

# WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025

Facilitator: Kurt Kolasinski, President

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Location: Zoom teleconference

Type of Meeting: Scheduled meeting

## Attendees

### Senators

❖ Amiruzzaman, Stefanie	Present	❖ Lawton, Bessie	Present
❖ Benedict, Kristopher	Present	❖ Lightner, Sarah	Present
❖ Brown, Ashlee	Present	❖ McInnis, Daris	Present
❖ Campillo-Fenoll, Marcos	Present	❖ Mishra, Vipanchi	Present
❖ Chen, Tianran	Present	❖ Mohajeri, Orkideh	Proxy
❖ Cherry, Dan	Present	❖ Panagiotidou, Eirini	Present
❖ Childs, Gary	Present	❖ Panichelli, Meg	Absent
❖ Daltry, Rachel	Present	❖ Park, Innhwa	Present
❖ Dasilva, Michelle	Present	❖ Razon, Selen	Present
❖ Du, Wei	Proxy	❖ Ruchti, Simon	Present
❖ Forbes, Dan	Present	❖ Saboe, Matt	Proxy
❖ Garthwait, Clayton	Present	❖ Sanz-Sánchez, Israel	Present
❖ Grassetti, Stevie	Present	❖ Schugar, Heather	Present
❖ Guerriero, Tara	Present	❖ Smidt, Esther	Proxy
❖ Hill, Erin	Present	❖ Stokes, Jordan	Absent
❖ Houser, Mary	Proxy	❖ Tennille, Julie	Absent
❖ Howard, Rick	Present	❖ Wade, Michelle	Present
❖ Junius, Premalatha	Present	❖ Waymouth, Heather	Present
❖ Kolasinski, Kurt	Present	❖ Wiest, Julie	Present

### Representatives

❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Bill Sawyer	Absent
❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: (Vacant)	
❖ APSCUF Representative: Julie Wiest	Present
❖ Student Government Association Representative: Avery McKnight	Absent
❖ Graduate Student Association Representative: (Vacant)	
❖ ROTC Representative: (Vacant)	

### Senate Proxies

❖ Asempapa, Bridget	Proxy for Esther Smidt
❖ Brenner, Jim	Absent
❖ Jussaume, Timothy	Present

❖ O'Brien, Lia	Absent
❖ Owens, Jackie	Absent
❖ Patriarca, Ashley	Absent
❖ Tully, Greg	Absent
❖ Whidden, Melissa	Proxy for Matt Saboe
❖ Vealey, Kyle	Absent
❖ Wolff, Dominik	Absent

### Guests In Attendance

Meg Hazel, David Thomas, Tracey Robinson, Paul Gargiulo, Jeff Sudol, Brittany Severino (proxy for Mary Houser), Euiky Choi (proxy for Wei Du), Amberlynn Alvord, Kim Wright, Ashlee Lamson, Connor Goyne, Jackie Hodes (proxy for Orkideh Mohajeri), Aaron Spector, Alejandro Satz, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Julie Dietrich, Kevin Aptowicz, Sally Martin and Sarah Reed (ASL Interpreters)

