

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 Monday, March 23, 2026 – 3:00 P.M.
 Location: Virtual via Zoom

Members Present:

Sowards, A.	Graves, C.	Murphy, E.	Valenti, M.
Benson, M.	Gross, J.	O'Quinn, J.	Veselicky, L.
Cottrell, L.	Hunt, C.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	
Crichlow, S.	Kreider, P.	Ripley Stueckle, J.	
Davis, D.	Leight, M.	Terry, D.	

1. **Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.**
2. **The Minutes of the February 23, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed.**
3. **Due to a time conflict, the report from President Michael T. Benson was moved up on the agenda with the consent of the committee.**
 - a. The legislative session resulted in over \$7 million in base budget increases, inflationary adjustments to the funding formula, and capital investments totaling \$32 million for medical school class-size expansion and \$5 million for the dental school, with additional federal match funding anticipated.
 - b. A temporary dip in deposits, likely due to the transition to Slate CRM, has been reversed.
 - c. Enrollment
 - i. Recent deposit decline reversed, with trend now increasing
 - ii. Transition to Slate (CRM) impacting communication with admitted students
 - d. Launch of "Mountaineer Mondays", a campus spirit initiative encouraging wearing gold and blue each Monday.
4. **Report from Faculty Senate Chair R. Scott Crichlow**
 - a. Chair Crichlow summarized ongoing leadership meetings with Interim Provost Kreider and President Benson. He highlighted administrative responsiveness to Senate concerns, including the speech policy review, community grants logistics, and continued work on the ombuds position.
 - b. Crichlow expressed gratitude to the faculty involved in the recent dean searches.
 - c. All four Honor Faculty Fellows are current senators: Joe Jones, Anthony Peluso, Andrea Soccorsi, and Jim Siekmeier.

5. **The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.**

Curriculum Committee
 New Course Report – Annex I
 Course Change Report – Annex II
 Program Report – Annex III

*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>

6. Committee and Officer Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Report (Cate Johnson)
For Information – Deleted Course Report – [Annex IV](#)
 - i. In Johnson’s absence, Corey Hunt reported that the committee has two remaining meetings this year.
 - ii. He noted that ECON 221, previously rolled back, has been reviewed by the redundancy team and was included in today’s consent agenda for approval with no conflicts identified.
- b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Cody Hood)
 - i. No Report
- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Ashlee Sowards)
 - i. Sowards reported that the committee meeting scheduled for earlier in the day was canceled due to a family emergency. The committee continues to review requests for new or modified SPOT questions.
 - ii. She clarified that SPOT responses remain confidential, though IT can identify respondents in cases involving threats requiring conduct intervention.
- d. Committee on Committees Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell reported that the annual committee interest survey will be released soon, with updates incorporated from last year’s review. She encouraged broad participation, noting that respondents need not be senators.
- e. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell noted that BOG subcommittee meetings begin the following week in preparation for the mid-April full board meeting.
- f. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Jason Gross)
 - i. No report beyond the updates shared by President Benson
- g. Report from Student Recruitment and Retention Committee (Miriam Leary, Joy Carr)
 - i. Leary presented data on registration timing as a predictor of retention risk, showing that students registering after July 1 have significantly lower retention, GPAs, and course completion rates.
 - ii. Analysis of 2022–2024 cohorts showed later registrants also have lower ACT/SAT scores and higher rates of first-generation and Pell-eligible status.
 - iii. The committee recommends early intervention for June/July registrants and is working with colleges and Student Life units to develop targeted support strategies.
 - iv. Carr added that the findings will help refine outreach from advising, REACH, Housing, and Adventure WV.

7. Guest Reports

- a. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
 - i. Provost Kreider announced the appointment of Mark Paris as the new Dean of Libraries and Press, beginning April 27, and noted the upcoming retirement reception for Dean Karen Diaz.
 - ii. He reported that the Eberly College dean search has concluded, with an announcement expected in approximately two weeks.
 - iii. Nominations for Excellence in Community Engagement Awards are due March 30.
 - iv. Applications for Engaged Teaching Scholars are due April 20.
 - v. Kreider noted the importance of timely submission of textbook adoptions.

- vi. Faculty mentors needed for the Research Apprenticeship Program.
 - vii. Maymester registration is open through May 7.
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8. Senate Business and Announcements

- a. Faculty Senate Elections Updates
 - i. Chair Crichlow announced that ballots for regular Senate seats were distributed earlier in the day and remain open until March 30 at 5 p.m.
 - ii. Chair-elect candidate speeches will occur at the April Senate meeting. Candidates are:
 - 1. Catherine Fonseca, Associate University Librarian
 - 2. Eric Horstick, Associate Professor of Biology
 - iii. There will be a call for candidates for the available Faculty Representative on the Board of Governors position at the April Senate meeting.
 - b. New Business
 - i. Chair Crichlow raised ongoing concerns from the Faculty Welfare Committee regarding parental leave clarity for Health Sciences clinical faculty, particularly distinctions between WVU and hospital appointments. Dr. Louise Veselicky agreed to review questions and assist in developing clear guidance.
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9. Chair Crichlow adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator