



University Senate Executive Meeting (SEC)
Monday, May 4, 2026- 3:15 p.m.
Wetherby Administration Building 227
Minutes

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

Guest: Bud Fischer, Rob Hale, Jennifer Hammonds, Caden Lucas, Rush Robinson, Shane Spiller, and Stacey Forsythe

Not Present: Brooke Gross

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

1. [SEC Meeting Minutes, 4.6.26](#)

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

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Dan Clark

a. Committee chairs: Please give a brief update even if you have no report.

b. Committees must meet with both current and incoming members before the end of the academic year to elect a chair for next year and transition the ongoing work of the committee.

c. Met with Andre Anderson on what we need to do to meet the state law HB 490. According to Anderson, we are good to go with what we currently have.

d. Writing a letter for Brooke for tenure purposes.

2. [Vice Chair - Brooke Gross \(Report Posted\)](#)

[Updating rosters; BEC has one spot to fill; academic sustainability committee meets](#)

3. Secretary- Sheila Flener, no report

C. Standing Committee Reports:

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

1st/2nd: Travelsted, motion passes unanimously

- Write a statement concerning AI, and support. Current AI detectors don't work correctly
- Kondratieff: A lot of Dashes and perfection is a clear giveaway that AI has been used.
- Rush: Detectors are complete garbage. There is a concern amongst students that they are being accused of using AI when they have not.
- Shane: Appreciate the discussion concerning this. At a university in Maine, students were using AI to complete degrees in months.
- Fisher: CPE is gathering data.
- McKerral: Whose job is it to tell the story?
- Shane: CPE's job is to tell the story that makes CPE look good.
- Dan: Is your committee drafting a letter to support the AI committee
- Missy: Yes, and it will have a fall timeline. It will be sent to SEC for approval
- Ayers: Reading articles that students can give their log-in information to AI and never have to log in. Have we seen this happening yet? It does everything for them.
- Hammonds: Not at this time

2. Budget and Finance, Eric J. Kondratieff (Chair): (Report Posted)

1st/2nd: Kondratieff, motion passes unanimously

Report on business matters

3. Colonnade/General Education, Andrew Mienaltowski (Chair): (No Report)

- Met last Tuesday, reviewed workflow documentation. He shared copies of the workflow with everyone.
- Discussed how the workflow will change the work of everyone. The new assessment committee will discuss changes to artifacts with colleges that want to make them.
- Drafted guidelines for how the charter changes will be implemented
- Discussing allowing students who want to participate in a study abroad program to do so through other means than WKU-led faculty. This is a draft at this time. Discussion on whether this should go to the subcommittee or UCC.
- If the change to charter does not get approved. Then they will need to select a committee.

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

1st/2nd: Orehek, motion passes unanimously

- Survey is out. Thank you to Pinky Rusli and Arron Wichman for helping with the quantitative and qualitative data. Report out for faculty compensation by Jan 2027. Faculty are disclosing they want to commit suicide. Comments were disheartening
- a. Faculty Welfare Survey Report (Posted)
- b. Resolution on Faculty Compensation (Posted)
- c. Related Information - Salary Data 2024 (Posted)

6. Graduate Council, Whitley Stone (Chair): (Report Posted)

1st/2nd: Stone, motion passes unanimously

- Continuing to approve curriculum

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

1st/2nd: Fox, motion passes unanimously

- Stacey, Rob, and Andy met with UCC concerning the charter change. They took our questions and concerns and put them into the document.

8. Faculty Handbook, Mac McKerral (Chair): (Report Posted)

1st/2nd: McKerral, motion passes unanimously

April 8 via Zoom

- Hale: track changes went away when submitted.
- Clark: It was there; somehow, they got lost between him and Jessica.
- Pruitt asked for votes. **Motion passes unanimously**

a. Amendment to II.A.3. Reassignment of Faculty (Posted)

b. Amendment to III.A. Faculty Rank and Promotion (Posted)

c. Amendment to III.D. Criteria for Promotion Recommendations (Posted)

d. Amendment to IV. Faculty Tenure and Continuance (Posted)

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP) (Report Posted)

- Landon Elkind is the local AAUP rep, and does anyone have any questions for him? None

2. Budget Executive Committee (BEC)

a. Compensation pool recommendation made for a 2% compensation pool should we meet the targeted enrollment for the fall. What about healthcare if premiums go up?

McKerral: In theory, there could be a decline in enrollment, not FTE hours, right?

Dan: What BEC is looking at is the enrollment target. It is all wrapped up in the enrollment.

Pruitt: It is all based on revenue.

Clark: Based on what the legislature gives and what CPE says we can do with the money.

McKerral: Advising holds from PCAL due to students' inability to pay their bills. Finances are getting much harder. Concern with the economic climate.

Dan: WKU has had pride in being an access institution. But at some point, if the state keeps doing what they are doing, the burden of paying for it shifts.

Fischer: The driver in this is the State. We have a disruptive curve. We have a group that pays and a group that struggles.

Clark: We recruit the people who can't pay. There is not much operating discretionary left.

Fischer: We have to do a better job of selling our story. One of the stories is AI and how it is used on this campus. Will Perry would be a good person to interview. He would like to see the Herald do a story on this.

Clark: The discretionary budget is over 90% now. That is where we are at.

3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) / ONE WKU: No report

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- Ramp refresh, meeting was canceled today due to people still looking at the metrics. It is done by metrics. Tuition is a metric. The survey included many people who said, "We don't understand the ramp model." Recommendations moved to the president
- Finishing FY 26 is coming in where it is supposed to
- All committees out there are telling me any day I will get their reports.
- Shane: Not understanding ramp, workload, compensation. When can faculty have a seat at the table? They killed themselves to do what Ramp needs. They are overworked with no compensation. There is a disconnect between what we say and what we do. Budget coordinators and administrators are getting raises. The faculty is left out. Our survey indicates that.
- Fischer: He has worked to add faculty to Gordon Ford, taken from other areas. He can only do it within budget.
- Shane: The Dean has the student workers. He is worried about the overall academic quality. It is a real concern.
- Fischer: I have handed that college all that he can. I could have easily said we don't have it.
- Shane: It is just not our college; it is everyone.
- Fischer: Evidence is data; I get how you feel. Data is what I am wanting to see. I handed you the data, I am waiting to see what you come up with. I am hearing that we are not transparent. I get it we are not compensated enough. The question is how do we grow? This is the first year of enrollment under a different leadership. Give us a chance to see what that looks like. You don't change the ship in a second. The ship has gone in a positive direction.
- Shane: The Deans are the conduit. The Dean's office has student workers; the faculty does not. Can you hold their feet to the fire?
- McKerral: We have been told not to use so many part-timers. We are not using as many as other colleges. There are a lot of mixed messages. Raises from 3 to 15% from administrators. Administrators should not get compensation over faculty. Everybody should suck it up equally. It never works that way; it would be too simple, too quick. That's the way it is supposed to work.
- Clark: Your faculty reps are doing the best they can to advocate for the faculty.

- Fischer: It is a metric model. This is the first time to get through a 4-year plan. It is proportional to the number of students you have. The first two years Potter gets the money, then they come to you, and you get the money. It is a trade-off.
- Shane: The dean's office gets the money
- McKerral: It is a fiefdom. When the ramp model was given to us we were told we would get the money. It has not been that way. There are crazy instances like "They approved the software for a laptop, not the laptop."
- Fischer: The model goes to the deans, not the departments. If you sent it to the majors, only 9 would have the money to operate fully.
- McKerral: The problem is always the same problem. They want to make everyone happy. I would love to sit in those meetings. We have to give them money, or they won't be happy. I can hear it.
- Fischer: I don't sit in those meetings.
- McKerral: I don't, and I am glad of it.
- Pruitt: Consider moving the advisory board comments after the new business.
- Shane: He wanted to bring this up before this committee and not the full senate. What I hear all the time is recruitment, retention, and graduation. Not learning. Help us with Assessment data that goes to SACS.
- Clark: Matt, I will think about that, but sometimes what is said in the advisory reports might have an effect on items on the new business report. I will think about this.

2. SGA President, Rush Robinson:

- Being a lame duck has been pretty cool for him
- Caden: I am the new president and I will be around all summer if you need anything.

3. Staff Senate Liaison, Andria Henry

4. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- Thank you, Rush. Banter from Rush has been good; numerous private meetings where he pays close attention. He was impressed with all of this work.
- Regent Season
- Housing deal was approved. He is hoping that everyone understands it right now.
- Two meetings on Thursday for promotion and tenure for full board meeting, held on May 15th. Regular meetings are committee meetings. 4th-quarter budget; personnel actions for 4th quarter. Athletics hires. Changes frequently from a budget pool.
- Third quarter of the fiscal year, it shows that we are up 9 million for the year. We don't collect tuition during the 4th quarter, but we have expenses.
- Athletics has promotions and hires that come from their salary pool.
- Meet again in June, quarterly meeting, budgets so it can go to CPE,
- Mienaltowski: Did the board hear about the progress on Normal and Regents?
- Shane: Might be ahead of schedule.
- Mienaltowski: Will they potentially be back online by fall 2027?
- Fischer: Yes, Spring 2028.

- Shane: 3 dorms will be torn down after graduation. Phase 2 depends on how phase 1 goes.

F. Old Business: None

G. New Business:

1. Senate Charter Revision - Second Reading (Posted)

This body must provide a recommendation on whether to accept this change. No matter how we vote, it still needs to go to the Senate for a vote.

- Recommend that we adopt the charter change. Pruitt/Travelsted.
- Motion to amend the motion. Pruitt/ Kondratieff
- Pruitt: “ I move that the related information in section 1. a) of New Business replace the rational section in the proposal to Change the Faculty Senate Charter and that substantive changes within the 4.28.26 draft (i.e. Related Information) which precede the FAQ section of that data be binding.

I think this improvement will make it more palatable to faculty. Structure and what they are doing. Binding is more than a recommendation.

- Kondratieff: Either put the change to next fall or do what Matt is proposing.
- Mienaltowski and Pruitt exchanged thoughts on the amendment.
- Hale: What I wrote was an elaboration on the paragraph, and there were some tweaks. There were some things we thought were implied. This is a much more elaborate justification.
- Mienaltowski: The rationale for the charter revision: We are proposing to remove the colonnade committee, hand its responsibilities to UCC, and establish a new oversight committee with responsibilities for assessment and recommendations to UCC.
- Clark: While you and Matt look at that, I am going to ask some order questions on how to proceed. I need to ask Rob: when I talked to you last week, this General Education Oversight Improvement Committee (GEOIC) was in flux. Is the one attached to the agenda the final version?
- Hale: I have a few friendly amendments.
 - a. Add in /director will be a chair
 - b. FAQ #2: There is a lot of duplicating language. Add to #2: All proposals will advance to UCC with or without OAI approval and will proceed to the Faculty Senate.
- Pruitt: Though FAQ #2 was wishy-washy. Not including that as anything binding
- Hale: Are you suggesting we excise everything from the FAQ and beyond that explains what is going on?
- Pruitt: No.
- Hale: We are leaving it, but it is not binding. Just add that phrase for Senate final approval
- Clark: To make sure that Sheila and I are on the same page. GIA- 4.28.26-We need to append that to the end of the rationale of the charter amendment?
- Pruitt: Replace that instead of the original rationale
- Clark: Andy, do you feel that takes away the voice from what your committee is trying to do?

- Mienaltowski: Not unnecessarily.
- McKerral: Can we see this in writing? This is a nightmare.
- Hale: We are trying to get it in writing.
- Pruitt: Anything can be changed on the second reading.

**Several minutes of debate on changes being made on a second reading; does that need a third reading?

- Clark: So, would you be willing to amend your motion and allow us to vote online?
- Pruitt: We can do it right here and email it to you.
- Clark: If we recess for 5 minutes and you email it to me and we vote. Does that work
- Hale: We need to reduce the number of PCAL committee members; for some reason, English has too many.
- Clark: Do I hear a motion for a recess until 4:53?

Motion to recess for 5 minutes: Kondratieff/Fox

Changes that were made by Pruitt/Andy

Expedited approval processes assigned to the Colonnade General Education Committee Chair will shift to the General Education Program Director. Moreover, other functions of the Colonnade General Education Committee will be re-assigned to a group of faculty appointed by the Provost's Office (a) to develop, review, and recommend Colonnade General Education guidelines, policies, performance standards, assessment and assessment policies; and (b) to verify that courses and policies meet the established Colonnade General Education Program requirements. This new group will be referred to as WKU General Education Oversight, Assessment, and Improvement Group (WKU GenEd OAI Group), and details of its memberships and responsibilities follow.

~~The WKU GenEd OAI Group will work in collaboration with the Director of the General Education Program and faculty who teach and support general education courses. This group will provide program-level oversight by reviewing assessment data, recommending improvements, promoting consistency across general education learning outcomes, and supporting the ongoing development of the general education program and faculty teaching in the program. Recommendations from the group will be to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee by the General Education Program Director.~~

~~Currently, the members of the Colonnade General Education Committee serve two years, but this can sometimes be limited to one year based on Senate membership and other faculty course and service commitments. Consequently, there is frequent rotation in this committee which limits institutional memory. The WKU GenEd OAI Group will consist of faculty who teach general education courses or who are responsible for leading unit assessments of general education courses. Membership will be by appointment of the Provost's Office by recommendation of College Dean's Offices, and appointments will aim for at least one member per academic college. Additional appointments for membership may be recommended by the General Education program director to ensure that each category of courses in the General Education Program is represented to support course proposals, assessment, and faculty professional development. Terms of appointment are projected to be three years. These details will be worked out with the new group when formed. Initial appointment duration may be staggered to ensure that the committee maintains institutional memory.~~

Changes requested by Rob Hale:

Program Proposed in Draft Revision as of April 3, 2026

College Composition	PCAL-English (same person for CC and WD)
Writing in the Disciplines	PCAL-English (same person for CC and WD)
Human Communication	PCAL-SOMC
Quantitative Reasoning	OCSE-Math
Creativity, Culture, Expression	PCAL-TBD
Understanding People & Society 1	Likely CEBS or CHHS or GFCB
Understanding People & Society 2	PCAL-History-Political Science
Natural Sciences	OCSE-TBD
Synthesis—Global Societies, Collaboration, Leadership	Likely CEBS or CHHS or GFCB-- 2 members to ensure college representation
UCC Vice Chair	WKU

Vote on the amendment to the rationale: **Motion passes unanimously**

Vote on the charter amendment itself. **Motion passes unanimously;** SEC endorses the amendment.

Hale: This is what shared governance looks like. It can be messy. We all want the same thing to have a general education program that improves learning and supports faculty.

Pruitt: I know you have spent hours on this, Rob, and we appreciate all the work you have done.

- a. [Related Information - General Education Oversight, Assessment, and Improvement Committee Information \(Posted\)](#)

H. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn 1st/2nd: Pruitt/Devries