



Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2026 -- 4:00 p.m.
Senate Chambers
Minutes

Call to Order:

- **Chair Dan Clark called the regular meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 4:00 pm in the Senate Chambers - DSU 2081. Senate Chambers. A quorum was present.**

- **Members' Present: Robin Ayers, David Bell, Kristin Bennett, Erica Billingley, Daniel Boamah, Scott Bohnam, Jenny Burton, Dan Clark, Margaret Crowder, William Czekanski, Susan DeVries, Gihan Edirisinghe, Brian Elliott, Xingang Fan, Sheila Flener, Ashley Fox, Said Ghezal, Amber Giacona, Brooke Gross, Phillip Gunter, Kate Hudepohl, Sara Herbert, Gary Houchens, Nancy Hulan, Angie Jerome, Eric Kondratieff, Yuyun Lei, Jim Lindsey, Andrew Mienaltowski, Yaser Mowafi, Miranda Peterson, Yvonne Petkus, Kimberly Pharris, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Pinky Rusli, Sarah Scali, Matthew Shake, Kandy Smith, Jason Stewart, Dan Strunk, Matt Tullis, and Aaron Wichman**

- **Alternates Present: Whitley Stone (Kirk Atkinson),**

- **Absent: Brandon Barber, Pallav Bera, Gregory Ellis Griffith, Tom Hunley, Kerron Joseph, Sebastian Leguizamon, Mac McKerral, Meghan McKinley, Michelle Reece, Stephanie Riehn, Thomas Blair, Melissa Travelsted, and Zhang Rui**

- **Guest: Jennifer Hammonds, Jennifer Klemm, and Andrea Heng,**

1) A. Approval of the previous month's Senate Meeting:

1. [Faculty Senate Minutes 12-11-25](#)

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

2) B. Officer Report

1. Chair - Dan Clark:



The Academic Sustainability Task Force convened to discuss and compile a comprehensive list of information requests pertinent to their academic objectives. This consolidated list was

subsequently submitted to the Provost's office for consideration. In response, the Provost's office requested that the Task Force prioritize these requests based on their relative importance and necessity.

- - Upcoming elections
 - Faculty regent election
 - At- large senate election
 - Officer election

2. Vice-Chair - Brooke Gross:

- Volunteers needed. David Bell volunteered for PHD committee
- Volunteer for GLIA Global Learning Program, Robin Ayers volunteer
- New Director for HR committee needs a volunteer to serve
 - Pruitt asked if the volunteer needed to be a senator? No

3. Secretary - Sheila Flener: No Report

3) C. Standing Committee Reports:

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

1st/2nd: Peterson, motion passes unanimously

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

1st/2nd: Kondratieff, motion passes unanimously

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

1st/2nd: Mienaltowski, motion passes unanimously

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

1st/2nd: Reimes, motion passes unanimously

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

1st/2nd: Stone, 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)

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

- Meeting at 7:00 this afternoon, writing disapproval statements concerning the Trump administration's efforts to obtain information about Jewish professors, staff, and students at the University of Pennsylvania.

2. Budget and Executive Committee (BEC)

- Start working on the 2026/27 budget

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

4. [University Athletic Committee, Criag Martin, Senate Representative \(Report Posted\)](#)

- WKU Volleyball players have the highest number of missed classes.
 - What is the expected number of classes they should miss?
 - Ayers: MW no more than 4 classes, TR no more than 3 classes. There is a strong suggestion not to miss.
 - Jerome: Can't remember what the specific number is, but the schedule is always approved.
 - Fischer: Those students have the highest GPA
 - It is suggested that athletes contact their professors concerning missed classes ahead of time.

