



WKU STAFF SENATE

Monthly Meeting – March 4, 2026 (10:00 AM) DSU 2081

View Full Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbnmYVssvcQ>

Call to Order: 10:02 AM CST

Roll Call: 19 Senators in attendance; in person and via Zoom.

Approval of the Agenda & Prior Monthly Meeting Minutes: Both approved by unanimous consent.

Christopher Ware Staff Star Awards

Amber Boards- School of Engineering and Applied Science
Daniel Minton- WKU Police Department
Racher Salyer- TRO Student Support Services

Guest Speaker- Philanthropy

Amanda Trabue, Vice President for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement, and members of her team shared an overview of the work they do in Philanthropy and Alumni Engagements and shared about an upcoming event.

Highlights Include:

- Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement's mission is to create opportunities to transform lives: students, personnel, our people, and our communities.
- There are four units within the division: Alumni Engagement, Donor Engagement, Philanthropy, Strategic Operations & Appeals. They have twenty-eight full-time employees and two part-time employees.
- The Alumni Association membership dues help sponsor many of the activities and programs that Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement do for both alumni and current students.
- Major programs/events that come from Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement are the Hall of Distinguished Alumni, Hilltopper Excellence Awards, and Homecoming.
- WKU Spirit Magazine is the flagship publication that comes out from WKU twice a year.
- The three tenants of the division are Connect, Engage, and Pay it Forward.
- Deanna Jenkins, Haley Ashley, and Zach Marcum shared about WKU's 3rd annual Day of Giving on March 31st. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to wear red, show up, and give back. The day will include social media videos and messaging, emails, direct mail, personal outreach, campus engagement, TopperFellas. Donors can pick where their gift goes. Philanthropy and Alumni

Engagement ask campus members to wear red that day and like, share, and post to their social media.

- Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement program Topper to Topper Career Connections connects current Western Kentucky University students and recent graduates with experienced alumni for mentorship, networking, and industry advice.
- Please watch the full remarks at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbnmYVssvcQ>.

Officer, Committee, and Staff Regent Reports

- **Chair – Leslie Vanderpool**
 - Chair Vanderpool reported that she met with President Caboni on February 23rd. Their conversation revolved around the Staff Engagement Survey.
 - Chair Vanderpool invited Senator Hess to share updates from the BEC. The BEC heard proposals from support units for additional funding to their base budget allocation. They will discuss the proposals further during the next BEC meeting.
- **Vice Chair – Jordan Ray:** Vice Chair Ray shared that the Executive Committee has decided on dates for the upcoming Staff Senate election. An email with all the details will be sent out soon. There will be a nomination period from March 23rd to April 3rd. The campaign period will be April 13th-17th with the election held on April 21st.
- **Secretary – Morgan Moran:**
 - Senator Moran reminded the Senate that the New Hire Reception will be on March 25th at 3:30pm in Chandler Hall room 2001B and encouraged everyone to attend.
 - Parking and Transportation met on Feb. 13th. The main update from that meeting is that P&T will be moving FS3 permit holders to license plate recognition in the coming year. There was discussion of moving Faculty and Staff permit renewals to automatically renew via payroll deduction. It seems like a sizable portion of staff already use payroll deduction for their permit. There will be an option to opt out. Please let Senator Moran know if you have any questions or concerns.
- **Parliamentarian – Jon Adams:** No Report
- **Technology – Kent Johnson:** No Report
- **Treasurer – Andria Henry**

Treasurer's Report
March 2026
AS OF 3/3/2026, FY26:
E&G Index – 100600

 - Starting Balance = \$2,500.43
 - Additions = \$0.00
 - Disbursements = \$173.18

- Ending Balance = \$2,327.25

WKUF Account (Staff Senate Excellence Fund) – 1108600

- Starting Balance = \$2,275.12
- Additions = \$0.00
- Disbursements = \$0.00
- Ending Balance = \$2,275.12

CHF Account (Book Scholarship) – 800139

- Starting Balance = \$1,969.84
- Additions = \$0.00
- Disbursements = \$0.00
- Ending Balance = \$1,969.84

- **Communications – Deanna Jenkins:**
 - Complete the Dependent Eligibility Verification by March 13. The link is in the newsletter.
- **Staff Regent – Jennifer Hammonds:** Regent Hammonds updated the Senate about the February 20th Board of Regents meeting. Committee meetings were held in the morning, and the quarterly meeting was held in the afternoon.
 - A number of new programs went through for approval. Two master's programs were approved, one in Applied Behavior Analysis and one in Disaster Science. There were four graduate certificates: Digital Health and Data Management, Health Policy and Systems Management, Sustainability and Practices in Health Leadership, and Statistical Data Science. There was an undergraduate certificate in Global Economic Issues approved and three bachelor programs. The programs approved were Disaster Science, Environmental, Earth, and Sustainability Sciences, and Integrated Advertising & Public Relations. Two programs were suspended: Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Minor in Graphic Design.
 - Dr. Janet Tassel and Dr. Monica Burke were both awarded University Distinguished Professor designations.
 - There were five approvals for emeritus appointments.
 - Jennifer Smith gave a legislative update. Regent Hammonds recommends staying up to date on legislative issues at <https://www.wku.edu/govrelations/>.
 - Executive Session: Regents were shown the housing renderings.
 - The next meeting is May 7th.
- **SGA:** Rush Robinson asked the Senate if bikes and scooters are a problem on campus. Senator Hess shared that there are concerns regarding where they are being parked and charging cables being used in unsafe ways.
- **EVP SOF:**
 - Susan Howarth answered a question from Senator Hess regarding the impact on HRL staff by the Gilbane partnership. Staff impacted have received a letter; approximately ten employees are going to be impacted. 2-3 may retire, several other employees will be applying for other

opportunities at WKU, and several employees may be retained by Gilbane.

- Susan gave a financial update. As of January, WKU is ~7 million dollars better than at the same time last year. Forecasting models currently indicate that we will be 4-7 million dollars to the good.
- FY 27 budget development is well underway. Susan will present the budget to the Board of Regent in June.
- A committee is working to revise the RAMP budget model.
- The Provost and Susan will be planning Town Halls during the summer.

Old Business

Kevin Werner's Workplace Safety Report: No updates.

New Business

- Senator Henry welcomed Dr. Daniel Clark for coming as the Faculty Senate representative.
- Senator Henry made a motion to approve spending \$100 to purchase storage containers to place our swag and other supplies. She also proposed spending \$550 on 50 new Fresh Food Passes, \$200 for the New Hire Reception and \$300 for the Meet and Greet are coming up. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Senator Henry also asked for anyone with swag for the Meet and Greet to get it to her.

Public Comment: None

Announcements & Notable Events:

- Staff Senate Elections are coming this Spring.
- Meet and Greet: April 15th at 10:00am in Nite Class

Adjournment: 11:05 AM CST