## Agenda

Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

### Senate Business and Announcements

1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on September 5, 2025. Motion to approve from Julie Wiest, seconded by Israel Sanz-Sánchez. Minutes approved by all Senators present.
2. Meeting updates and related discussions
  - a. Meetings with Acting Provost Josh Auld (Sept. 5 and Oct. 6, attended by Senators Israel Sanz-Sánchez and Kurt W. Kolasinski)
    - i. Kurt: On the meeting for Sept. 5, we asked Josh about his priorities. He wants to get on top of the Tenure and Promotion schedule, and improve communication with faculty. EAB (provider of Navigate) had approached the university to offer tools to surveil students, and we expressed concerns about how such a tool would be used. Josh said this tool will not be turned on. Israel: Shared governance had an impact here in making the problems clear. Senate pushback made a difference. Kurt: We talked about accessibility, and this led to the invitation of some of our guests today. If you have concerns please pass them along to us so we can share them with the Acting Provost.
    - ii. Kurt: There were some RamPortal outages early in the term; other PASSHE institutions had issues as well. There were some general problems with their cloud software. Banner has grown significantly due to their PASSHE business; we hope they will grow more responsive!
    - iii. Kurt: This is the second year there have been reports of data to the Department of Education. Tax records will be checked to do comparative studies on the impact of college education. No accountability action should take place before three years from now, as the information is to be based on five years of data.
    - iv. Kurt: We asked for an updated administration org chart; we'll see if we get one.
    - v. Kurt: The meeting on Oct. 6 we noted an uninvited outside group came to campus; we asked if this sort of event is something to be addressed in FYE. We can't stop outside groups from coming to the public parts of campus; you may

want to let students know that they may be video recorded if they engage with these groups.

- vi. Kurt: We noted that the WCU website has many outdated forms and the search engine is hard to use to find them. We asked if there should be a policy about removing outdated forms. Josh said he would reach out to IS&T about this.
  - vii. Kurt: We discussed accessibility and accommodations. There has been a report on OEA; it will be shared with shared governance bodies. There's a need to identify what is formally mandated for accommodations versus what WCU would like to achieve.
  - viii. Kurt: We asked about financial aid forms. FAFSA showed up a few days early; there were no reported problems. But PHEAA is down because the state does not have a functioning government with a budget. No students are being dropped related to PHEAA funding. If you have students facing financial difficulty direct them to Financial Aid.
  - ix. Kurt: We brought up the lack of a student ombuds. Lisa Montgomery has a new title (Director of Student Advocacy and Resources), but it involves administrative responsibilities that conflict with the role of an ombuds, as the administrative role also is responsible for disciplining students. Israel: Josh will be talking with Jasmine Buxton (Vice President for Student Affairs) about this. Rachel: There's been no indication in our office that Lisa is serving as an ombuds. Kurt: There will be a new staff ombuds. Bessie: Is this a commitment? They said this should come from a staff senate. Kurt: He said there would be an staff ombuds this year. Israel: Bill Helzlsouer is said to be working on a staff senate.
- b. Meetings with President Laurie Bernotsky (Sept. 15, attended by Senators Israel Sanz-Sánchez, Julie Wiest, and Kurt W. Kolasinski; Oct. 9, attended by Senators Rachel Daltry and Kurt W. Kolasinski)
- i. Kurt: We asked about the Strategic Plan and the Facilities Master Plan. We were the first shared governance group Laurie shared information with. She was still formulating her ideas. She felt the listening tour had produced consistent themes. Be better, think bigger, and foster moments. Be better—everyone can contribute in ways big and small as members of our community. Think bigger—upstream thinking, think about implications about policy and what it will mean for others moving forward. Foster moments—for students who will be experiencing things for the first time—what can make it special? Everyone is a stakeholder and can contribute. There may be some groups to help get the plan into action, but no new committees. She asked Faculty Senate to set a priority we would like to emphasize. There may be AWA awarded for helping with this plan.
  - ii. Kurt: The new scoreboard that Laurie has previously talked about is finished and up at the stadium.
  - iii. Kurt: There have been complaints about parking. Not enforcing parking during the first few weeks have encouraged students who were not supposed to have

