

Members Present:

Bilgesu, I.	Davis, D.	Kreider, P.	Stueckle, J.	Wayne, S.
Chisholm, S.	Elliott, E.	Murphy, E.	Tack, F.	
Cottrell, L.	Graves, C.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Terry, D.	
Crichlow, S.	Hood, C.	Prinzo, L.	Titolo, M.	

1. The [Minutes](#) of the March 24, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting were approved without corrections.
- 

2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis
    - a. Legislative session has concluded. Davis expressed appreciation for strong support from Government Relations and Administration.
    - b. Promotion and tenure: University-level guidelines approved by Faculty Senate; colleges/units now updating local guidelines. Faculty urged to engage at college/unit level.
    - c. May Executive Committee cancelled barring urgent business. Confirmation will be sent via email.
    - d. May Faculty Senate reception before the meeting (around 3:00 p.m.) to mark end of year and honor President Gee's retirement. Light refreshments will be provided.
- 

3. Consent Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Curriculum Committee

For Approval – Program Report – [Annex I](#)

For Approval – New Course Report – [Annex II](#)

For Approval – Course Change Report – [Annex III](#)

---

4. Standing Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Chair Darko Velichkovski was absent and did not report.
- b. General Education Foundations Committee Chair Cody Hood reported on planned resources for communication GEF attributes, revisions to the agreement on Honors courses with GEF attributes, and solicited feedback plans to assess GEF courses in the upcoming year.
- c. Teaching and Assessment Committee Chair Sheri Chisholm reported that an email regarding the redaction of inappropriate SPOT comments will be distributed soon.
- d. Committee on Committees Chair Ilkin Bilgesu reported that committee assignments are being distributed, and that a volunteer survey link is available on the Faculty Senate website.
- e. Faculty Representative to State Government Eloise Elliott provided an update on legislation:

\*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>

- i. SB 474 (DEI bill): Passed and awaiting Governor's signature.
    - ii. HB 2776 (+ SB 460 immunizations): Passed Senate but House refused to concur on the last day.
    - iii. HB 3297 (Washington Center): Passed with amendments; House concurred; awaiting Governor's signature. Amendments increase University (President/Provost) participation and mitigate earlier concerns.
    - iv. HB 3279 (governance changes): Passed; House concurred. Amendments to restore faculty voting rights or ensure advisory inclusion failed.
    - v. Elliott noted her appreciation for support from the Government Relations team.
  - f. Board of Governors Representative Lesley Cottrell had no formal updates to report. Cottrell noted that she and Frankie Tack would be presenting at the June 14 meeting and encouraged faculty attendance.
- 

## 5. Guest Reports

- a. Report from Vanessa Yerkovich, Director of Education Abroad – Study Abroad Process and Costs
    - i. Faculty-led programs run at cost, with no additional University tuition/fees billed. Standard fees: \$150 per student admin fee, \$3/day insurance and emergency assistance, \$50 per credit hour per student. These have remained the same since 2015.
    - ii. Minimum cohort target of 10. Stronger expectations on strict timelines, fuller itineraries for accurate budgeting and transparency.
    - iii. Strongly recommend full-service providers for logistics (transport, lodging, excursions) and contingencies
    - iv. Rising airfare and hotel costs post 2020. Office has had closer coordination with Student Financial Services to incorporate billed and out of pocket costs into aid budgets.
    - v. University Break Travel Awards are available once to every undergraduate, with additional internal/external scholarships curated.
    - vi. Increased student interest in shorter programs, with preference for comfort and structured travel.
  - b. Report from Katie Stores, Associate Vice President for Finance, Operations, and Research Administration – Office of Sponsored Programs Process Improvements
    - i. Katie Stores, accompanied by Tracy Vuong and Justin Miller from the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), provided an overview of recent process improvements aimed at addressing prior backlogs in award initiation and management
    - ii. Centralized all award documentation and modification requests through a single email and online prior-approval form.
    - iii. Implemented a SharePoint tracking system for real-time status updates on award actions.
    - iv. Reduced average award action processing time from nearly 18 to about 6 business days, exceeding national benchmarks.
    - v. Improved transparency, prioritization, and communication with faculty
  - c. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider
    - i. Following Faculty Senate approval of the updated guidelines, colleges and departments will begin revising their own policies to align with the new framework. Faculty engagement at all levels is encouraged.
    - ii. Current retention rates between fall-to-spring and first-to-second year are among the highest in recent history, attributed to faculty and advisor efforts.
    - iii. Colleges have been asked to review academic offerings and prioritize resource allocation in line with strategic goals.
    - iv. The Provost's Office is encouraging proposals for innovative curricula and interdisciplinary initiatives.
-

## 6. Senate Business and Announcements

- a. Matthew Valenti has been elected as Faculty Senate Chair-Elect for AY26, to serve as chair in AY27.
- b. Faculty Senate Officer Appointments
  - i. The committee entered executive session to discuss candidates. Following the review of candidates and discussion, Lauren Prinzo was appointed as Faculty Secretary; Jason Gross appointed as Faculty Senate Representative to State Government
- c. For Information: Faculty Senator Election Update, Teller's Report – [Annex IV](#)
- d. New Business
  - i. Scott Wayne reported on the Shared Governance Committee's charge to review the Faculty Constitution for edits and updates. The committee recommends multiple revisions, including changes to university assembly meetings, requirements for university assembly membership, adding a preface on shared governance, and additional changes.  
Motion to accept the report and form a constitutional subcommittee to address recommended changes (Crichlow). Motion carried unanimously.
  - ii. Emily Murphy requested an update on the ombudsperson position at the next Senate meeting.

---

## 7. Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Corey Hunt  
Faculty Senate Office Administrator