

MINUTES  
West Virginia University Faculty Senate  
Monday, September 9, 2024, 3:15 P.M.

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

**Members Present:**

Abate, M.	Crichlow, S.	Jones, J.	Nguyen, J.	Tack, F.
Abraham, J.	Crisholm, S.	Jones, M.	Nix, A.	Tarabishy, A.
Adkins, B.	Dahle, G.	Keckojevic, V.	Nolan, K.	Taylor, G.
Ballard, D.	Davis, D.	Kelly, C.	Olgers, F.	Terry, D.
Barghouthi, N.	Descoteaux, J.	Kent, A.	Olson, D.	Thayer, J.
Beall, A.	Dilcher, B.	Kidd, K.	O'Quinn, J.	Thomay, A.
Bergeron, J.	Elliott, E.	Leary, B.	Peck, A.	Totzkay, D.
Best, K.	Elswick, D.	Leary, M.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Unger, K.
Bhandari, R.	Fidelman, E.	Leight, M.	Phillips, B.	Valenti, M.
Bilgesu, I.	Field, J.	Li, H.	Phillips, T.	Vance, B.
Bonasso, P.	Fleming, S.	Liller, B.	Powell, B.	Velichkovski, D.
Brewster, D.	Floyd, K.	Lituma, C.	Prinzo, L.	Vester, M.
Bryner, R.	Fonseca, C.	Livengood, H.	Pyles, L.	Walker, J.
Burnside, J.	Fullen, M.	Lucci, S.	Ruseski, J.	Wartella, J.
Celikbas, E.	Graves, C.	Martin, E.	Scally, J.	Watson, K.
Chapman, K.	Greenfield, J.	M'Bayo, T.	Siekmeier, J.	Wayne, S.
Collignon, S.	Gross, J.	McCluskey, C.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	Weatherford, L.
Cook, A.	Hairston, P.	McWilliams, S.	Soccorsi, A.	Weislogel, A.
Corcoran, K.	Hamrick, A.	Milans, K.	Sowards, A.	Williams, D.
Costello, L.	Hatipoglu, K.	Miller, C.	Staniscia, S.	Witsberger, S.
Cottrell, L.	Hood, C.	Moser, J.	Stueckle, J.	Woloshuk, J.
Coy, A.	Johnson, D.	Murphy, E.	Sundararajan, V.	Zeni, T.

**Members Excused:**

Bresock, K.	DeMarco, F.	Galvez-Peralta, M.	Hedrick, J.
Deci, S.	Dumitrescu, C.	Hanif, A.	Uztman, R.

**Members Absent:**

Bardes, J.	Cohen, S.	Giacobbi, P.	McCloskey, J.	Sizemore, J.
Bianco, C.	Dami, K.	Hambrick, G.	Murray, A.	Sokos, G.
Bogdansky, K.	Dietz, P.	Kerr, P.	Ostrowski, A.	Udassi, S.
Carducci, H.	Dimachkie, Z.	Labus, A.	Palmer, A.	Woodberry, K.
Casey, R.	Dionne, C.	Lastinger, A.	Reece, J.	

1. The [Minutes](#) of the May 6, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting were approved as written.
2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis
  - a. Corey Hunt appointed as parliamentarian for the academic year.
  - b. Recognition of Dave Hauser, following his resignation as faculty secretary after years of service; Scott Wayne appointed as his replacement.
  - c. The Faculty Constitution revisions are now with the Shared Governance Committee for further review/revision, with the aim to present updates by spring.

- d. Revised promotion and tenure guidelines will be reviewed by the Faculty Senate and Assembly later this year.
  - e. Faculty Senate leadership met with University leadership on issues like the new student perception of teaching instrument and the new Office of Accessibility processes.
  - f. Faculty are highly encouraged to participate in listening sessions for the ongoing presidential search.
3. Report from Patrice Harris, WVU Board of Governors Vice Chair – Update on WVU Presidential Search
  - [Presentation Slides - PDF](#)
  - a. Patrice Harris is serving as Chair of the Presidential Search Committee.
  - b. Noted that listening sessions are taking place across campuses, including at Beckley and Keyser.
  - c. The search committee is committed to transparency and inclusivity, with members from diverse university sectors (faculty, staff, students, etc.).
  - d. A leadership profile is being developed based on stakeholder feedback, with the goal of announcing the next president by spring 2025.
  - e. Suggestions and nominations may be sent to Wittkiewer by responding to the survey or emailing: [wvupresident@wittkiewer.com](mailto:wvupresident@wittkiewer.com)
  - f. It was noted that search committee members will have full access to the applications.
  - g. The board of governors has not yet finalized the process for finalists, as to if they will be invited to campus or not.
4. Curriculum Committee Report (Darko Velichkovski)
  - a. Committee work began on September 5. There are 21 members on the committee, including student and library representatives.
5. General Education Foundations Committee had no updates to provide.
6. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Sheri Chisholm)
  - a. The first committee meeting is scheduled for September 16. Faculty are encouraged to either attend or view a recording of the available meetings on the new Student Perception of Teaching instrument.
7. Committee on Committees Report (Ilkin Bilgesu)
  - a. Committee Chair Bilgesu made a motion to approve the committee appointments for the year. Motion carried.For Approval – Committee Appointments – [Annex I](#)
8. For Information – 2023-2024 Committee Annual Reports and 2024-2025 Goals  
Committee on Committees, Memberships and Constituencies – [Annex II](#)  
Curriculum Committee – [Annex III](#)  
Faculty Welfare Committee – [Annex IV](#)  
General Education Foundations Committee – [Annex XVIII](#)  
Inclusion and Diversity Committee – [Annex VI](#)

Library Committee – [Annex VII](#)  
Service Committee – [Annex X](#)  
Shared Governance Committee – [Annex XI](#)  
Student Recruitment and Retention Committee – [Annex XII](#)  
Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee – [Annex XIII](#)  
Sustainability Committee – [Annex XIV](#)  
Teaching and Assessment Committee – [Annex XV](#)

9. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Eloise Elliott)
  - a. Elliott provided an overview of her officer role in the Senate, where she communicates legislative agenda items affecting faculty and higher education. Elliott was elected as chair of the WV Faculty Advisory Committee for the year.
  
10. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
  - a. Noted that faculty have 10 opportunities to participate in the presidential search process via the listening sessions. She also referred to for information attachment as an overview of the most recent Board Business, most of which centered around the presidential search, committee assignments, and deferred maintenance projects.  
For Information – [WVU Announcement of New BOG Members](#)
  
11. Report from Paul Kreider, Vice Provost and Interim President of WVU Potomac State College
  - a. Enrollment numbers are looking positive and seem likely to place the institution within projected budget numbers, though final enrollment counts are not yet available.
  - b. STEM Collaborative and STEM Learning Center – Stephanie Young is the director of the Collaborative, with Josh Osbourne serving as assistant director. Faculty are encouraged to direct students with questions or in need of assistance to the center, located on the ground floor of Clark Hall.
  - c. Maier Foundation Completion Grants – intended to reduce the number of students that leave campus before graduation. Last year, 292 students received completion grants of up to \$1500 per semester. 73% of those graduated, 22% are still enrolled, with 5% withdrawing before graduating.
  - d. During FY24, \$194 million was awarded to students from the scholarship foundation. 45% of graduates in 2023 had no federal student loan debt.
  - e. 159 successful cases of promotion and tenure in 2023-2024
  - f. WVU Research expenditures have reached \$275 million, a number that has increased significantly over recent years.
  - g. Only three lockers have been requested, related to the campus carry act, across the entire WVU system.
  - h. The PSC Presidential Search Committee conducted their first round of interviews last week, with the anticipation of completing that search in October.
  - i. Libraries long form scholarship designed to recognize faculty achievements are due September 20, 2024, with the celebration being conducted on September 22.
  - j. Applications are open for honors faculty fellows.

Kreider yielded floor to Melissa Latimer to discuss changes to the Teaching and Learning Center.

- a. The Teaching and Learning Commons is now the Teaching and Learning Center. The website will go live later this month. The administrative director position has been filled by Dr. Sandra McCorkle, who is working to fill two FEAP leadership positions within TLC.
- b. TLC will be located in the basement of Stuart Hall, sharing a space with graduate education, starting January 2025. Amy Kuhn has continued to serve in maintaining the University Teaching Certificate program.
- c. 200 new GTAs trained and supported by Katrina Stewart in the Department of Biology.

Kreider reclaimed the floor and ended his report.

12. Report from Louis Slimak, Assoc. Provost for Curriculum and Assessment; Brice Knotts, CIO; and Erin Bunner, Dir. of Teaching and Learning Applications – Blackboard Ultra Transition

[Presentation Slides - PDF](#)

- a. WVU is transitioning to Blackboard Ultra, with a phased migration process set to be completed by summer 2026.
- b. It was clarified that, until spring 2026, faculty can choose on a course by course basis to use either the new or existing platform.
- c. Concerns were expressed regarding instructional design and the potential workload that faculty will face in porting courses to the new model. Chambers, CCAM, CAHS possess instructional designers that may be accessed via deans. There are three centralized instructional designers, of which assistance may be requested using a ticket system. It was noted that training sessions will be available, with additional resources posted online.
- d. Designers have shared that some courses import almost entirely, requiring little additional work in the transition. Courses with external or highly designed elements typically require more work and do not transition as well. Those types of courses were noted as being rarer, particularly among courses that are not entirely online.
- e. The contract with eCampus has been extended to summer 2029.
- f. Course development shells can be copied to a production environment.
- g. Faculty asked if there is an overall expectation for faculty to use Blackboard Ultra. While the overall stance is being reviewed, the Office of the Provost is tentatively approaching it with consideration of the SGA resolution that requested a limit to 3<sup>rd</sup> party software and software that imposed additional expenses on students.
- h. This migration is only based on eCampus courses and does not impact SOLE.

13. Report from Evan Widders, Assoc. Provost for Undergraduate Education – Global Career Accelerator

[Presentation Slides – PDF](#)

- a. Widders introduced the Global Career Accelerator program, an experiential virtual internship course available to students across disciplines. The course costs \$1,800 to the student in addition to tuition, and 50 students are registered for the fall.
- b. Concerns were expressed regarding transparency and communication of the program during the approval process, which went through Eberly College. It was noted that 491 courses typically did not go through a course review process.

- c. Paul Kreider noted that there would be interest in creating a joint ad hoc committee on building experiential learning within disciplines across the institution.

14. Committee Renewals

Motions to renew the Committee on Collaboration for one year, and to renew the Student Recruitment and Retention Committee for one year, were both approved unanimously.

For Approval - Resolution to renew the Committee on Collaboration as a Special Committee – [Annex XVI](#)

For Approval -Resolution to renew Student Recruitment and Retention Committee as a Special Committee – [Annex XVII](#)

15. No new business was raised.

16. Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m. Faculty Senate will reconvene on October 14 at 3:00 p.m.

Corey Hunt

Faculty Senate Office Administrator

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\*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/>