

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
 Monday, March 9, 2026 – 3:15 P.M.
 Location: College of Law; Zoom

Members Present:

Abate, M.	Descoteaux, J.	Jones, J.	Mulligan, I.	Sowards, A.
Abraham, J.	Dilcher, B.	Jones, M.	Nduaguba, S.	Spong, B.
Adkins, B.	Doyle, A.	Kelly, C.	Nolan, K.	Stueckle, J.
Ahmad, M.	Fidelman, E.	Labus, A.	O'Quinn, J.	Swiger, J.
Benincosa, M.	Fleming, S.	Leary, M.	Ostrowski, A.	Tarabishy, A.
Bragg, R.	Fonseca, C.	Leight, M.	Palmer, A.	Taylor, G.
Brewster, D.	Fullen, M.	Li, H.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Terry, D.
Burnside, J.	Gabbert, K.	Liller, B.	Phillips, B.	Thomay, A.
Carder, J.	Gorman, C.	Lituma, C.	Powell, B.	Unger, K.
Collignon, S.	Graves, C.	Lituma, C.	Prinzo, L.	Valenti, M.
Corcoran, K.	Greenfield, J.	Livengood, H.	Ray Chaudhuri, N.	Wartella, J.
Costello, L.	Gross, J.	Matak, K.	Reaser, R.	Watson, K.
Cottrell, L.	Hairston, P.	M'Bayo, T.	Reece, J.	Weirich, M.
Coy, A.	Hambrick, G.	M'Bayo, T.	Rogers, R.	Williams, D.
Crichlow, S.	Hamrick, A.	McKenrick, S.	Scally, J.	Wilson, E.
Dai, F.	Hatipoglu, K.	McWilliams, S.	Shannon, B.	Woloshuk, J.
Davis, D.	Hood, C.	Metz, C.	Siekmeier, J.	Zaynutdinova, G.
Deci, S.	Horstick, E.	Milans, K.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	
DeMarco, F.	Hutchinson, J.	Miller, C.	Sizemore, J.	
Descoteaux, J.	Johnson, C.	Mukdadi, O.	Soccorsi, A.	

Members Excused:

Costas, M.	Dadyburjor, D.	Hedrick, J.	Vance, B.
Curits, R.	Fint-Clarke, B.	Peluso, A.	Woodberry, K.

Members Absent:

Ameri, S.	Bresock, K.	Kidd, K.	Murray, A.	Udassi, S.
Bardes, J.	Bryner, R.	Kim, D.	Pyles, L.	Weatherford, L.
Bergeron, J.	Chapman, K.	Martin, E.	Song, X.	Witsberger, S.
Bogdansky, K.	Dietz, P.	McCloskey, J.	Tanner, E.	Zeni, T.
Bonasso, P.	Gritsenko, V.	McCluskey, C.	Thayer, J.	

1. **Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.**
2. **The Minutes of the February 9, 2026, Faculty Senate Meeting were approved as distributed.**
3. **Report from Faculty Senate Chair R. Scott Crichlow**
 - a. The University Assembly voted to approve the revised Senate Constitution, which became effective upon the closing of the vote. Crichlow offered appreciation to those that worked on the amendments over the three-year revision period.
 - b. Senate leadership continues regular engagement with university administration on faculty concerns, including academic freedom, parental leave, dean searches, and evaluation documents at college levels.
 - c. Crichlow encouraged faculty to review the economic impact report.
 - d. Updates on implementation metrics for the University's strategic plan will be shared at a future meeting.