- cars on campus to bring them. The emergency parking is actually designated green space by the West Chester borough.
- iv. Kurt: South Campus housing expansion has begun. There will be more plan details on the website. Heather Waymouth: Is there a plan for additional parking? Kurt: We haven't heard anything.
  - v. Kurt: We asked about the "changing federal landscape." There has not been any increases in immigration enforcement around campus. There have been impacts on grants, which have been primarily used for discretionary status. There has been an intentional decision not to capitulate in advance. We may be benefitting in some ways from some of the uncertainty at the federal level; applications are up, and we had over two thousand students on the waitlist. They are looking to expand the graduate school but undergraduate enrollment is where it is supposed to be. There was some consideration of encouraging students who are not accepted here to consider enrolling at other PASSHE campuses.
  - vi. Kurt: There has been a wider review of the Graduate Center, including maintenance and personnel. They are looking at security and maintenance to make sure it is running well.
  - vii. Kurt: Campus security is an ongoing issue; they are considering which events should be indoors versus outdoors. They are considering swipe card access for all buildings.
  - viii. Kurt: Laurie said free speech is a priority on this campus.
  - ix. Kurt: In our meeting on Oct. 9 we had another preview of the "pyramid."
  - x. Kurt: We asked about security and campus life. There was an incident in the library of a false threat. It was very disturbing. Public Safety immediately interpreted it as a prank, and took a lot longer to send a message to the campus community. Laurie wanted to continue a conversation about this and provide support. If you have more information about the support you may want to reach out to the president's office.
  - xi. Kurt: There is an app for work orders; this is not well known, and they want folks to know you can report issues directly to Facilities.
  - xii. Kurt: We asked about borough relations. They have recently improved; there is a news report on it today. One of the sources of friction was the borough paying \$18K in police overtime for large university events. Laurie had the university write the borough a check for this, and this helped. They are looking at the future of College Arms. It would cost \$14.5M to renovate it. They want to demolish it and replace it with more housing and retail space, outdoor and office space. This is now higher priority; it looks like there is some community support. There might be parking placed under this building, to partially address increased needs.
  - xiii. Kurt: We brought up research and creative activities—what can we do to facilitate these? Could people move their teaching load around? Any movement lost steam after Jeff Osgood went to Commonwealth. He is doing well, and he's

been approached to stay longer but he continues to insist it is a one-year appointment.

- xiv. Kurt: We asked about the WCU brand; some of the best ambassadors for our institution are our faculty. Travel money is not as easy to come by. It can take months to be reimbursed. Laurie was shocked and said she would follow up. They are addressing the policy now—if you have to pay registration and book flights in advance, you don't have to wait until you return to be reimbursed. This does not cover meals or expenses during the travel.
- xv. Kurt: The allocation formula at the PASSHE level is being revisited, and she will report developments.
- c. Shared governance meeting (Sept. 26, attended by Senators Israel Sanz-Sánchez and Kurt W. Kolasinski)
  - i. Kurt: Josh is trying to hold these meetings monthly. RamPortal was discussed; Israel brought up that some of its information is not the same. We're getting inconsistent information. Chris Stangl noted that it is hard to generate lists of graduating majors. Israel: I was trying to generate a list for the Linguistics minor, and the dean's office reported that RamPortal could not generate updated lists. The Registrar said this could be done easily. There are different degrees of awareness of the issue. Kurt: There didn't seem to be a lot of movement. Israel: We're having to keep our own list. There are a lot of issues. Kurt: There's also an issue with historical data, which they are trying to archive.
  - ii. Kurt: Undergraduate enrollment is going well, at 17,400 and basically on target.
  - iii. Kurt: We talked about academic freedom. Josh emphasized this is a priority. He is there to respond to outside pressure concerning course content. Faculty speak for themselves and not for WCU. Keep your chairs and deans in the loop, but you don't have to respond to outside groups alone. Please bring concerns to Josh's attention.
  - iv. Kurt: We emphasized the need for communication about accessibility; our guests are an indication that steps are being taken.
- 3. Additional announcements and items
  - a. Accommodations (Senator Bessie Lawton)
    - i. Bessie: Tabettha Adkins approached me and some other Senate Exec members to talk about accommodations. OEA is under her jurisdiction; she wants to hear from faculty about their experiences with accommodations. If you are confused about them or feel they are made too freely, please send your experiences my way and I will share them.
  - b. Ombuds (Senator Bessie Lawton)
    - i. Co-sponsored Workshop: Boundaries and Conflict in the Workplace and Classroom (Oct. 21, 12:30-1:30pm, Club 1871 Faculty Lounge, SECC Building)
      - 1. Bessie: It is not too late to sign up; we have 27 signed up so far. We have two speakers to talk about setting up boundaries and deal with conflict.
  - c. Demolition of College Arms to build new 420-bed residence hall, retail space, and offices
    - i. See discussion above (2.b.xii.).

