



Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2025 -- 4:00 p.m.
Senate Chambers
Minutes

Call to Order:

- Vice-Chair Brooke Gross called the regular meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 4:00 pm in the Senate Chambers - DSU 2081. Senate Chambers. A quorum was present.
- **Members' Present:** Robin Ayers, Kristin Bennett, Daniel Boamah, Scott Bonham, Margaret Crowder, William Czekanski, DeVries, Susann Gihan Edirisinghe, Brian Elliott, Ashley Fox, Said Ghezal, Gregory Ellis Griffith, Brooke Gross, Phillip Gunter, Kate Hudepohl, Gary Houchens, Nancy Hulan, Angie Jerome, Kerron Joseph, Eric Kondratieff, Yuyun Lei, Mac McKerral, Andrew Mienaltowski, Yaser Mowafi, Miranda Peterson, Yvonne Petkus, Kimberly Pharris, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Michelle Reece, Pinky Rusli, Sarah Scali, Matthew Shake, Kandy Smith, Jason Stewart, Dan Strunk, Thomas Blair, Melissa Travelsted, Tullis Matt, and Aaron Wichman
- **Alternates Present:**
- **Absent:** Brandon Barber, Pallav Bera, Erica Billingley, Jenny Burton, Dan Clark, Xingang Fan, Sara Herbert, Tom Hunley, Sebastian Leguizamon, Meghan McKinley, and Stephanie Riehn
- **Guest:** Kirk Atkinson, Rob Hale, Jennifer Hammonds, Danita Kelley, Jennifer Klemm, Jim Lindsey, Sara McCaslin, and Ashley Orehek

A. Approve minutes of the previous month's SEC Meeting:

1. [Senate Meeting Minutes, 9.18.25](#)
Motion Pruitt/Ayers Motion passes unanimously

B. Officer Reports

1. **Chair - Dan Clark**
 - a. [Academic Sustainability Task Force \(Official Charge Posted\)](#)
Task force is an Ad Hoc committee and does not need senate approval

2. Vice Chair - Brooke Gross

a. Committee Elections (if necessary)

Senate still needs a representative for Grad Council. Question was asked if they graduate faculty. Answer was yes.

3. Secretary - Sheila Flener (No Report)

Reminder to cross your names off of the sign-in sheet going around.

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Missy Travelsted (Chair): (Report Posted)

Motion: Travelsted, motion passes unanimously

a. Policy on Evaluation of Faculty Credentials (Clean Proposed Language and Track Changes of New Language Posted) ,

1st/2nd: Travelsted, motion passes unanimously

b. Policy on Sabbatical Leave (Track Changes of New Language Posted)

motion passes unanimously

2. Budget and Finance, Eric J. Kondratieff (Chair): (No Report)

3. Colonnade/General Education, Andrew Mienaltowski (Chair): (Report Posted)

1st/2nd: Mienaltowski, motion passes unanimously

a. Syllabus language for Colonnade course learning outcomes and Kentucky Graduate profile competencies are available for faculty to copy and paste into their syllabi at the Colonnade Committee website under faculty resources.

<https://www.wku.edu/senate/colonnade/index.php>

4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Ashley Orehek (Chair): (Report Posted)

1st/2nd: Orehek, motion passes unanimously

5. Graduate Council, Kirk Atkinson (Chair): (Report Posted)

1st/2nd: Atkinson, motion passes unanimously

6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Ashley Fox (Chair): (Report Posted)

1st/2nd: Fox, motion passes unanimously

7. Faculty Handbook, Mac McKerral (Chair): (No Report)

1st/2nd: McKerral, motion passes unanimously

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

Viewpoint Neutral: meetings at ECU of organizations that don't appear Viewpoint Neutral. U of L Union of campus workers are being threatened as well.

2. Executive Budget Committee (BEC) (No Report)

Kirk Kneely: There are questions regarding the flat rate compensation for faculty and staff. Discussions at the meeting are confidential, but there are talking points available for sharing. The committee primarily makes recommendations to leadership. Routine conversations cover the impact of insurance and health insurance premiums on salaries, which can result in a decrease in compensation. The overall salary pool is influenced by enrollment numbers and legislative funding.

Although Dr. Caboni favors merit-based raises over a flat rate for faculty and staff, these various factors are all taken into account when making salary recommendations. The Budget and Compensation Committee (BEC) does not plan to be overly prominent in this matter. It was considered that distributing the funds in this manner is the fairest approach for this year.

Pruitt inquired about whether the committee's composition is determined by structure or circumstances. Crowder remarked that this approach aims to allocate funds more equitably to those at the lower end of the pay scale, which received applause. The proposed adjustments would benefit approximately 80% of employees, with a suggested raise of 86 cents per hour for staff.

4. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) / ONE WKU

No report

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- Board of Regents met with Program suspension and faculty emeritus on the agenda.
- The biggest part of the meeting focused on the budget and finance report. Finished the year with an average of \$29, 000.00. We are in a better position than most universities.
- We have an increase in retention and graduate students.
- In our academic pursuits, it is essential to prioritize the process of learning over the singular goal of graduation. A critical area of consideration is the safeguarding of academic integrity in the context of utilizing artificial intelligence. We must critically examine where our attention should be directed to ensure that ethical standards are upheld while leveraging these advanced technologies in our educational practices.

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

Mac asked the question how the numbers pan out for retention factoring in student athletics and scholarship students.

Provost: LLCs engage the students that they have a group of people they belong to. Students are asking for second year LLC's which require more faculty. If students are here on the second semester in their sophomore year it is likely they won't leave.

- Retention is up and graduation is 59% Lots of good numbers going forward. We are ahead of most institutions in the state.
- Student Scholarship showcase: Volunteers are needed for session chairs.
- AI: important question as we move forward.
- First gen conference. Great example of creating engagement
- Budget: In the middle of a ramp budget review.
- Preview Day biggest preview day in history. We owe it students that we bring them to WKU and hold them to standards, and we need to find growth. We must convince students to be with us. 2300 people on campus and 700 stayed on campus to see the football game. UDP to find new and innovative ways to get them involved. They explained to students

what UDP was.

2. SGA President, Rush Robinson

- WKU is head of the game on AI. Ask student how they are using AI.
- Parking ticket resolution is in place. Bringing food for the food drive to have your parking tickets wiped

Question: WKU had paid for feminine Hygiene Products, since we can no longer can purchase?

F. Old Business:

G. New Business:

H. Adjourn at 4:48 p.m.

Motion to adjourned: Pruitt/Jerome. The motion passes unanimously

Faithfully submitted: Sheila S. Flener