



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, April 7, 2025 – 3:15 P.M.  
 Location: College of Law, Zoom

Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

#### Members Present:

Abate, M.	Coy, A.	Hanif, A.	Murphy, E.	Stueckle, J.
Abraham, J.	Crichlow, S.	Hedrick, J.	Nolan, K.	Tack, F.
Ameri, S.	Dahle, G.	Hood, C.	O'Quinn, J.	Taylor, G.
Ballard, D.	Davis, D.	Horstick, E.	Ostrowski, A.	Terry, D.
Beall, A.	Deci, S.	Johnson, D.	Peck, A.	Totzkay, D.
Best, K.	Demarco, F.	Jones, J.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Unger, K.
Bhandari, R.	Descoteaux, J.	Jones, M.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Valenti, M.
Bilgesu, I.	Dilcher, B.	Kelly, C.	Phillips, B.	Vance, B.
Bonasso, P.	Elliott, E.	Kidd, K.	Phillips, T.	Vester, M.
Bresock, K.	Elswick, D.	Lastinger, A.	Powell, B.	Wartella, J.
Brewster, D.	Fidelman, E.	Leary, B.	Prinzo, L.	Watson, K.
Bryner, R.	Field, J.	Leight, M.	Pyles, L.	Wayne, S.
Burnside, J.	Fleming, S.	Lituma, C.	Pyles, L.	Weatherford, L.
Celikbas, E.	Fonseca, C.	Livengood, H.	Rakipi, R.	Weislogel, A.
Chapman, K.	Fullen, M.	Lucci, S.	Reece, J.	Williams, D.
Chisholm, S.	Graves, C.	Martin, E.	Scally, J.	Woloshuk, J.
Collignon, S.	Greenfield, J.	M'Bayo, T.	Siekmeier, J.	Zeni, T.
Cook, A.	Gross, J.	McWilliams, S.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	
Corcoran, K.	Hairston, P.	Milans, K.	Soccorsi, A.	
Costello, L.	Hambrick, G.	Miller, C.	Sowards, A.	
Cottrell, L.	Hamrick, A.	Moser, J.	Staniscia, S.	

#### Members Excused:

Dumitrescu, C.	Peralta, M.	Velichkovski, D.
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#### Members Absent:

Adkins, B.	Dietz, P.	Leary, M.	Olgers, F.	Tarabishy, A.
Bardes, J.	Dimachkie, Z.	Li, H.	Olson, D.	Thayer, J.
Barghouthi, N.	Floyd, K.	Liller, B.	Palmer, A.	Thomay, A.
Bergeron, J.	Giacobbi, P.	McCloskey, J.	Panta, Y.	Utzman, R.
Bianco, C.	Hatipoglu, K.	McCluskey, C.	Ruseski, J.	Walker, J.
Bogdansk, K.	Kerr, P.	Murray, A.	Sizemore, J.	Witsberger, S.
Carducci, H.	Kim, D.	Nguyen, J.	Sokos, G.	Woodberry, K.
Dadyburjor, D.	Labus, A.	Nix, A.	Sundararajan, V.	

1. The Minutes of the March 10, 2025, Faculty Senate meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

#### 2. Welcome and Introduction from President Michael Benson

- a. President Benson introduced himself and highlighted his background, previous presidential roles, and academic credentials. In discussing his vision, he emphasized active listening, strategic priorities, and the importance of being an engaged partner in shared governance.

### 3. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis

- a. Recent Senate leadership activity has included providing input on the upcoming academic calendar, campus safety measures, and a new faculty exit interview process.
- b. Davis noted that Faculty Senator voting ends today, Executive Committee candidates must self-nominate by April 11, and that letters of interest for the Faculty Secretary and Rep. to State Government roles must be received by April 14.