*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>

4. The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Curriculum Committee
Course Change Report – [Annex II](#)
Program Report – [Annex III](#)

5. Committee and Officer Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Report (Cate Johnson)
For Approval – New Course Report – [Annex I](#)
For Information – Deleted Course Report – [Annex IV](#)
 - i. Members voted to approve a motion removing ECON 221 from the New Course Report and returning it to the Curriculum Committee (Metz) due to concern of overlapping learning objectives with an existing course (MATH 150).
 - ii. The amended report was approved by unanimous consent.
- b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Cody Hood)
 - i. Committee met twice since the last Senate meeting.
 1. Reviewed three courses for GEF designation, with none being approved.
 2. Continued collaboration with Honors College on honors fellow course submissions.
 3. Noted updates to GEF-related questions in the curriculum system, reflecting revised learning outcomes.
- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Ashlee Sowards)
 - i. Early semester course feedback reports are available via the faculty portal.
 - ii. Spring 2026 course evaluations (SPOT):
 1. Open for modification until April 14
 2. Automatically deployed April 14 – May 1
 3. Reports available May 11 after final grades submission
 - iii. Ongoing collection of feedback for future survey revisions
 - iv. Continued outreach to colleges regarding accreditation-related survey questions.
- d. Committee on Committees Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. No formal updates reported. Cottrell encouraged faculty to watch for the upcoming committee interest survey.
- e. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. February meetings focused on:
 1. Budget planning and financial outlook
 2. Strategic plan implementation and success metrics
 3. Tuition and fee discussions (to continue in April)
 - ii. Additional updates included:
 1. Growth in micro-credential initiatives and WVU Online
 2. Reports on divisional campuses
 3. Governance review of Board bylaws and processes
 4. Visit to University Police Department facilities
 5. Continued emphasis on enrollment, retention, and institutional strategy.
- f. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Jason Gross)
 - i. Legislative session nearing conclusion.
 - ii. Many higher education-related bills did not advance past crossover day.
 - iii. Key updates:
 1. Proposed changes to Board of Governors composition did not advance.
 2. Several bills under consideration include:

- a. HB 402 – West Virginia Collaboratory (research funding mechanism)
 - b. HB 4081 – Higher Education & Health Aid Grant Program
 - c. HB 4592 – Campus emergency response mapping
 - d. HB 5212 – Streamlining state student aid programs; adds WVU Tech to Learn & Earn
 - e. SB 502 – Women’s Collegiate Sports Protection Act
- iv. State budget:
- 1. Net positive impact for WVU (~\$7.7M increase)
 - 2. Includes funding for salary support, PEIA, and medical school expansion

6. Guest Reports

- a. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
 - i. Dean Search Updates
 - 1. Eberly dean candidates finished campus visits this week.
 - 2. Libraries Dean search nearing completion, with an announcement expected soon.
 - ii. Faculty and Institutional Achievements:
 - 1. Dr. Ali Rezai (Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute) named WVU’s 2026 Big 12 Faculty of the Year.
 - 2. Two WVU faculty members named finalists for the Faculty Merit Foundation Professor of the Year:
 - a. Sam Zizzi (School of Sport Sciences)
 - b. Peggy Fink (WVU Tech, Nursing)
 - 3. Physics faculty member Subhasish Mandal named a 2026 Cottrell Scholar.
 - 4. WVU Mine Rescue Team placed second overall in an international competition.
 - 5. Law student Kayla Cooper named incoming Editor-in-Chief of the West Virginia Law Review.
 - iii. Reminders and Announcements:
 - 1. Textbook and course material adoptions for Summer and Fall are due April 1.
 - 2. Faculty are encouraged to participate in undergraduate research mentorship opportunities.
 - 3. Deadline for the Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium abstract submissions is midnight.
- b. Report from President Michael T. Benson
 - i. Enrollment and Outreach:
 - 1. Continued outreach to regional high schools to encourage college attendance.
 - 2. Launch of “Mountaineer March Madness” initiative to increase student yield through direct outreach to admitted students.
 - 3. Faculty were encouraged to participate in recruitment efforts and upcoming open house events.
 - ii. Fundraising and Advancement:
 - 1. WVU Foundation preparing for a public campaign launch in Fall 2026.
 - 2. Day of Giving scheduled for March 25, with emphasis on unrestricted scholarships.
 - iii. Research and Strategic Initiatives:
 - 1. WVU hosting a National Science Foundation site visit related to a potential \$160 million grant.
 - 2. Project could generate significant economic impact, including job creation and startup development.
 - iv. Leadership Updates:
 - 1. Vice President for Research search to launch April 1.
 - 2. CFO search ongoing.