4) E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- First Rush, faculty are no longer on their parents' insurance. Our goal in life is not break anything.
- Housing: 300 million deal, no money is coming from WKU. It is still be fleshed out this coming semester. No updates since the December meeting. A lot of people on campus and advising people off campus are working on this. A lot of excel spreadsheet documentin
- A lot of things are going
 - Ramp funding taskforce: Looking at the ramp model and what changes are needed to be made. It was stated that it would be reviewed after 4 years.
 - The strategic planning process has restarted. Our hill, our students, and our community are involved. All of the regents are involved in one committee or another. It will be presented to the board at the summer Change or refined since it was written in 2017.
 - Setting goals for where our funding will be spent, and where our long-term future is going.
- The academic sustainability task force is an important factor in this
- The budget Bruce Wiseman and his oversight do not extend into academics. No one can blow the whistle on academics. Are there really problems we need to dive into? Hugely important what the data we get!!
 - Wichman: Report of wrongdoing or ill doing?
 - Spiller: Do we have too many adjuncts? Can faculty do their job (do they have the resources)?
 - Wichman: Are you suggesting we need a special council for faculty audits?
 - Spiller: No, we already have that through this body. Are we making compromises? Are we rubber-stamping degrees and sending students out the door?
 - Clark: ASTF(Academic Sustainability Task Force) is a task force from the SEC committee chairs
 - Discussion on who caps classes. Should faculty say, "This class is less effective when it is allowed to be over the cap.

- Pruitt: Academic Sustainability Task Force: Was there a reason the ask was not shared outside of the senate?
Clark: It can be added to the SEC
- AI is making the workload more. More work has been done to ensure the course is meaningful and rigorous, etc. The argument is that AI will shift us to high-impact practices. AI can be used for low-impact practices. Smaller classes are wanted by students. It is important to engage students. Assignments are being dropped because of the time it takes to AI-check and meet with students about their use of AI.
- This 100% department level. We have to put our foot down and say no. We need creative
- Gross: The purpose of the task force is to find ways to address our concerns with the intersection of data points. It doesn't just impact academic quality; it impacts faculty welfare, academic sustainability, and the quality of the degree. The goal is not just to illustrate that we are exhausted, but it also impacts all of the other areas.
- Provost: These conversations need to be at the department level. How do we do it in the best way for the students?
- Clark: It is contentious
- Provost: The state is not putting money into higher education. The governors' budget was flat.
- What is the quick turnaround if your department does not agree? Where do we go? Does it go to the Provost's office?
- Spiller: We have a tremendous amount of chairs on this campus. Sometimes we need a vote of no confidence
- Rob Hale: Information is given to the Deans about workload. The academic review process gives you the ability to say, 'We need this to grow the programs.' Two content experts' review. The academic review process is answering the questions that you are raising here. Academic review is handled differently for accredited programs vs. non-accredited programs.
- Jerome: If classes are canceled, will the drop/add deadline be moved? Provost: No
- Clark: A lot of this is qualitative data. The data is not actual; qualitative data is a real thing and cannot always be expressed quantitatively. We are working; it will be slow work.

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- Kick off for the new budget, FYI, schedule is right on track, another update tomorrow.
- Ramp model review continues
- The ACDS committee is in the process of looking at advising.
- The Academic Sustainability Task Force has sent a request for data.
- Promotion and tenure materials have been approved and have now moved to the president's office.
- Housing applications are up
- AI is still a topic throughout the university and the country
- Weather: Rush can't go to class but can be on the hill sledding.
 - If we call off, it will be earlier.
 - Stay away from campus this weekend so that the crews can take care of the students
- If we close, why are we not online? 30% of the state lacks connectivity. Students who live in areas that don't have online access. The work will have to make up for the work missed to stay SAC certified.

- Clark: You cannot say we will meet on Zoom. Fischer: No, unless your class is Asynchronous now.
- If it is snow, we can clear. But ice or ice on top of snow.

3. SGA President, Rush Robinson

Hope everyone has a good first week. In the event of snow, I want to see everyone here on the hill with sleds.

5) F. Old Business: None

6) G. New Business: None

7) H. Adjourn

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Meeting adjourned. Pruitt/Ayers: The motion passes unanimously.

Faithfully submitted: Sheila S. Flener