### 4. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

- a. Curriculum Committee
  - 1) For Approval – Program Change Report – [Annex I](#)
  - 2) For Approval – New Course Report – [Annex II](#)
  - 3) For Approval – Course Change Report – [Annex III](#)

### 5. Committee and Officer Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Chair Darko Velichkovski was absent and did not report.
- b. General Education Foundations Committee Chair Cody Hood reported on committee efforts to standardize syllabus language and GEF standards for the honors fellowship program.
- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Chair Sheri Chisholm experienced connection issues and was unable to report. Members were encouraged to review the attached document and contact her directly with questions or concerns.  
For Information – Committee Actions – [Annex IV](#)
- d. Committee on Committees Chair Ilkin Bilgesu noted that committee population would begin soon and that the committee interest survey was located on the Faculty Senate website.
- e. Faculty Representative to State Government Eloise Elliott reported the following:
  - i. HB 3279, which removes faculty, staff, and student representation on the Board of Governors, is scheduled for final readings on the Senate floor. Elliott encouraged faculty to email state senators asking them to reject the bill.
  - ii. SB 474, Morrissey’s DEI-related bill, currently in House Judiciary, expected on committee agenda soon.
  - iii. SB 35, permitting campus police to participate in deputy retirement program, passed Senate Finance today.
- f. Board of Governors Representative Lesley Cottrell reported on recent Board meetings, which included the following:
  - i. Updates on initiatives related to student recruitment and retention.
  - ii. Proposals for new academic programs and ongoing capital projects.
  - iii. Cottrell offered her perspective that the Board remains supportive of having strong faculty representation in the face of HB 3279.

### 6. Guest Reports

- a. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
  - i. Freshman retention is projected at a record 93.8%
  - ii. The HLC visit was considered a success for WVU. Kreider noted appreciation to the faculty, staff, and students that engaged in the visit and related activities.
  - iii. Faculty awards were announced, including the Nicholas Evans Advising Awards, Caperton Award, and recognition for the Office of Undergraduate Research.

- iv. Graduate Student Appreciation Week scheduled for April 7-11.

## 7. Senate Business and Announcements

- a. Faculty Senate Chair-Elect Statements
  - i. Matt Valenti is the only candidate. A pre-recorded video was shared in which he expressed his vision and priorities. As the Faculty Constitution requires an election, ballots will still be distributed to Senators.
- b. Faculty Senate Election Updates
  - 1) Faculty Senator Voting Ends April 7
  - 2) Executive Committee Candidacy Deadline – April 11
  - 3) Rep. to State Government, Faculty Secretary Letters of Interest Deadline – April 14
- c. For Approval - Proposed Revisions to Faculty Evaluation, Promotion, and Tenure Guidelines – [Annex V](#)
  - i. It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed guidelines.
    - 1. A motion was made and seconded to, on lines 1141-1142, add the words “Faculty with teaching as their sole significant area of contribution who are seeking promotion to any rank are not required to seek external reviews.” This motion was adopted.
    - 2. Interim Provost Kreider answered a concern regarding WVU Extension hiring practices, noting that the college’s leadership has already planned to transition internal procedures to match those in the proposed document.
    - 3. A motion was made and seconded to replace the term “performance improvement plan” with “action plan” to modernize the language. This motion failed.
    - 4. A motion was made and seconded to change the language linking unsatisfactory performance to a failure to follow the improvement plan by striking the word “or” and replacing it with “and”.
 

“A record of unsatisfactory performance, ~~or~~ and a faculty member’s failure to fulfill a performance improvement plan could lead to a recommendation for non-continuation.”
  - ii. The motion to approve the proposed guidelines carried with a vote of 63 in favor and 6 opposed.
  - iii. A member asked if abstentions could be noted and was declined due to it being against Senate procedure.
- d. New Business
  - i. A member raised concern regarding recent developments impacting international students, including policy changes and ICE activity. It was agreed that the topic would be scheduled for discussion at the next meeting.
  - ii. Responding to an inquiry about the Faculty Ombudsperson position, it was reported that the position had been reopened in the spring, but no qualified candidate had emerged. The search will continue.

## 8. Chair Diana Davis adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m., to reconvene on May 5, 2025.

Corey Hunt  
Faculty Senate Office Administrator