

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 12, 2026 – 3:15 P.M.
Location: College of Law; Zoom

Members Present:

Abate, M.	Davis, D.	Jones, M.	O'Quinn, J.	Swiger, J.
Abraham, J.	Descoteaux, J.	Kelly, C.	Palmer, A.	Tanner, E.
Ameri, S.	Dilcher, B.	Kidd, K.	Peluso, A.	Tarabishy, A.
Benincosa, M.	Doyle, A.	Leary, M.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Taylor, G.
Bonasso, P.	Fidelman, E.	Leight, M.	Phillips, B.	Terry, D.
Bragg, R.	Fint-Clark, B.	Li, H.	Powell, B.	Thomay, A.
Bresock, K.	Fleming, S.	Livengood, H.	Prinzo, L.	Valenti, M.
Brewster, D.	Fonseca, C.	Martin, E.	Ray Chaudhuri, N.	Vance, B.
Bryner, R.	Fullen, M.	Matak, K.	Reaser, R.	Watson, K.
Burnside, J.	Gorman, C.	M'Bayo, T.	Rogers, R.	Weatherford, L.
Carder, J.	Greenfield, J.	McKenrick, S.	Scally, J.	Weirich, M.
Collignon, S.	Gross, J.	McWilliams, S.	Siekmeier, J.	Wilson, E.
Corcoran, K.	Hairston, P.	Metz, C.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	Woloshuk, J.
Costas, M.	Hamrick, A.	Milans, K.	Sizemore, J.	Woodberry, K.
Costello, L.	Hedrick, J.	Miller, C.	Soccorsi, A.	Zaynutdinova, G.
Cottrell, L.	Hedrick, J.	Mukdadi, O.	Song, X.	
Coy, A.	Hood, C.	Mulligan, I.	Sowards, A.	
Crichlow, S.	Hutchinson, J.	Nduaguba, S.	Spong, B.	
Curtis, R.	Jones, J.	Nolan, K.	Stueckle, J.	

Members Excused:

Dadyburjor, D.	Gabbert, K.	Horstick, E.	Lituma, C.	Reece, J.
DeMarco, F.	Hatipoglu, K.	Johnson, C.	Ostrowski, A.	Williams, D.

Members Absent:

Adkins, B.	Dai, F.	Kim, D.	Pyles, L.	Witsberger, S.
Ahmad, M.	Deci, S.	Labus, A.	Shannon, B.	Zeni, T.
Bardes, J.	Dietz, P.	Liller, B.	Thayer, J.	
Bergeron, J.	Graves, C.	McCloskey, J.	Udassi, S.	
Bogdansky, K.	Gritsenko, V.	McCluskey, C.	Unger, K.	
Chapman, K.	Hambrick, G.	Murray, A.	Wartella, J.	

1. **Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.**
2. **The Minutes of the December 1, 2025, Faculty Senate Meeting were approved as distributed.**
3. **Report from Faculty Senate Chair R. Scott Crichlow**
 - a. Chair Crichlow reported that Senate leadership continues to meet with faculty, administrators, and committees regarding campus climate, academic freedom, research opportunities and challenges, and general education. He thanked all faculty involved in the provost search process and noted that the new provost will begin July 1, with Interim Provost Paul Kreider continuing through that date.
 - b. Crichlow encouraged faculty to volunteer for the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Panel and noted that a special University Assembly will be scheduled later in the semester to consider recently approved constitutional revisions.

*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>

- c. He also shared reminders regarding upcoming opportunities and deadlines, including the WVU Scholarly Teaching Conference, undergraduate research mentoring awards, the Three-Minute Thesis competition, and graduate fellowship nominations.

4. The Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

Curriculum Committee

New Course Report – [Annex I](#)

Course Change Report – [Annex II](#)

Program Report – [Annex III](#)

5. Standing Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee had no updates to report beyond the consent agenda items.
- b. General Education Foundations Committee did not meet over winter break and had no report.
- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Ashlee Sowards)
 - i. The “Blue” website interface update was complete and launched smoothly.
 - ii. Committee focus this semester will be on increasing survey response rates and promoting the early feedback survey.
- d. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell reported on the December 19 BOG meeting
 - 1. Enrollment update discussed, with larger update expected at February 20 meeting
 - 2. Budget discussions also expected at the February meeting
 - 3. Multiple faculty and staff recognized for accomplishments
 - 4. Cottrell made note of the WVU Foundation presenting to the board, as Foundation reports are often a year or more apart.
- e. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Jason Gross)
 - i. WV Advisory Council of Faculty will meet next week as the legislative session begins. The council will be tracking relevant legislation and facilitating faculty input.
 - ii. Gross deferred the remainder of his report to Travis Mollohan, presenting later in the agenda.

6. Guest Reports

- a. Report from President Michael T. Benson
 - i. President Benson welcomed senators back and introduced incoming Provost Beverly Wendland, who will begin July 1 but will be on campus periodically. He thanked Interim Provost Kreider for his continued leadership.
 - ii. He discussed preparations for the upcoming legislative session, emphasizing the importance of WVU visibility and advocacy. He reiterated legislative priorities including deferred maintenance, HVAC upgrades for the Coliseum, and expansion of the medical school class size and facilities.
 - iii. President Benson also noted strong fundraising momentum, with details forthcoming regarding the next phase of the University’s campaign.
 - iv. Plans to partner with Johns Hopkins for HSC-related initiatives, backed up by private support. Details to be released soon on that partnership.

- v. Retention reached 85.1%, a new high.
- b. Benson yielded the floor to Leslie Miele, Assoc. Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, for a presentation on Strategic Planning and Campus Feedback – [Link to Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- c. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
 - i. Recent launch of a six-month pilot of Turnitin’s AI detection tool, emphasizing that it should be used cautiously and as one resource among others for academic integrity. Training will become available in the coming weeks.
 - ii. Provost Kreider shared updates on a first-generation mentoring initiative, which pairs first- and second-year first-generation students with faculty or advanced student mentors, and encouraged applications by January 14. Contact Michelle Richards-Babb for more information.
 - iii. Dean Search Updates
 - 1. Library Dean candidates expected the first week of February
 - 2. Eberly Dean profile available on the Greenwood Asher website, with candidates anticipated on campus in early March.
 - 3. Ongoing discussions regarding College of Law Dean search, updates coming soon
 - 4. Kreider noted that incoming provost Beverly Wendland will have a say in hires
 - iv. Director of Digital Accessibility search has concluded with the hire of Erin Kelley, who formerly worked within the Teaching and Learning Commons.
 - v. Kreider reminded faculty of several upcoming [award deadlines](#).
- d. Report from Travis Mollohan, Associate Vice President for Government Relations and Collaboration –Legislative Preview and Priorities
 - i. Associate Vice President Mollohan reported that the legislative session begins this week and runs through March 14. He outlined WVU’s legislative priorities, including:
 - 1. Deferred maintenance funding across campuses
 - 2. Expansion of the medical school
 - 3. Strategic investments aligned with workforce development and economic needs
 - ii. He emphasized that these priorities represent options rather than a single package and may be adapted as the session unfolds.
- e. Report from Erin Newmeyer, Associate Vice President for Executive Initiatives – Barnes and Noble First Day Complete Update
[Link to Slides \(PDF\)](#)
 - i. Associate Vice President Newmeyer presented an update on the First Day Complete program, now in its second academic year. She reported that WVU students saved nearly \$2 million during the 2024–25 academic year through participation.
 - ii. She reported that the spring opt-out rate was approximately 33 percent and noted that participation rates are lower than some peer institutions, contributing to WVU’s relatively higher cost. Increased digital adoption and participation may reduce future costs.

7. Senate Business and Announcements

- a. No new business introduced.

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- 8. Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m. The Faculty Senate will reconvene on February 9, 2026.**

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator