

# Faculty Senate Meeting

**Thursday, January 25, 2024 -- 3:45 p.m.**

Senate members present: D. Smith, D. Strunk, J. Wilson, S. Bonis, T. Seguin, J. Rickson, D. Toluoso, B. Elliott, K. Neelly, S. Flener, M. Nee, M. Pruitt, J. Shadoan, N. Jones, N. Nguyen, K. Hudepohl, D. Clark, S. Herbert, T. Jenkins, P. Otto, A. Patsfall, J. Maddox, P. Gunter, J. Houle, M. Salvator, S. Im, A. Heintzman, L. Plumlee, M. McKerral, P. Rusli, A. Fox, E. Kondratieff, K. Madole, A. Elledge, L. Elkind, M. Aram, S. Leguizamon

Non-voting members: Provost Fischer, S. Forsythe, K. Atkinson, S. Spiller, M. Kirby

Guests: B. Laves, E. Casale, J. Lux, D. Kelley, M. Carini

## [Copy of Agenda](#)

A. Approval of previous months Senate Meeting:

1. [Faculty Senate Minutes 12-14-23](#)

- Motion to approve: S. Flener | S. Bonis; motion carries

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Susan Eagle (Doug Smith delivered)

- SEC voted to continue hybrid for the remainder of the 23-24 year and then return to fully face-to-face meetings in 24-25.

2. Vice-Chair - Doug Smith

- At-large senator elections will be in February.
- Working to update language for faculty regent election. Upon completion will pass along to faculty handbook committee.

3. Secretary - Dan Strunk

- No report

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Patricia Todd, Chair (No Report)

2. [Budget and Finance, Eric Kondratieff, Chair \(Report posted\)](#)

- Motion to approve: E. Kondratieff; motion carries

3. Colonnade/General Education, Stacey Forsythe, Chair (Report posted)

a. [Report: December 5, 2023](#)

b. [Report: January 9, 2023](#)

Motion to bundle reports: S. Forsythe; approved

Motion to approve: S. Forsythe; motion carries

c. [Academic Policy Revision for International Experience \(Faculty Led Programs\)](#)

- Motion to approve: S. Forsythe; motion carries
- Discussion: adds study abroad to international experience category for Colonnade. Study abroad classes must meet student learning outcomes for international experience. Faculty may opt out.

d. [Academic Policy Revision for International Experience \(Military Credit\)](#)

- Motion to approve: S. Forsythe; motion carries (1 abstention, 3 nays)
- Discussion: Streamlines procedure for service members to receive credit for international experience of Colonnade if they serve at least 90 days internationally and can demonstrate their experience meets the student learning outcomes through submission of a form containing essay questions. Students will have to provide service record as well. International internships are not included under this policy.

4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Landon Elkind, Chair (No Report)

5. [Graduate Council, Sara Bonis, Chair \(Report posted\)](#)

- Motion to approve: S. Bonis; motion carries (graduate faculty only)

6. [Graduate Curriculum Committee, Whitley Stone, Chair \(Report posted\)](#)

- Motion to approve: S. Bonis; motion carries (graduate faculty only)

7. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener, Chair (No Report)

8. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan, Chair (No Report)

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

2. Budget and Executive Committee (BEC), Kirk Atkinson, Chair

- K. Atkinson and K. Neelly gave overview of first meeting of the new year that evolved around discussion as the charge of the committee and if CFO and Provost should attend every meeting.

3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL)

- Senate Bill 6 and House Bill 228 were briefly discussed.

4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Molly Kerby, Chair

- One WKU workshops are available every other Monday.

## E. Advisory Member Reports:

### 1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- Discussed the status of HB 228 and implications on WKU. Suggests faculty to review discussion in the House Education Committee meeting in which HB 228 was discussed. Also mentioned that faculty are encouraged to discuss politics with their elected officials but use personal email to do so.
- Board of Regents committee meeting was recently held in which lots of academic affairs items were discussed including new programs and program closure. CITL gave a presentation on AI imbedded in BlackBoard.
- Board of Regents Finance and Budget committee are watching budgets and doing projections. Discussions in the meeting have involved fixed costs and contracts such as Sodexo. There was a clean auditor report for PBS and broadcasting. New reporting procedure in place for personnel items on agenda to remove names and only include major compensation increases and position changes. Reimbursements and percentage raises no longer included because they are already approved. Personnel salary information still available as required by state law.
- In response to questions about the squishiness of the budget, it was stated that the budget is less squishy.

### 2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- Budgets are being monitored and we currently sit at 52% of budget expended when it should be closer to 46% based on time. Mentioned that some units have to front load cost such as OCSE purchasing lab supplies at beginning of semesters. The 6% difference equates to approximately \$3 million.
- Working to make a decision on what to do with the remaining 1% from the pay raise pool. Deans agreed money should be used to take care of compensation inversions. There is not enough money to completely correct all inversions.
- Dean searches for libraries and GFCB are ongoing. Zoom interviews are complete and candidates are being invited to campus. Schedules will be provided as soon as available.
- Focus groups for graduate school and research are being used to compile data for making updates. A plan will be ready by spring.
- Currently working on 2024-2025 budget. Suggests faculty take a look at proposed budgets from legislature and governor. All meetings discussing proposed budgets have discussed faculty compensation (in response to if inflation would consume any increase in base appropriations and prevent increases to faculty compensation).
- Promotion and tenure decisions are complete and will be sent out tomorrow (1/26).
- New programs of neuroscience and data systems were mentioned for being cross-discipline and having stackable certificates. Encouraged by the modernization of curriculum.
- Has approved 16 semester sabbaticals and 2 yearlong sabbaticals.
- Students moving from Hilltopper hall have been offered a new spot on campus or the option to move off campus. No extra charges.

3. SGA President, Sam Kurtz

- New senators were sworn in to SGA. Small changes to requirements of chairs to be consistent with number of meetings.
- Currently looking at ways to use project funds.
- Mentioned upcoming awareness weeks for neurodiversity and mental health

F. Old Business:

- None

G. New Business:

- None

Motion to adjourn: M. Nee | S. Flener (5:16 PM)