Guests: Amber Alvord (Assistant Director for Inclusive Excellence and Accessibility), Meg Hazel (Assistant Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance), and David Thomas (Director, Office of Educational Accessibility)

1. Tracey Robinson: Vice President for Division for Access, Compliance, and Engagement. The Federal government has decided it is time to ensure everything student-facing is accessible. We have two years to achieve digital and web accessibility. We've been working on this for several years now. It started in Fall 2024; a subcommittee of the ADA Committee met to determine what the standard would be. They took stock of what we had and what tools were available. We wanted to be fiscally responsible; some purchases happened late, and some of that work that will roll out tools and technology that will help with this.
2. Paul Gargiulo: Director of Ed Tech and User Services. What support we'll be looking at—this will be a university-wide effort; TLC will be involved. YuJa is technology that will scan courses in the D2L LMS and give a rating of the course and the university level. Some issues may be minor (for example font color contrast); others that are considered major are no alternative text or unlabeled tables. The tool can identify issues, itemize them, and recommend changes. We just got this up and running a week and a half ago. Our staff will work together to develop understanding of the tool and provide documentation. This is an ongoing project; there is a [Digital Accessibility website](#) with more information. Training on digital accessibility will be managed through FAST. There will be an open forum on Oct. 22 to answer faculty questions. User-specific training will be offered in November. There will be in-person user training as well. These will all be ongoing; if you miss one, there will be other opportunities. Anything new going in needs to be accessible by April. You should be looking at your online materials now, but you should be focused on learning best practices.
3. Amber: TLC in support of faculty recommends a framework of review, retire, replace, and remediate. We recommend prioritizing high-use materials in your courses. Review things that may be out of date and retire anything you are not using. Pull it down from course materials; you don't have to delete it. Replace content that you will be using—use library permalinks rather than saved PDFs, for example. Then remediate any materials that are not accessible. We recommend that you develop digital accessibility habits—it is better to build this in at the start rather than fix it later. Use accessibility checkers; they are not perfect but will flag the most important stuff. Create accessible documents—if you have an accessible Word document and export it to PDF it should keep accessibility features. Add the name "ARCHIVED" to the course name in D2L and it may not be evaluated for remediation. If you make the course inactive it will not be evaluated. Reach out to the TLC for templates for PowerPoints.
4. Meg Hazel: This is just for digital resources that you provide for students. So if you have a video in D2L it needs to be accurately captioned. There is a [TLC transcript generator for YouTube videos](#), which do not always have accurate captions. Israel (in chat): Another discipline-specific issue: in the world languages programs, we often create videos that are not in English. Panopto assumes everything is in English, so it will create non-sensical subtitles for anything that is not in English. Is there a possibility to add accessibility features for materials that are not in English (in Panopto and potentially other tools)? Amber (in chat): There is! I've had to edit videos in other languages, and it is possible to set the captions to other languages. Stefanie (in chat): If the videos are in a foreign language, such as ASL or Spanish, and are intended to help students learn that language, are English captions still required for accessibility purposes? Connor (in chat): For

spoken languages, the captions can match the language (they don't need to be in English); for sign languages, I'll need to look into the specifics. Israel (in chat): I looked for that feature in Panopto and didn't find it, but maybe I missed something. Connor (in chat): Panopto should let us change the language it processes captions in, but this isn't something I've tried before— I'd be happy to test the process out with you. There is a [Panopto help article](#) on how to do it.

5. Simon: What if you have PDFs that can't be made accessible? Amber: This is common in the humanities. We are aware that different disciplines have unique challenges. Equations in sciences and mathematics can be difficult. Danielle Skaggs in the library says that material on course reserve has folks who will work to make documents accessible. Gary (in chat): From a Libraries perspective, please provide as much lead time as possible for course reserves requests. Thanks all!
6. Jeff Sudol (in chat): I have 3 legal questions and 5 workload questions related to the web accessibility requirements. To whom should I address these questions? Connor (in chat): You can send your questions to [WATF@wcupa.edu](mailto:WATF@wcupa.edu) and we'll find you the best answers we can.
7. Meg: This is a university-wide partnership, as our websites and social media accounts and video on screens around campus also need to be accessible. This does not take the place of accommodations. If a student requests that something be made accessible in an archived course that is something separate. We have a Website and Digital Accessibility Resources website. Our open forums are on Wed., October 22 at 9:00 and 10:00am on Zoom. Tracey: You can register and submit questions even if you cannot attend. The recordings and FAQs that result will be sent to all employees. Meg: No questions are stupid questions! We can teach you what "alt text" is.
8. Heather Schugar (in chat): Can you clarify what you mean by if a course is archived and a student requests it for accommodations we need to fix that course? What would be a scenario where an accommodation would give access for a course that is closed for everyone?. Paul: We are working on this; you can put the name "ARCHIVE" in front of the course name to identify that the course is not in use; then it will meet one of the exceptions.
9. Kurt: If a course is made inactive is that course retired? Paul: If students don't have the ability to get to the course, then it meets an exception. But if students still need access to courses later, then listing it as "ARCHIVE" will maintain access to the course while it still meets an exception. Kurt: Can you provide us with links to post on the Senate website? Meg: Yes!
10. Simon: Do we have to make courses inactive ourselves? Paul: We're working on that. Making things inactive in bulk can be tricky because it may make some things inactive when they shouldn't be. We're trying to make this as seamless as possible for faculty.
11. Kurt: What is the standard for satisfactory completion? Paul: We need to focus on progress, and addressing the worst problems. Some alt-text things are flagged as minor, but these are considered serious. We are supposed to meet 100%, but we want to make our courses continually better and more accessible. Some courses have great ratings and lighter loads, and others will be more significant lifts. Amber: We want to focus on the issues that make the biggest impact. If we can focus on good practices in certain areas that will make the biggest difference. David Thomas: We want to focus on maximum impact; less than 100% is less than ideal! Older things that have been scanned we want to remediate, but we also want to have things we are starting with now are accessible to begin with.

12. Gary: I recognize this is a lot of work. Please use library links or permalinks for library materials you link to from D2L courses—if you do this the Library is better able to see what you are using, collect better data, and can make better decisions with our holdings.
13. Tracey: This is a federal requirement, so think about your own disciplines and their resources and technologies. There will be a lot of information-sharing within disciplines within the next nine months. We're working hard to ensure there are tools to help identify and fix problems.
14. Meg: Next time you send an email, there is an accessibility button; check it next time you send an email!
15. Kurt: Is the standard we must meet federally mandated? And what are the other exemptions?  
Meg: The policy will be made available with an addendum that lists the exemptions; they are legally nuanced. The standard is called WCAG 2.1 AA. Amber: Check the links Connor posted in chat ([Standard WCAG 2.1 AA](#) and a [Digital Accessibility Checklist document](#)). We have checklists aligned with these standards; they can be tech-jargon. We tried to make this checklist in plain language.
16. Paul: RECAP 2026, IS&T's annual teaching and learning conference which takes place in May, the Thursday after Commencement, which happens to be Global Accessibility Awareness Day, aims to have a dedicated Digital Accessibility track. We plan to have an accessibility track, maybe some workshops, to focus on this.
17. Jeff Sudol (in chat): In order to understand the additional workload involved in adding accessibility features to content, has anyone run tests of how long it takes to make content accessible using existing content? Paul Gargiulo (in chat): I think this largely depends on the file(s), their specific violations and the amount of them. I have seen some files that have 2-5 issues, I've seen others that are well over 50 issues. YuJa will make it much easier to identify files in question and how to resolve—sometimes being able to resolve more easily than without it.
18. Paul Gargiulo: We want to identify the issues and what needs to be done to resolve them, rather than just guessing. Nothing is truly automated, so even if we could automate changes you would still need to review it to check it. We can't fast-track any of this. We are trying to make this as seamless as possible, but there will be some work. Meg: YuJa is not just for D2L. Paul: it is primarily for D2L for us, but there will be a standalone version for checking other digital content. Tracey: Keep in mind that textbook providers will provide supplements. Industry will do a lot in the next six to nine months. I hope to see resources roll out from your disciplines. AI is also being used in these spaces; it's not perfect, but it is being incorporated in these spaces. The taskforce knows that in some fields the lift will be a bit different; we will talk more about this in the town hall.

Guest: Julie Dietrich (Center for Community Solutions and Executive Director for External Relations)

1. Julie Dietrich: Office of External Relations; I'm government relations officer. One area I've been asked to speak to is the Center for Community Solutions. My background is in philosophy; a theme in my comments is "neighbor is not a geographic term; it is a moral concept." Our center is public mission activated. We address community need; similar to an internship, but it is project-based and must meet community need. We have students engaged in experiential learning opportunities, and these help develop a pipeline for community leadership.

2. Julie Dietrich: Students work five to ten hours per week. It is funded institutionally. Interested students apply and we share their interest with community partners. Ultimately the partner selects the student, though the student can choose not to participate. We handle clearances and ensure compliance is met.
3. Julie Dietrich: Demand has been increasing. I have a graduate assistant to make sure that we are providing quality and are fiscally responsible. We have fall and spring application processes. We have some partners on a waitlist. Students are telling other students, and community partners are telling other community partners. We have students complete work summary forms to track them; there's a form that students and partners complete together. There needs to be a clear sense of goals, to set things up for success. We hold workshops during the academic year to bring students and partners together as cohorts.
4. Julie Dietrich: Some of the partnerships have been international, others local municipalities. University Libraries have been helpful in identifying projects that meet community need.
5. Julie Dietrich: For example, a student worked with the West Chester Green Team. The data provided helped with revision of a sustainability ordinance. Another student worked with Arts Holding Hands and Hearts, and another for the West Chester Film Festival and now serves on its board.
6. Julie Dietrich: We try to be equitable with these opportunities. We work with academic deans and chairpersons, the Cottrell Entrepreneurship Center, the Twardowski Career Center, and the Innovation Media Center at University Libraries.
7. Julie Dietrich: Our students gravitate toward this work for personal reasons, and it helps them develop virtues like compassion and empathy. This work is emblematic of our public mission.
8. Kurt: How can faculty help with this? If we have interested students or community contacts, how do we get this to you? Julie Dietrich: Opportunities are on Handshake, so you can direct students that way. I can also talk with students, so you can direct them to me. Make community contacts aware of this—it does need to be a project that responds to community need. I can talk with faculty who are interested. Jackie Hodes (in chat): Are graduate students eligible? Julie Dietrich: Yes!
9. Julie Dietrich: Michelle Wade is a liaison to the office, so you can reach out to her as well.

## Liaison Reports

1. ADA Committee – Senator Heather Waymouth – No report.
2. Alumni Association – Adjunct Faculty Representative Bill Sawyer – No report.
3. APSCUF Exec Representative – Senator Julie Wiest
  - a. The APSCUF-WCU Executive Committee met twice recently, on Sept. 23 and Oct. 7, 2025. Topics of discussion included the IUP College of Osteopathic Medicine side letter (on-campus voting will be Oct. 27-29; see recent emails from Monika for details), communication related to recent security issues on campus (this is ongoing and also included questions about the role of the Time Place & Manner policy in potentially limiting faculty involvement in counter-movements when “outside visitors” are demonstrating on campus), and updates to the process for faculty requesting ADA accommodations (this is also ongoing, but some of the language on the request form has been changed by HR to clarify that it does NOT need to be complete – or include any medical information – to start the process).

- b. In addition, a couple of reminders: (1) please notify APSCUF leadership and/or Monika when current/former members have died, as the chapter typically makes a donation in their name but sometimes does not find out in a timely manner, and (2) a solidarity/social event is planned for 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Side Bar (see Monika's email from 10/8 for details and the RSVP link). APSCUF is covering food and it is a private event.
- 4. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski – No meeting held.
- 5. Campus Climate Intervention Team – Senator Simon Ruchti – Our first meeting is next week.
- 6. Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence – Senator Daris McInnis – Our first meeting of the academic year is at 3pm on Monday (10/20), I'll update the Senate at our next meeting.
- 7. External Relations – Senator Michelle Wade – Julie Dietrich from the Office of External Relations will attend this meeting of Faculty Senate to share information about their office.
- 8. Faculty Mentoring Committee – Senator Innhwa Park – No report.
- 9. Institutional Effectiveness Committee – Senator Sarah Lightner, alternate Senator Tara Guerriero – The committee has met twice so far this academic year. We have broken off into smaller teams and each team is responsible for identifying possible sources of evidence to help articulate the ways in which WCU is addressing the Middle States requirements.
- 10. IS&T Faculty Advisory Committee – Senator Dan Forbes; alternate Senator Simon Ruchti
  - a. Committee has not met this year. I reached out to Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer JT Singh to ask about the status of the committee; JT responded that the committee was formed originally in response to the rapid changes brought about by COVID-19 pandemic, and in conversation with new APSCUF leadership they are reviewing how best to share information from IS&T with shared governance units moving forward. He will share plans for the future committee structure when they are finalized.
- 11. LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Meg Panichelli – No report.
- 12. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – Daris McInnis -No new information.
- 13. Multicultural Faculty Commission – Senator Orkideh Mohajeri – No report.
- 14. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Research Advisory Board – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
  - a. The Board met on Sept. 15, 2025. There will be a shift of the committee's work to be more of an advisory committee about research visibility and strategies, rather than reviewing grants. Cheryl Neale-McFall (Associate Provost for Research and Creative Activities) stated that there is increased interest from students in participating in research programs (SURI, etc.) over the last year. Also the number of external grants went up (submitted and granted), although the actual number of dollars is a little less than last year. The Office is concentrating in a number of areas: internal grants, external grants, compliance, professional development, student research opportunities, faculty fellows/research liaisons (not all colleges elected to have research liaisons because some deans have chosen not to support them with AWA), tech transfers, events, data collection & reports, campus outreach, ORSP committees, ORSP partners (direct collaborations with FBS, HR, purchasing, budget managers, and deans). A conversation

followed with recommendations on which areas the committee should focus on this year.

15. Philadelphia Campus – Senator Meg Panichelli -No report.
16. President’s Commission on the Status of Women – Senator Michelle Wade – The first meeting for the semester was on October 8. The commission is setting its priorities for the semester and establishing its project teams, which will likely be the Recruitment and Retention of Women of Color, Inclusive Facilities, Women’s Visibility & Student Engagement, and Caregiving. The Recruitment and Retention of Women of Color Faculty and Staff workgroup has two events up for registration on RamConnect:
  - a. [Microaggressions in the Workplace training](#) from Dr. Tracey Robinson on Thursday October 23 in the Philips Memorial Building lower level conference from from 12:00-1:30 pm.
  - b. [Mindful Painting](#) on Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Center for Contemplative Studies.
17. SIS Advisory Board – Senator Sarah Lightner
18. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Rick Howard – No report.
19. Search committees:
  - a. Dean of College of Arts and Humanities – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez – The search committee has been convened, and it includes representation from every department in CAH, as well as the unions (APSCUF, AFCSME, SCUPA) and Senate. The committee is chaired by Deans Adkins and Williams. The search is being run by Greenwood Asher and Associates. At the meeting, the charge was presented by Laurie Bernotsky, Jeff Osgood, and Josh Auld. Greenwood Asher and Associates representatives discussed the duties of the committee (including confidentiality). After that, the general timeline of the search was discussed:
    - i. Between now and January: Recruiting phase.
    - ii. Jan. 26, 2026: Prospect review meeting.
    - iii. Feb. 9, 10: Round 1 interviews (downtown West Chester), projected 10-12 candidates.
    - iv. Feb. 23-27: Round 2 interviews (campus), projected 4-5 candidates.
    - v. March 2026: Offer made.
  - b. After discussing the timeline, the committee made recommendations for edits or additions to the search prospectus, a draft of which had been shared in advance with the committee.
20. Student Liaisons:
  - a. Student Government Association – Avery McKnight – No report.
  - b. Graduate Student Association – (Vacant)
  - c. ROTC – (Vacant)
21. Ad Hoc Liaisons:
  - a. Students At Risk Taskforce (Equal Opportunity Programs and Strategic Initiatives Office – Senators Heather Waymouth and Daris McInnis – No new information; Heather and Daris are working alongside Tracey and Porsche to figure out the details of how this taskforce will look following the departure of Chancey.

## Committee Reports

1. Faculty Welfare/Ethics – Senators Eirini Panagiotidou (chair), Michelle Wade – The committee met to discuss faculty concerns about campus safety for communication to the administration.
2. Student Welfare – Senators Dan Cherry (co-chair), Daris McInnis (co-chair), Stefanie Amiruzzaman, Heather Waymouth – We’re still looking for more senators to join us! Please reach out if you’re interested in this committee.
3. Membership & Elections – Senator Kurt Kolasinski (chair) – No report.
4. Communications – Senator Gary Childs (chair) - No report.
5. Research and Creative Activities – Senators Sarah Lightner (co-chair), Tianran Chen (co-chair), Gary Childs, Stevie Grasseti, Prema Junius, Vipanchi Mishra, Orkideh Mohajeri, Innhwa Park – We met to discuss faculty concerns about research and creative activity and have identified two areas of focus (please feel free to reach out to Tianran Chen or Sarah Lightner if you have additional concerns you’d like us to address):
  - a. Identifying how indirect funds from external grants are being used.
  - b. The president’s position on research track positions or Presidential AWA that faculty across the University could apply for to pursue research.

## Faculty Senate Executive Committee

- ❖ President – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
- ❖ Vice President – Senator Julie Tennille
- ❖ Recording Secretary – Senator Dan Forbes
- ❖ Corresponding Secretary – Senator Gary Childs
- ❖ At-Large Members – Senators Rachel Daltry and Orkideh Mohajeri
- ❖ Immediate Past President – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
- ❖ Past Presidents – Senators Bessie Lawton, Heather Schugar, and Julie Wiest

## Senate Meetings 2025-26

### Fall 2025

(First meeting of semester in-person; all other meetings via Zoom)

- ❖ Friday, September 5, 3-5pm, SECC 101A
- ❖ Friday, October 17, 3-5pm
- ❖ (Open Forum) Monday, October 27, 10-11am
- ❖ Friday, December 5, 3-5pm

### Spring 2026

(First meeting of semester in-person; all other meetings via Zoom)

- ❖ Friday, January 30, 3-5pm, SECC 101A
- ❖ (Open Forum) Tuesday, February 24, 3-4pm
- ❖ Friday, March 27, 3-5pm
- ❖ Friday, April 24, 3-5pm