- v. Additional Highlights:
 - 1. Positive update on College of Law reaccreditation efforts.
 - 2. Recognition of WVU alumni engagement nationally.
 - 3. Celebration of Big 12 Women’s Basketball Championship.
- vi. President Benson yielded the floor to incoming Provost Beverly Wendland, who addressed the Senate:
 - 1. Expressed appreciation for the welcoming response from the WVU community and shared enthusiasm for beginning her role on July 1.
 - 2. Highlighted interest in supporting WVU’s research growth and strategic direction.
 - 3. Announced leadership of the upcoming Vice President for Research search and encouraged faculty engagement in the search process.
- c. Report from Travis Mollohan, Associate Vice President for Government Relations and Collaboration – Legislation Update
 - i. Final week of the session underway; scheduled to conclude at midnight on Saturday.
 - ii. Budget passed earlier than typical, reflecting a compromise between the legislature and governor.
 - iii. Budget and Funding:
 - 1. Includes approximately \$7.7 million increase in base funding for WVU:
 - 2. Reversal of proposed 2% agency cut
 - 3. PEIA and salary-related adjustments
 - 4. Inflationary funding formula increase
 - iv. Supplemental funding includes:
 - 1. \$32 million for WVU School of Medicine expansion (facilities, IT, academic space)
 - 2. \$5 million for WVU School of Dentistry clinic improvements
 - v. Pending Issues:
 - 1. Governor action on budget bills expected within statutory timeframe.
 - 2. Potential legislative-executive conflict possible depending on veto actions.
 - vi. Additional major policy considerations include:
 - 1. Rural health transformation funding
 - 2. Personal income tax reduction
 - vii. Continued progress on financial aid system simplification (HB 5212).
- d. Report from Nettie Freshour and Amy Kennedy – General Education Revision Updates

[Presentation Slides – PDF](#)

 - i. Survey conducted Nov. 5 to Dec. 16 with students, faculty, and alumni. Data analysis underway, with summary and website forthcoming
 - ii. Efforts are focused on improving clarity, structure, and alignment of general education requirements with institutional learning outcomes. Peer institution models are also being reviewed.
 - iii. Implementation planning is underway, including consideration of timelines, transition processes, and communication strategies for faculty and students. Potential models for future general education structure will be identified by end of term.

7. Senate Business and Announcements

- a. For Information – 2025-2026 Promotion and Tenure Advisory Panels – [Annex V](#)
- b. Faculty Senate Elections Update

[Presentation Slides – PDF](#)

 - i. Faculty Senate Office Administrator Corey Hunt provided an overview of the election cycle, including available senate seats and officer positions.
- c. Chair Crichlow opened the floor for Faculty Senate Chair-Elect nominations.
 - i. Candidates:

1. Catherine Fonseca – Libraries
 2. Eric Horstick – Eberly
- ii. Candidates will have the opportunity to speak at the April Faculty Senate meeting. Ballots will be electronically distributed once that meeting adjourns.
- d. New Business
- i. The Art Museum of WVU is inviting applications for a faculty fellowship, with the exhibition set for spring 2027. The fellowship includes a \$3,800 summer stipend. [The application is available online.](#)
 - ii. Joshua Swiger announced that three of seven paid internships for the County Music Industry summit in Nashville were awarded to WVU students. Additionally, three students are currently in consideration for an internship with Interscope Records, based in Los Angeles.
 - iii. Aaron Ostrowski requested an update on required changes for new accessibility regulations to be included as a future agenda item. Chair Crichlow acknowledged the request and will contact Erin Kelley, recently hired as Digital Accessibility Program Director.

8. Chair Crichlow adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator