



Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026 -- 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*, David Bell, Kristin Bennett, Erica Billingley, Scott Bohnam, Jenny Burton, *Margaret Crowder*, William Czekanski, Susann DeVries, Gihan Edirisinghe, Brian Elliott, Xingang Fan,, Sheila Flener Ashley Fox, Said Ghezal, Brooke Gross, Gregory Ellis Griffith, Phillip Gunter, Kate Hudepohl, Sara Herbert, Gary Houchens, Kerron Joseph, Eric Kondratieff, Yuyun Lei, Jim Lindsey, *Mac McKerral*, *Andrew Mienaltowski*, Yaser Mowafi, *Miranda Peterson*, Kimberly Pharris, *Matt Pruitt*, Kelly Reames, Michelle Reece, Stephanie Riehn, Pinky Rusli, Sarah Scali, Matthew Shake, Kandy Smith, Jason Stewart, Dan Strunk, Thomas Blair, *Melissa Travelsted*, Aaron Wichman
- Alternates Present: Christopher Chandler (Amber Giacona), Whitley Stone (Kirk Atkinson), and Mindy Waldrop (Nancy Hunlan)
- Absent: Brandon Barber, Pallav Bera, Daniel Boamah, *Dan Clark*, Tom Hunley, Angie Jerome, Sebastian Leguizamon, Meghan McKinley, and Matt Tullis
- Guest: Jillian Cole, Jen Hanley, Andreen Boon, and Rob Hale
- 26-27 At-Large Senators: Lori Alexander, Emily Britton, Robert Dietle, Anne Heintzman, Eric Moore, Pera Pallav, Leslie Plumlee, Andrew Rosa, Francesca Sunkin, and Catherine Wilson

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

1. [Faculty Senate Minutes 3-26-26](#)

1st/2nd: McKerral/Wichman. The motion passes unanimously

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Dan Clark

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

2. Vice-Chair - Brooke Gross

- At large elections completed

a. Elections & Caucuses

3. Secretary - Sheila Flener, No Report

C. Standing Committee Reports:

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

1st/2nd: Peterson, motion passes unanimously

- Discussing AI and Writing

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

1st/2nd: Kondratieff, motion passes unanimously

- Met with Bruce Wiseman on how audits work.

a. Information Item (Posted)

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

1st/2nd: Mienaltowski, motion passes unanimously

a. March 3, 2026 Meeting

- Met with Stacey Forsythe and Dr. Plemons on an update on assessment

b. March 24, 2026 Meeting

- Met about the Charter Revision

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

1st/2nd: Reames, motion passes unanimously

- Results from the faculty life survey will be ready for the May 14th meeting

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

1st/2nd: Stone, motion passes unanimously

- Elections complete and committees have been formed
- One more round of curriculum before summer

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

1st/2nd: Pharris, motion passes unanimously

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

- Items coming for May meeting

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), No report

2. Budget and Executive Committee (BEC) Kurt Kneely

1. The State House met and recommended a cut in funding to higher education
2. The Senators removed the cuts, and the House restored the cuts
3. Gave monies for asset restoration
4. Funding was returned in HB 197 and not HB500

3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) / ONE WKU, no report

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- Continue to monitor FY 26
- Almost all of the colleges are done with FY 27
- Ramp continues to meet. Recommendations during the summer-FY28
- HB 490 passed; this is not a mandate. This is a guide because some universities in Kentucky had no guidelines for Tenure dismissal. Dr. Fischer will come back with recommendations.
- Great Student Scholars Showcase
- WKU has two Goldwater Scholars
- Promotion and Tenure announced May 7th.

2. SGA President, Rush Robinson

- SGA held elections last week
 - Caden Lucas, President is a 4th generation Hilltopper
 - Jacob Barker, VP

3. Staff Senate Liaison, Andria Henry, No report

- Staff elections held next week. Sixteen people are running.

4. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- HB 490: Vast differences across the state institutions. We want the lawyers' perspective on whether we are complying with state mandates. OCT 1 if the board wants to make changes. Faculty handbook vs. state law
- State funding: It's over. Spring brings on the workload via the State legislature. They want us to be appreciative of the money they give. Inflation has decreased if the current money works.
- We are working towards the P3 housing deal. It is not a fully done deal. It is a complicated deal. Housing is a primary problem with recruitment and retention. There are things for students to do, but housing. We need to recognize that this is a major hindrance to us. There will be a meeting on that
- Tenure and promotion- It is a really big deal, and the board is aware of this, being a full professor. It is truly an honor. A special call meeting for tenure and promotion. Please come.
- McKerral- The State Legislature rarely gives money back.
- Fischer; the Senate and House never agreed on the budget. The Senate wanted to be flat or more. 12 hours in conference. There was an increase in '23. Some of it was taken back for insurance.

F. Old Business: None

G. New Business:

1. Senate Charter Revision - First Reading (Report Posted)

- First reading for the Colonnade charter change. We are not voting
- Pruitt/Wichman requested that the discussion be limited to 15 minutes
- Petkus: Asked for a friendly amendment of 20 minutes: Motion approved with one opposed
- Petkus: Received feedback from multiple people in PCAL
 - Against: A. Will remove the General Education as a standing Senate committee; appointments from the administration are not faculty governance. B. Ideas can die in the proposed committee. C. Transparency was lacking in the working

general education committee. D. Asked that this vote not take place during the May meeting, where there will be less attendance, and the Herald will not be present. Asked if this can be squashed if possible.

- Pruitt: Is there a different process to seat faculty other than the Provost seating the committee?
- Andy: The charter change is trying to solve the assessment problem. The faculty who approved the curriculum are rarely around during the assessment cycle. No one goes back to review the assessment cycle. Curriculum review will be done at UCC, where all curricula are approved. Current assessment cycles are fragmented. The new group will oversee the assessment review and make recommendations to UCC, much like programs make recommendations to departments. There will be more faculty oversight due to UCC's size. The faculty is not giving up authority; curriculum approval will remain with the faculty through UCC
- Forsythe: The workgroup was a workgroup; it wasn't a committee. Those meetings were not open because they were not a committee. She had met with the Deans. There is misinformation. They have every intention of it being faculty-driven and shared with the faculty.
- Kondratieff: IF we make this change to the charter, then it will appear that the new General Education requirement is a done deal. Institutional memory is not a good argument for this new committee. Move to the table this until next semester
- Pruitt/Gross: Discussion about this motion is possible
- McKerrall: This information is a first reading, information only. The motion is out of order.
- Pruitt: This is a discussion to allow people to think more about the charter change
- Petkus: We are here to have a dialog and discussion that helps further things forward. It is not necessarily that the idea is bad. It is about the transparency and how people serve.
- Kondratieff: I move that we get the discussion open further
- McKerrall: Discussion before we voted. He is voting against this 1. The positions are not going to change, and further in May. 2. Rarely are our people invested in our governance. Committees are formed by volunteers, not elected.
- Gross: Hands 14 for 16 against There will be more opportunities in May on the 14th

2. Senate Officer Elections

President: Dan Clark

Vice President: Brooke Gross

Secretary: Jennifer Hanley

H. Adjourn to College Caucuses

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

Faithfully submitted: Sheila S. Flener