presented to the Senate at least seven days prior to the meeting.
 - 3. Members cautioned against central over-policing, noting senators may contribute actively to committees, and encouraged constituency-level evaluation prior to any fall removal motions.
 - d. New Business
 - i. Ron Reaser provided an update following discussions regarding the integration of the LGBTQ+ Center and Center for Black Culture into the Center for Community Connections and Culture. Reaser reported cautious optimism that key programming (Lavender Graduation, faculty fellowships, student panels) will continue with expanded budget support, though concerns remain regarding overall visibility.
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8. Adjournment and Passing of the Gavel

- a. Chair Crichlow expressed appreciation to senators for their service during his time as Chair. Crichlow officially passed the Faculty Senate gavel to incoming Chair Matt Valenti. Chair Valente thanked Crichlow for his leadership and called for a motion to adjourn.
- b. The Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m., to reconvene in September 2026.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator