

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
 Monday, December 1, 2025 – 3:20 P.M.
 Location: College of Law; Zoom

Members Present:

Abate, M.	Deci, S.	Hutchinson, J.	Mukdadi, O.	Sowards, A.
Abraham, J.	DeMarco, F.	Johnson, C.	Mulligan, I.	Stueckle, J.
Adkins, B.	Doyle, A.	Jones, J.	Nolan, K.	Swiger, J.
Ahmad, M.	Fidelman, E.	Jones, M.	O'Quinn, J.	Tanner, E.
Ameri, S.	Fint-Clark, B.	Kelly, C.	Ostrowski, A.	Tarabishy, A.
Bergeron, J.	Fleming, S.	Kidd, K.	Palmer, A.	Taylor, G.
Bragg, R.	Fonseca, C.	Labus, A.	Peluso, A.	Terry, D.
Brewster, D.	Fullen, M.	Leary, M.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Thomay, A.
Bryner, R.	Gabbert, K.	Leight, M.	Phillips, B.	Unger, K.
Burnside, J.	Gorman, C.	Li, H.	Powell, B.	Valenti, M.
Carder, J.	Graves, C.	Liller, B.	Prinzo, L.	Watson, K.
Chapman, K.	Gritsenko, V.	Lituma, C.	Pyles, L.	Weatherford, L.
Collignon, S.	Gross, J.	Martin, E.	Pyles, L.	Weirich, M.
Corcoran, K.	Gross, J.	Matak, K.	Reaser, R.	Williams, D.
Costas, M.	Hairston, P.	M'Bayo, T.	Reece, J.	Woloshuk, J.
Costello, L.	Hambrick, G.	McCluskey, C.	Scally, J.	Woodberry, K.
Cottrell, L.	Hamrick, A.	McKenrick, S.	Shannon, B.	Zaynutdinova, G.
Coy, A.	Hatipoglu, K.	McWilliams, S.	Siekmeier, J.	Zeni, T.
Crichlow, S.	Hedrick, J.	Metz, C.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	
Curtis, R.	Hood, C.	Milans, K.	Soccorsi, A.	
Dai, F.	Horstick, E.	Miller, C.	Song, X.	

Members Excused:

Benincosa, M.	Davis, D.	Rogers, R.	Vance, B.
Dadyburjor, D.	Dilcher, B.	Spong, B.	Wartella, J.

Members Absent:

Bardes, J.	Descoteaux, J.	Livengood, H.	Ray Chaudhuri, N.	Witsberger, S.
Bogdansky, K.	Dietz, P.	McCloskey, J.	Sizemore, J.	
Bonasso, P.	Greenfield, J.	Murray, A.	Thayer, J.	
Bresock, K.	Kim, D.	Nduaguba, S.	Udassi, S.	

1. Faculty Senate Chair Scott Crichlow called the meeting to order at 3:21 p.m.
2. The Minutes of the November 3, 2025, Faculty Senate Meeting were approved as distributed.
3. Report from Faculty Senate Chair R. Scott Crichlow
 - a. Senate leadership continues to work on issues related to student accommodations, pay, faculty retention, assessment of teaching, and college/department-level promotion and tenure guidelines.
 - b. Particular focus has been placed on proposed updates to the Faculty Constitution, appearing later on today's agenda.
 - c. Faculty are encouraged to attend the open forums for the provost finalists this week.

4. The Consent Agenda was unanimously 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 Chair Cate Johnson had nothing further to report beyond the consent agenda items and the deleted course report.
For Information – Deleted Course Report – [Annex IV](#)
- b. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Cody Hood)
 - i. The committee is moving toward a more active role in monitoring GEF courses from the previous hands-off approach after courses were approved by the committee. This change includes identifying GEF courses with such criteria as Concerning DFW trends, and low course offering frequency, with the committee working to identify a means of providing support where needed. Faculty with GEF courses may be contacted in the spring as part of this review.
- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Ashlee Sowards)
 - i. The period to modify SPoT questionnaires closed prior to Thanksgiving break.
 - ii. SPoT reports will be released shortly after grades are due.
 - iii. Faculty should watch for an email with instructions on how to report any comments that they feel should be redacted.
- d. Board of Governors Report (Lesley Cottrell)
 - i. Cottrell reported on the November BoG meeting:
 1. FY25 external audit returned an unmodified opinion (strong positive outcome)
 2. On discussions of course material affordability, it was noted that 83% of courses now offer access through First Day Complete, and 59% of students are receiving textbooks through the program. Initial reports of the program show position results in student success and preparedness.
 3. Approved programs included Undergraduate Certificate in River Conservation Management, M.S. in Plant and Soil Sciences, and M.A. in Strategic Organizational Communication.
 4. Several program discontinuations and county extension appointments were approved.
 5. Facilities updates included projects at Potomac State College, renovations supporting Biology and Nursing, and progress related to the School of Dentistry modernization.
 6. Enrollment trends appear cautiously positive.
 7. Strategic planning and faculty engagement efforts are ongoing.
- e. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Jason Gross)

- i. Attended interim sessions in early November, meeting several state legislators and promoting awareness of the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) as a resource for faculty-related issues.
- ii. Discussion topics at the ACF meeting at Stonewall Jackson on November 7-8 included:
 1. Participation from Senator Mike Oliverio, who encouraged increased faculty-legislator engagement.
 2. Transfer and course numbering mandate
 3. AI-related assessment issues
 4. Dual-enrollment programs/program integrity within smaller institutions.
- iii. The issue of faculty voting rights on the BoG is unlikely to change under the current legislature.

6. Guest Reports

- a. Report from President Michael T. Benson
 - i. President Benson clarified that the recent audit was an external audit conducted by Clifton, Larson, & Allen (CLA). He noted that the most important aspect of the audit is that the university has all the necessary resources for its current obligations.
 - ii. He expressed gratitude for faculty and their contributions to the institution.
 - iii. Plans for a larger report on approach to the AAU process, which is faculty-centered and focused on research productivity.
 - iv. Upcoming Woodburn Hall lighting ceremony (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.)
 - v. Keeping an eye on legislative activity, but it is too early to report on anything of substance.
 - vi. Benson has visited high schools in 35 out of 55 WV counties.
 - vii. Innovation fund has received an initial \$50,000 gift from Rick Wagner.
- b. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
 - i. WV Public Education Collaborative, along with the Claude Benedum Foundation, fund the WV Teacher Innovation Program, which supports innovative learning experiences through mini grants of up to \$4,000. There were 29 projects funded for the 25-26 year, and WVU Health Sciences has pledged an extra \$20,000 to support the program.
 - ii. Dr. Nicholas Baker, WVU alumnus and HSTA alum, has been recognized for practice in minimally invasive cancer surgery.
 - iii. Prof. Mohamed Hefeeda's work with cyber-physical systems and PRT simulation lab recognized and featured in E-news. Faculty may nominate colleagues to be featured in E-news by sending an email to enews@mail.wvu.edu.
 - iv. Applications are open in search of a Dean of WVU Libraries, with a Jan. 2nd application deadline.
 - v. The profile for use in the Eberly dean search is almost complete and should be posted within the next 1-2 weeks.
 - vi. Law School Dean candidates on campus this week.
 - vii. Additional announcements:
 1. Hour of AI workshop on Dec. 5
 2. Nicholas Evans Advising Award nominations due Dec. 5
 3. Undergraduate research symposium on Dec. 6
 4. Winter Intersession begins Dec. 22

5. SPoT interpretation session Dec. 22
 6. Note that applications remain open for Faculty Ombudsperson
- c. Report from Mario Barge, Vice President for Talent & Culture – Salary Adjustment
 - i. Initiative was created to provide targeted salary increases to employees who have gone the longest without any adjustment.
 - ii. Barge emphasized that the program is designed to address extended gaps in pay raises, not to serve as a merit-based system.
 - iii. Eligibility focused on employees who had not received a salary increase since July 1, 2024, including those hired after that date.
 - iv. Units were given allocated funding and limited flexibility in distributing increases, which may lead to some variation across colleges or divisions.
 - v. The program aims to provide immediate relief rather than resolve long-standing issues such as compression, which Barge acknowledged remains a concern.
 - vi. Barge noted that there is no appeals process, as the program represents a one-time focused allocation of a constrained funding pool. He emphasized that interim roles do not automatically affect eligibility and that all employees were evaluated under the same criteria.
 - vii. Several senators raised concerns regarding trust and transparency, particularly the degree of discretion college leadership held in distributing funds. Barge stated that Talent and Culture set clear parameters for unit leaders and agreed that additional transparency work remains necessary as WVU continues to address compensation challenges.
 - viii. Employee notifications would begin the week following the meeting, with adjustments taking effect on December 14. Additional guidance materials will be provided to help employees understand program details.
 - d. Report from Sarah McCorkle, Director of the Teaching and Learning Center – Scholarly Teaching Conference
 - i. McCorkle announced the Scholarly Teaching Conference, to be held May 13–14, 2026.
 1. Proposal information session on Zoom scheduled for Dec. 2.
 2. Two tracks: Effective Teaching Practices and Research on Teaching.
 3. Proposal deadline: Jan. 31, 2026.
 4. Accepted proposals will be peer-reviewed and published via WVU Libraries.

7. Senate Business and Announcements

- ~~a. Report from Diana Davis – Provost Search Updates~~
- b. For Approval – Proposed Updates to the Faculty Constitution – [Annex V](#)
 - i. Crichlow introduced the proposed updates with a summary of the two-year development process.
 - ii. A motion and second were received (S. Fleming), and the motion was unanimously approved.
 - iii. A University Assembly meeting will be called early in the spring semester for discussion and vote. More details will be released to faculty as they become available.
- c. New Business

- i. A question was asked regarding midterm grades and if any alerts were raised for students performing poorly. It was clarified that advisers often receive grades and contact students with multiple D/F marks, but how those grades are handled varies by college.
- ii. Faculty were reminded that those who did not complete the required cyber security training will be required to change their password every 45 days. Those that also failed to complete the required training in 2024-2025 will no longer have access to the VPN.
- iii. In reference to an incident at the University of Oklahoma where a faculty member was put on leave due to failing a student submission, a request was made for more proactive discussions on academic freedom and protections for faculty and graduate students.

8. Chair Scott Crichlow adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m., to reconvene on January 12, 2025.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator