



University Senate Executive Meeting (SEC)
Monday, April 6, 2026- 3:15 p.m.
Wetherby Administration Building 227
Minutes

Present: Robin Ayers, Dan Clark, Susann DeVries, Sheila Flener, Ashley Chance Fox, Brooke Gross, Eric Kondratoeff, Andy Mienaltowski, Ashley Orehek, Matt Pruitt, Mac McKerral Kandy Smith, Sarah Scali, Whitley Stone, and Missy Travelsted

Guest: Bud Fischer, Rob Hale, Rush Robinson, Shane Spiller, and Stacey Forsythe

Not Present: Jennifer Hammonds,

Call to order 3:21

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

1. SEC Meeting Minutes, 3.9.26

1st/2nd: Pruitt/Fox motion passes unanimously

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Dan Clark:

- New Big Red Gen Ed Proposal released
- State Budget was finalized
- KY Department of ED meeting next senate meeting
- Committee chairs: Please give a brief update, even if you have no report.

2. Vice Chair - Brooke Gross:

a. Elections

- At large elections are completed
- Emails have gone out for both incoming and outgoing
- Cauca's next week at senate

3. Secretary - Sheila Flener, no report

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. [Academic Quality, Missy Travelsted \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

1st/2nd: Travelsted, motion passes unanimously

- Talking AI and Academic readiness

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

1st/2nd: Kondratieff, motion passes unanimously

- Internal audit last month

3. [Colonnade/General Education, Andrew Mienaltowski \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

1st/2nd: Mienaltowski motion passes unanimously

a. [March 3, 2026, Meeting](#)

- Colonnade Workgroup update, including details on updated draft of the revision to the WKU General Education Program and ETA on draft for consideration by CGEC– Dr. Stacey Forsythe, Colonnade Program Director and Colonnade Workgroup Chair

b. [March 24, 2026, Meeting](#)

- Proposal to Change the Faculty Senate Charter

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

1st/2nd: Orehek, motion passes unanimously

- Question to Registrar about the public availability of course schedules via TopNet
- Faculty Compensation
- Annual welfare survey

5. [Graduate Council, Whitley Stone \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

1st/2nd: Stone, motion passes unanimously

- Graduate Faculty elections are completed
- Curriculum
- Research awards

6. [Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Ashley Fox \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

1st/2nd: Fox, motion passes unanimously

- Another big month of curriculum changes

7. [Faculty Handbook, Mac McKerral \(Chair\): \(No Report\)](#)

- Will meet on Wednesday
- Academic policy on terminal degrees

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

- Biannual meeting
- Still current bills being revised

2. Budget Executive Committee (BEC)

- Meeting on Thursday and hoping to have a better idea of the state budget

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

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- Budget '27:
- Budget 26 is going well
- Ramp revision group: just received a new model with recommendations
- Colonnade

2. SGA President, Rush Robinson

- MAC was professor of the year for the SGA
- Students went to MAC's class
- CPE meeting: Mental health and budget
- Election season
- Graduating, next meeting will be the last one.

3. Staff Senate Liaison, Andria Henry, No report for SEC

4. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- No idea on the budget-what it means and where we go from here
- Not fully approved the P3, special called meeting
- Meeting the afternoon of graduation, a special meeting for tenure and promotion. Board approval on May 7th.
- HB490: WKU is more generous than AUP on dismissal. The clause that gives pause is dismissal for revenue alignment or low enrollment. Give pause to what a bad leader will do. Faculty will pay for bad leadership. Universal policy finds a place for faculty if a program is discontinued
 - MAC: Curious about the 30-day add to the bill. If a faculty member is terminated during the semester within the 30-day period, what happens to the class?
 - Spiller: 30-day is a minimum.
 - Hale: Employee removal is recommended from the faculty to the president.
 - MAC: This is not a very student-friendly bill.
 - Fischer: Several universities in KY do not have a policy. It is a guide to how to handle circumstances in the future. There is a mandate for faculty to have a voice in these decisions

- Spiller: I have been contacted by other regents from universities on how WKU handles this. Told the people they should be scared.
- Pruitt: Will presidents be restrained?
- Spiller: Worst-case scenario, we could be like the University of Kentucky.
- MAC: The word seems is the problem. There is a tone from most of the lawmakers. We are now the servants of the legislature.
- Fischer: A group was asked a question, and they answered the question incorrectly and opened the door to lawmakers.
- Spiller: What one unprepared president has said has brought all of this on us.
- MAC: We have ours, and what do we care about what anyone else has?
- Clark: If this is not a business, then perhaps you can take a pay cut or volunteer?
- Gros; AI conversations. The lawmakers want nonthinkers and want workers.
- Spiller: Publicly, we are falling behind.
- Fischer: They don't see that more money leads to better education. States that put more into students have better students.
- MAC: Interview with Senator Kennedy: What is the biggest threat? The biggest threat to education.
- Spiller: A guest in the College of Business, Petrie asked students who paid for their education and yelled at them that the budget pays for their education

F. Old Business:

G. New Business:

1. [Senate Charter Revision - First Reading \(Posted\)](#)

1st/2nd: , Mienaltowski/Travelsted motion passes unanimously

- Andy: shifting governance would be shifted to UCC, with a greater faculty's participation in improvements
- Kondratieff: Are we getting ahead of ourselves before we vote on the proposed new General Ed package?
- Forsythe: Whether we vote it down or adopt it this still needs to be done. This will allow for constant feedback and less loss of institutional knowledge.
- Kondratieff: This will have the same revolving door.
- Forsythe: 3-year terms and the committee will not be part of the Senate.
- Kondratieff: Changes would be voted on by the Senate?
- Forsythe: Yes
- Rush: Did students have an input into the changes?
- Forsythe: Yes
- MAC: What do we do to move this forward?
- Gross: This is only a first reading.
- Clark: Ask for a show of hands. It can always be discussed afterwards
- Forsythe: Timing is important, this needs to be ready to start in the fall.
- Clark: To be voted on in May
- Hale: Feels better that we have an oversight committee. The process will lead to a better product.

H. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn Kondratieff/Ayer motion passes (unanimous)

Faithfully submitted: Sheila Flener