

Faculty Senate Meeting

Thursday, August 27, 2026 -- 4:00 p.m.

IN PERSON

Senate Chambers - DSU 2081

Called to Order at 4:00 by Dan Clark Senate Chair

[Copy of Agenda](#)

A. Approval of previous month's Senate Meeting:

Ayers 1st, Pruitt, 2nd approved no discussion

1. [Faculty Senate Minutes 5-14-26](#)

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Dan Clark

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

b. Brief overview of major items this year

- Overview: university faculty electing a regent, Brooke Grosse (Senate Vice Chair) will be the coordinator for regent, check department lists to see who is eligible Oct 15 election?
- Possibly new gen ed program—appears on the agenda Sept, Oct, Nov
- Encourage senators to talk with people, constituents, outside of senate meeting time to maximize efficiency
- Rules for gen ed will be posted Sept, 2 readings, like a charter, on October and November meetings official vote is on November
- First meeting, introductions
- Reames: asking for a budget report from the university budget and finance committee, see breakdown of the plans

c. Senator introductions

2. Vice-Chair - Brooke Gross

- Faculty regent election in progress
- Calendar invites for senators
- Let her know if there are alternates who need invites
- At large faculty handbook seats: not all members serving have to be tenured, per committee bylaws, three at large can be tenured or untenured, re-sent the call to senators
- Meeting second Wednesday of every month in Wetherby, Mac noted they don't meet every month
- If all three vacancies still open on Monday, opened to faculty all
- Department name changes, ranks, switches—working on updating will be sent in mass email to Jessica Stee

3. Secretary - Jennifer Walton-Hanley

- Nothing to report
- Please say your last name clearly when making a motion or comment

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Missy Travelsted (Chair): (No Report)

Focus on concerns with AI last year, supports new university task force

Any concerns reach out to Missy

2. [Budget and Finance, Eric Kondratieff \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#) Move to approve, no second needed

- Report posted
- Discussion of current financial issues at the uni, housing project recently approved
- Discussion with SGA Rep Jacob Barker about AI, student thinks 80% of students will use AI because of the efficiency of it as they struggle with time management
- Suggestion—more in-class assessment and applications
- AI is a genuine concern and more difficult to detect
- Assessment and AI outside of Budget and Finance purview, but still important
- Report approved

Clark: levels of approval—committee votes just by acclamation, anyone can ask for a higher vote on something, voice vote, can ask for a roll call vote, can ask for a secret ballot. Move for higher level vote at any time

3. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Andrew Rosa (Chair): (No Report)

- First meeting on Sept 18, virtual

4. [Graduate Council, Whitney Stone \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#) Move to approve

- Electronic meeting to make sure curriculum hit this body at this meeting
- Any objections? None, approved

5. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Ashley Fox (Chair): (No Report)

- September 15, ready for all changes to General Education and making necessary edits

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

- Membership issue and won't meet until October
- D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

- Crowder AAUP in the south there was a survey sent, please complete

2. Budget and Executive Committee (BEC)

- First meeting in September
- Census enrollment and what that means for faculty and staff compensation

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

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- Volunteers for the Gen Ed Assessment and Improvement committee, contact Stacey
- Student Success: suitable now the way to follow/watch student engagement to see if they are engaged on campus
- Used across all campus areas
- Advising Committee: advising recommendations made yesterday, but not public until Caboni is informed
- Improve students on academic probation
- Gen Ed is coming down the pike
- Honors 2.0 coming

- Data Science PhD coming
- Assessment and continue looking at KYGP, Rheanna is the leader
- CITL and Academic Affairs investigating faculty mentoring to guarantee a level of faculty mentoring on campus
- GLIA separated in various groups for efficiency
- MAC: who is chairing the advising committee? Fischer: Holli Drummond Chair, 18-20 committee members, expect to see Holli again with recommendations, Fischer: AI committee working out of Provost office, AI and CITL, committees to try and deal with some of the concerns related to AI
- Clark: you can call point of order to clarify acronyms

2. SGA President, Caden Lucas

- Senior and SGA president, Student regent
- Successful transition
- 60th Anniversary SGA all stakeholders on campus
- Thank you for welcoming students back to campus for a successful year
- MASTER Plan: SGA sponsored/ cosponsored 8 events
- Over 500 students at the late night breakfast
- Meeting with Honors and Academic deans to identify goals and priorities to support and identify student issues
- Willing to meet with faculty
- Student-Focused
- Thank you Dr. Kondratieff for bringing up the AI concerns, varying policies, etc.
- BOR under direction of SGA creating an AI board, waiting on information from Chair West

3. Staff Senate Liaison, Andria Henry

- Vice Chair, Tonya Vincent Chair
- Staff events: Andrea Anderson new housing situation with Inwood, on YouTube channel
- Caboni Sept 2 attending staff senate, meeting in the afternoon
- October Staff senate meet and greet, recognition for years of service, we can attend
- Star Award: faculty welcome to make nominations, 3 different ones each month
- Any questions for staff senate reach out to Andria Henry

4. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- Question for Dan—relate regent duties? Clark yes
- 6 yrs on BOR
- There are appointed regent, staff and faculty 3 year terms
- State laws that govern eligibility, senate bylaws, how the election takes place
- 3-yr term, no compensation by state law
- Course release = compensation, so no course release either
- Takes: debate
- Tried to est. relation with BOR trust and respect, has achieved that
- Asking who will replace Shane, want to work with them
- On the BOR job is to support the president, not trap the president
- If the president fails the university fails we have a problem
- Job as BOR is to set the president and the university up for success
- State govt not looking for day to day, long term success
- Faculty Regent's role is to bring the faculty concerns to the people who would help with those concerns
- Some in presidents' cabinet more willing to listen than others
- Lots of dinners, events,
- Decoration at graduation, attend every graduation, go to events—ceremonial stuff
- Tons of behind-the-scenes work, news reports misleading
- Watch the BOR meetings, before committing to BOR
- Committee assignments assigned

- Budget and Finance—hardest committee on the board, extreme amts of work
- Role of faculty regent to communicate to senate—SEC, Faculty Senate
- What's the best thing: the absolute best thing is seeing the cool stuff going on on campus, meet people
- Worst: people have your phone number and email address, getting yelled at for things (Thank you Mac)
- Learn as much about what is going on as possible to address with facts
- Another full-time job, Summer especially
- Will work with the next faculty regent
- Report: Summer's Work
- BOR busy in summer
- Attention to tenure: back to May meeting, approved tenure in May, faculty handbook requirement
- Approved HB490: Faculty Handbook process we have for dismissing faculty for finances is good enough
- President Caboni gave a strong statement in defense of statement, convocation spent reminding of the importance of tenure
- Not covered as well as it should have been given the importance of tenure. Board affirmed
- June: budget meeting, approved fiscal year second balanced budget, unconfirmed reports suggests that budget ended positively, but budget is not done, seems no budget deficit from 25-26 AY
- Clark: not a deficit, is there a surplus?
- Fischer: It's better to say budget is stable, won't know for sure for a month
- Spiller: surplus \$30,000 on \$400 million, audit comes forward in November
- Watch Budget model: RAMP—27 = 4th year of RAMP, positives—balanced budget but areas struggling are isolated by RAMP, not athletic, concerns about redistribution of funds not going correctly
- Strategic Plan: convocation meeting reveal—encouraged to read the strategic plan same basic structure, all BOR involved, develop metrics and measurable, goals in previous plans not met because too hard
- AI committee: convos in BOR about AI, broader BOR is risk management and risk mitigation—cyber security, real students applying, when the BOR said we are going to create their own task force, broader than the university task force, membership? Possibly faculty, staff, and students, not wholly decided. BOR responsibility to assess and mitigate risk
- FWPRC: report shared in April/May distributed to the BOR, concerns about the trends in the welfare report discussion with the faculty chair, Spiller met with Caboni—attacks on tenure makes faculty nervous, external attacks, constant negativity around WKU is making it difficult. Asked for Caboni to make sure we are sharing positive. Housing is a positive story—important to note change from 3rd party manager that had run its course, Bond issue was incredibly successful, people invested \$400 million, turn the corner not this year, but in the future
- BURCH: FWPRC survey results—ironic that we talk about the ethical use of AI faculty not asked to put their comments into an AI tool—that violates ethical guidelines for the report,
- Spiller: consult FWPRC
- Burch: faculty discussed ethical use of AI, using AI was an absolute failure
- Clark: FWPRC will remember this
- Burch: no data under any professional society allows using quantitative/qualitative data into AI pool
- Mack: Understand now
- Daniel: must assess the AI risk factors associated, how do we prepare our students for future careers, how to mitigate the risk on campus has been the conversation, AI is future jobs, committee looking at that side?
- Fischer: depends on the committees, Business college is ahead of everyone, how do we protect data moving forward, concerned with Cyber security, CITL how to use AI ethically—moving forward top of the list, other colleges moving forward, 57% of jobs have AI as something to use ethically—what you can
- Crowder: AI committee on campus, use of survey data and putting into an AI generative space that may be released outside of the file this has happened in another committee, we need to make a statement about AI so it is not being done by committees—AI privacy concerns
- Mac: understand the concerns, issues of using AI to do whatever it does with data gleaned from the survey/written comments is an issue, doesn't render the entire welfare survey unworthy or useless

- Burch: didn't say that it was useless, this portion was a failure, no disclosure provided, that faculty authorized our comments put into a generative tool that makes it available in perpetuity
- Mac: apologized, no issue missed the portion
- Spiller: I have used AI and worked with students who use AI, just thinks because of employment survey that put AI 6th on the list—concerns about pivoting curriculum to use AI in teaching, core skills are still required and the core of what we are doing
- Reach out
- Burch: AI: it would be helpful rather than police it, focus on the ethical use, we know it is here, critical thinking is important, the human process is the most important piece we should be thinking about the ethics, how students use can be done ethically
- Clark: Regent election is an important position, phenomena—local elections you know them and vote for them because you know them, vote on the issues, candidate forums, etc. vote for the person you think can do the best job

F. Old Business:

- None

G. New Business:

- None

H. Announcements--Clark

- Caboni is coming next week
- Survey to identify questions
- SEC tweaking the format for the visit negotiating with the president
- One thing to do while the survey is open, watch what he says at Staff senate can help inform questions for him, watch on YouTube or attend
- Rules of Order: Math professor, be loose with the rules of order in casual conversation
- Big issues adhere to the rules of order—to maintain fairness, motions, etc.
- Especially reviewing Gen Ed wants people to know how to do that
- Everyone has a free fresh meal
- No other announcements
- Pruitt Adjourn, Legousma Second
- Ended 5:00