Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2026
Location: College of Law; Zoom; YouTube

Members Present:

Abate, M.	Dadyburjor, D.	Litchfield, C.	Nduaguba, S.	Stueckle, J.
Abraham, J.	Dai, F.	Lituma, C.	Nishioka, S.	Sundararajan, V.
Ameri, S.	Deci, S.	Martin, E.	Ostrowski, A.	Tanner, E.
Benincosa, M.	DeMarco, F.	Matak, K.	Peluso, A.	Taylor, G.
Bergeron, J.	Fonseca, C.	Matak, K.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Valenti, M.
Bonasso, P.	Gabbert, K.	McKelvie, C.	Powell, B.	Watson, K.
Brewster, D.	Gorman, C.	McKenrick, S.	Prinzo, L.	Weatherford, L.
Burnside, J.	Greenfield, J.	McNeil, B.	Reaser, R.	Weirich, M.
Carder, J.	Hedrick, J.	McWilliams, S.	Reece, J.	Williams, D.
Celikbas, E.	Hefeida, M.	Mersing, D.	Rogers, R.	Wilson, E.
Celikbas, E.	Hipes, C.	Metz, C.	Scally, J.	Witsberger, S.
Chaudhuri, N.	Horstick, E.	Miller, C.	Sexton, P.	Yacoub, O.
Collignon, S.	Hutchinson, J.	Minch, M.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	Ybarra, J.
Costello, L.	Irish, A.	Moser, J.	Sizemore, J.	Zaynutdinova, G.
Cottrell, L.	Jones, J.	Mukdadi, O.	Smith, M.	Zeni, T.
Crichlow, S.	Jones, M.	Mulligan, I.	Song, X.	Zumbrun, E.
Curtis, R.	Leight, M.	Murphy, E.	Sowards, A.	

Members Excused:

Cook, L.	Gross, J.	Miltenberger, M.	Spong, B.	Woloshuk, J.
Costas, M.	Houde, A.	Shannon, B.	Tarabishy, A.	

Members Absent:

Coy, A.	Lessard, D.	Liu, D.	Thayer, J.
Gritsenko, V.	Li, H.	Murray, A.	Udassi, S.
Hardy, S.	Liller, B.	Taylor, G.	Woodberry, K.

1. **Faculty Senate Chair Matthew Valenti called the meeting to order at 3:58 p.m.**
2. **The Minutes of the June 8, 2026, Faculty Senate Meeting were approved as distributed.**
3. **Report from Faculty Senate Chair Matthew Valenti**
    a. Two orientation sessions were held in August: one on August 17 for Health Sciences faculty and led by Lesley Cottrell, and one on August 31 catering to new faculty senators and led by Chair Valenti. Recordings are available upon request by emailing Corey Hunt.
    b. Faculty Senate will be at the Faculty Resource Fair tomorrow, September 15 from 11-1.
    c. Chair Valenti and Provost Wendland are developing a series of small Faculty-Provost gatherings. The first sessions, scheduled for September 21 and 22, will focus on recently tenured faculty and new hires, with future sessions potentially organized around teaching, research, service, and career progression.
    d. Valenti requested faculty assistance in identifying ~18 members for appointments to the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Panel. Eligible faculty must be at the associate level and above, should not be under review for promotion and tenure, and not currently serving on a unit-level P&T committee.

*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

e. Valenti encouraged faculty to review the Faculty Constitution, which was amended in June 2026.
f. Two new committees were approved at the June 2026 Faculty Senate meeting:
    i. Faculty Experience Committee formed from the combination of Faculty Welfare and Inclusion and Diversity.
    ii. Student Experience Committee formed from the combination of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and Student Recruitment and Retention.

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4. Guest Reports

a. Report from Provost Beverly Wendland
    i. In the College of Law dean search, the search committee has completed the first round of interviews and is scheduling campus visits for candidates for September 29-October 6.
    ii. Johns Hopkins Collaborative
        1. 27 applications are currently underway, with as many as 75 total applications expected by the September 30 deadline.
    iii. NSF RETI Engine Gant Program, a WVU-led partnership with Carnegie Melon and Pitt, is launching competitive seed funding up to $250,000.

b. Report from Melanie Page, Associate Vice President for Research Integrity, Security, and Compliance – Updates on Research Security and Compliance (Slides – PDF)
    i. Federal funding agencies require covered individuals to complete annual research security training. The training must have been completed within one year before a proposal is submitted, and PIs certify completion in the WRAP system.
    ii. The University no longer requires separate annual forms for Conflict of Interest in Research, Institutional Conflict of Interest, and Outside Activities and Consulting. Instead, these disclosures are handled jointly on a rolling basis by updating the Disclosure Profile in WRAP.
    iii. Page also discussed increasing federal restrictions on research collaborations, including NSF restrictions involving certain listed entities, and noted that the Office of Research Integrity, Security, and Compliance can assist faculty in evaluating collaborations.
    iv. "Orphaned" studies migrated from KC to WRAP require faculty action by December 30th to remain open.

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5. Consent Agenda

a. There were no items on the Consent Agenda. Chair Valenti reviewed the purpose and procedure of the Consent Agenda, noting that routine, non-controversial items may be approved collectively and that any member may request that an item be removed for separate discussion and action.

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6. Committee and Officer Reports

a. Curriculum Committee Report (Ron Reaser)
    i. The committee held an orientation session on September 3. Course and program reviews begin September 17, with initial recommendations expected for the October Faculty Senate consent agenda.

b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Nathalie Singh-Corcoran)
    i. The committee is actively accepting GEF course proposals.

ii. A Qualtrics survey was distributed to college dean units in spring 2026 to collect updated data on current GEF courses. The committee will be reviewing submissions to with intent to update CIM entries as needed.

c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Jennifer Bergeron)
   i. The first committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21.

d. Committee on Committees Report (Danielle Lessard was absent and did not report.
   i. For Information – Committee Roster Updates (FS-2026-09-01)
e. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell and Scott Crichlow)
   i. Updates from September 14, 2026, Board meeting:
      1. The formal Board meeting on Friday was preceded by roughly seven and a half hours of subcommittee meetings across the prior two weeks.
      2. Prior to the official meeting, Board members toured the Forensic Investigative Sciences program in Eberly College.
      3. Overall enrollment numbers are down compared to last year, driven in part by long-term state demographic decline and significant technical/financial aid systems issues nationwide last year, but still reflect the best overall trajectory in over five years.
      4. Phase 2 of the School of Dentistry building project is moving forward, supported significantly by federal efforts led by Senator Capito.
      5. The WVU Cancer Institute received nearly 200,000 patient visits last year. Achieving National Cancer Institute designation is projected to significantly increase grant revenues.
      6. The stadium's West Tower project is progressing with $112 million in commitments toward the total $156 million goal.
      7. The Board is evaluating moving the approval of tuition and fee schedules earlier in the academic year (rather than June) so prospective students and families have clear financial information prior to commitment deadlines.
      8. CFO Chris Kabourek presented long-term strategy focused on operating margins.
      9. Potomac State and WVU Tech Presidents Stewart and Wallace delivered separate presentations on budget balancing, recruitment strategies, and local pipeline development to Morgantown.

f. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Jason Gross)
   i. Jason Gross was unable to attend due to university obligations. Chair Valenti provided an update on his behalf
      1. Gross was re-elected legislative liaison for the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF).
      2. The ACF retreat is scheduled for October 16–17 in Bridgeport, featuring visits from Delegate Joe Statler and WVU Director of State Government Relations Dan Kimble.

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7. Senate Business and Announcements

a. Annual committee reports for 2025-2026 were provided for information.
    i. For Information – Committee Annual Reports (FS-2026-09-02)
b. No new business was introduced.

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8. **Chair Valenti adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.**

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator