

# WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, December 5, 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	Present
❖ Cherry, Dan	Present	❖ Panagiotidou, Eirini	Present
❖ Childs, Gary	Present	❖ Panichelli, Meg	Present
❖ Daltry, Rachel	Present	❖ Park, Innhwa	Present
❖ Dasilva, Michelle	Present	❖ Razon, Selen	Present
❖ Du, Wei	Proxy	❖ Ruchti, Simon	Present
❖ Forbes, Dan	Present	❖ Saboe, Matt	Present
❖ Garthwait, Clayton	Present	❖ Sanz-Sánchez, Israel	Present
❖ Grassetti, Stevie	Present	❖ Schugar, Heather	Present
❖ Guerriero, Tara	Present	❖ Smidt, Esther	Absent
❖ Hill, Erin	Present	❖ Stokes, Jordan	Absent
❖ Houser, Mary	Absent	❖ Tennille, Julie	Absent
❖ Howard, Rick	Present	❖ Wade, Michelle	Present
❖ Junius, Premalatha	Present	❖ Waymouth, Heather	Proxy
❖ Kolasinski, Kurt	Present	❖ Wiest, Julie	Present

### Representatives

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

### Senate Proxies

❖ Asempapa, Bridget	Present
❖ Brenner, Jim	Present
❖ Jussaume, Timothy	Absent

❖ O'Brien, Lia	Absent
❖ Owens, Jackie	Absent
❖ Patriarca, Ashley	Present
❖ Tully, Greg	Absent
❖ Whidden, Melissa	Absent
❖ Vealey, Kyle	Absent
❖ Wolff, Dominik	Present

### Guests In Attendance

Evan Leach, Tabetha Adkins, Eric Owens, Lisa Calvano, Jill Dixon, Desha Williams, Jen Bacon, Jessica OShaughnessy, Scott Heinerich, Christopher Hanning, Euikyu Choi (proxy for Wei Du), Angela Klein, Sally Martin and Sarah Reed (ASL interpreters), Sunita Mayor (proxy for Heather Waymouth), Danielle Yocom, Angela Guerriero, Natalya Khimich

## Agenda

Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

### Senate Business and Announcements

1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on Oct. 17, 2025. Bill Sawyer moves to approve; Gary Childs seconds. All senators present vote in favor of approving the minutes.
2. Meeting updates and related discussions
  - a. Update on shared governance meeting, Nov. 10
    - i. Kurt: Israel and I were present. At the time the government shutdown was still in effect. The major topic was the disruptive students policy; it was the beginning of a conversation that needs more faculty input. BK Taylor advocates for a program that protects our students. We want to insure both faculty and student concerns are heard. Civility is part of our pedagogy; learning to engage constructively is important. Israel: The conversation started with the old policy, which some feel has shortcomings. The conversation is about whether to revise the policy or implement it differently.
  - b. Meeting with Acting Provost Josh Auld, Nov. 10 (Attended by Senators Israel Sanz-Sánchez and Kurt W. Kolasinski)
    - i. Kurt: We asked about the impact of AI in the classroom; the Provost is supportive of promoting and facilitating a discussion among faculty. We have questions about assessment. For example, do we want to go to in-person finals in wholly online courses? There is discussion about a forum on this in the spring. Erin: I feel like I'm on an island thinking about this process. In Proctorio you don't have to record video or audio; few people are leaning on this. Some are requiring students to use Google Docs so that they can view version histories. I'm struggling with finding my footing on this. Kurt: If you'd like to participate please let me know.
    - ii. Kurt: I brought up the gas leak in the Science building; hopefully they are following up on this.

- iii. Kurt: We discussed enrollments. They are flat compared to last year, but first to second year retention is up. They want to work on second to third year retention.
  - iv. Kurt: We talked about broken links, outdated forms, and the search engine on the website. If you encounter broken links contact the helpdesk.
  - v. Kurt: There has been an audit of OEA. The report has been written, but we don't know when it will be released.
  - vi. Kurt: We talked about coordination between admissions and departments. We want more advance notice of events, and some variety of day of the week the events are scheduled. We also want more conversation with the departments—some events work better for some departments than others. The work of Admissions does not have anything to do with setting enrollment targets.
  - vii. Kurt: We spoke about accessibility and YuJa Panorama. It should be ready for winter and spring. Faculty will need to register, login with your university credentials. There will be a process for linking your courses, and then run the software yourself. It will be required for all summer and fall material for next year, but you will be able to do it for winter and spring as well.
  - viii. Kurt: Disruptive students and academic integrity—faculty do not feel supported. There will be more discussion. How do we intervene before our processes become punitive? We want to be student-centered, and make sure that everyone in the classroom feels safe.
- c. Meeting with President Laurie Bernotsky, Nov. 20 (Attended by Senators Rachel Daltry, Israel Sanz-Sánchez, Orkideh Mohajeri, and Kurt W. Kolasinski)
- i. Kurt: We discussed a supportive environment supporting research. I asked about reimbursement for travel, which can have a long wait. But you can get reimbursed in advance for registration and travel. There is an online form for that. If a request is turned down, talk to Todd Murphy.
  - ii. Kurt: We discussed load-leveling. [More discussion below.]
  - iii. Kurt: The state budget had been approved, with a flat allocation for education. Our portion of the allocation increased. We were allowed to keep a 3.6% tuition increase. This was good news to the administration, since the Board of Governors was getting accustomed to flat tuition rates. There may be tweaks to allocation in Spring 2026.
  - iv. Kurt: We discussed the Branding Advisory Board—it is focused on tweaking the university's branding, not a complete rebranding.
  - v. Kurt: We asked about West Chester Borough relations. College Arms is getting renovation; at first borough reception was good, but later there was blowback. The President is adamant that no money will be spent, even if the borough wants it, if it does not increase revenue. The lease on the Philly campus's current space is up next year; they are looking to move to a place with a bigger footprint and that might be less expensive. The space constraint may not be as great there; more students and faculty might go there.
  - vi. Kurt: The Nursing School was announced. The President insisted that there will be no additional administration. Right now they turn away over 300 qualified

- applicants per year and they would like to rectify that. Israel: Are there faculty in nursing who have reactions to this? Michelle Dasilva: Dean Heinrichs came to our department meeting in August; because of clinical sites, that's our constraint—it's about securing clinical partners. We're looking to be creative with simulation. That was the big struggle—other schools are growing their programs, and so there is jockeying for clinical sites. Our department was happy; we need more nurses, so turning people away is a problem.
- d. Budget Review Committee meeting, Nov. 21 (Attended by Senators Kurt W. Kolasinski)
    - i. [Budget information website link](#)
    - ii. Kurt: The leadership says the committee's nature has changed. It is to be rebooted as the Budget Education Committee—it doesn't make decisions, but can help with transparency. Our allocation increased; the CBA expires in June 2027, so there is attention to that. As of fall we were at 17400 students. New student numbers were flat, but retention has improved. The President is frustrated at the lack of success in returning graduate enrollment to its earlier high.
    - iii. Kurt: The external audit of the university was clean; no significant concerns or deficiencies were reported.
    - iv. Kurt: State allocation is increased per student, but is still below the PASSHE average. There has been a slight improvement in Pennsylvania state support versus other states.
    - v. Kurt: The budget situation at WCU is stable; the numbers are good. At PennWest there might be the loss of ten positions.
  - e. Meeting with Acting Provost Josh Auld, Dec. 1 (Attended by Senators Israel Sanz-Sánchez and Kurt W. Kolasinski)
    - i. Kurt: We asked about the accommodations audit; here we learned that the report was being prepared but Auld had not yet received it.
    - ii. Kurt: We discussed the disruptive student policy again. Auld was supportive of greater faculty input.
    - iii. Kurt: We discussed coordination with admissions on events. Programs should communicate with their deans concerning targets; admissions does not set these.
    - iv. Kurt: We again discussed digital accessibility. It must be implemented for Summer and Fall. There is still confusion about what is automatic and what instructors must do on their own. There is information on the digital accessibility resources website, but so far we do not have access to the tool. Gary: I saw some screenshots in a brief training. But these were very static. My takeaway was that YuJa is good at identifying problems, but it is good to use the integrated accessibility checkers in existing software like Adobe and MS Office. AI automated alt text for images is awful. Kurt: I have had that experience too. I'm disappointed in the tools, and I'm looking for more information on how this software will work when we use it.
    - v. Kurt: We discussed modified teaching loads and research again. We heard that Computer Science might be doing something with this. Stevie: CSM is piloting a

4/3 or 3/4 for faculty in Computer Science. I don't know how they are doing it, but they are piloting it. Kurt: We wanted to talk with APSCUF with this, and perhaps our Research committee can work on it. The President encouraged us to take on a mission, and perhaps this could be it. Sarah Lightner: We discussed alternative ways for instructors to get research time. Perhaps a sort of sabbatical-like format, perhaps for several semesters of course release, for a process that would be peer-reviewed and continuously evaluated. Israel: The deans want these ideas to bubble up from faculty. Kurt: They have some levers; they want to know what faculty are interested in. Stevie: Are they looking for a written proposal, something our workgroup could generate? Kurt: I think so. Stevie: That sounds like a great, clear task for us to work on. Israel: I'm stuck on what this looks like as a process, and who is part of the conversation. Some of these areas are under Senate's umbrella, while others concern the CBA. Kurt: Talking to the council of chairs is another constituency. Orkideh: We'd want to talk with Computer Science about how they managed the constraints and challenges. Gary: How will evaluation committees deal with this—does this change timelines, impact departmental service? Kurt: We had to discuss this in the Sabbaticals committee because Business has a different schedule.

- vi. Kurt: The rebranding committee did meet. In the School of Music they have a "Ram for Life" program for keeping in touch with alumni. We are looking for the rebranding to match the action plan.

### 3. Additional announcements and items

#### a. APSCUF Exec liaison report – Julie Wiest

- i. Julie W.: There is a detailed report in the liaison report. They are looking for examples of full-time adjuncts who have reasonable expectation of continuing employment who lost healthcare during the summer; the adjunct committee wants to hear about this since it is not supposed to happen. Contract Eryn Travis with ideas concerning a new APSCUF newsletter. Senate did not get a representative for the CSM search, but I am representing APSCUF on that. A lot of stuff is going through Meet and Discuss right now.

#### b. Faculty Ombuds – Bessie Lawton

- i. Co-sponsored workshop: Boundaries and Conflict in the Workplace and Classroom, Oct. 21
  - 1. Bessie: There were two co-sponsored workshops, Grievances versus Complaints, and Boundaries and Conflict. Both had 22-25 faculty attending, which was good. We are hoping to co-sponsor more in the spring.

#### c. Other announcements

- i. YuJa Panorama accessibility checker
  - 1. It should be active during Winter Session; in D2L go to "Course Management" and you will find "YuJa Panorama" in the drop-down list. It is not universally enabled, however.
  - 2. More information is available on the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance website on [Website and Digital Accessibility](#).

- ii. The Disruptive Student Policy and program will be on the agenda for January.

Deans Panel: Tabettha Adkins, Dean of University College; Jen Bacon, Dean of the College Arts and Humanities; Lisa Calvano, Dean of the Graduate School; Jill Dixon, Dean of University Libraries; Christopher Hanning, Dean of the Wells School of Music; Scott Heinerichs, Dean of the College of Health Sciences; Evan Leach, Dean of the College of Business and Public Management; Jessica OShaughnessy, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics; and Desha Williams, Dean of the College of Education and Social Work

1. Q: Can teaching loads and class targets be adjusted to address faculty needs, such as research?

Jen Bacon: Thanks for inviting us. It helps us to learn about the issues that you care about. Is there a plan for this? No, there's no specific plan; the approaches should be different for different departments. We don't know what all the creative possibilities are; we are here to hear your ideas. There are constraints, but our president is skilled at working within constraints and finding creative solutions. Evan Leach: We can agree that we are all different from department to department and college to college; what works for one may not be a great fit for another. We want an open conversation as partners to help everyone to reach their career goals. There are many possibilities. Desha: It is not cookie-cutter, as colleagues have said. Load-leveling—we have to have a 4/4 load, so there would have to be a 5/3 load, not a 4/3 load as was proposed in the question. Kurt: We were trying to get a sense of what load-leveling is about. Desha: It has to stay a total of eight courses. Kurt: But could class sizes be managed so that a 5/3 load might effectively be a 4/3 load? Scott: It would depend. There are many “levers” we can pull to make sure we are sustainable as an institution. Different programs or colleges might have different levers. Kurt: What can be included? The Statement of Expectations is not in the CBA, so some of these things might be negotiated. Scott: At the end of the day it is a matter of class size average, number of classes divided by number of students. Colleges have their own targets for class size average. We have to meet these in order to cover our expenses. And 66% of the budget is administrative and faculty salaries. One lever is large lecture management, another is AWA. Kurt: We did talk about this load-leveling idea of 4/3 with President Bernotsky. Jessica OShaughnessy: We talk about it as different ways of teaching 12 credits over two semesters. Our big constraint is the class size average. How can we combine sections? Different disciplines are different—some require small class sizes for specific reasons. We want to maintain the class size average and remain fair. Jen: The CBA governs everything across PASSHE, but WCU-specific things like the Statement of Expectations are things we might be able to work with. Christopher Hanning: In music, our discipline works very differently from others. We have accreditation constraints that allow less flexibility. We want to reach an equitable solution for all colleges and programs. Eirini: [in chat] Class combining may be a double-edged sword: while it is efficient to offer larger sections, using this practice to generate release time may produce unintended consequences. It may signal that larger class sizes are feasible, creating pressure from PASSHE to increase enrollments more broadly.

2. Q: R2 status and the WCU brand—what forms of support for research are you promoting in your unit? Jessica: This should be engaged through a shared governance process—talk to your dean if you have ideas. In Science and Mathematics we have an internal award structure; AWAs are different for different colleges. We're working on collaborative relationships with the WCU Foundation. We've had some success with that; a new fund has been created for our college,

completely donor-funded. We're also looking at indirect costs coming from grants; usually they are built into the grants, and the university gets some money from that. We've been looking at how we can spend those funds. In the College of Science and Mathematics we are using them to support faculty research funds and equipment repair. We've been thinking of them as seed money rather than "rainy day" funds. About freeing up time, we're looking forward to conversations for ideas from faculty. Evan: We've not had much in the way of external grants, and we're trying to promote that, increase faculty presentations and collaborations. We've been giving support on grant proposals. Scott: In the College of Health Sciences we are working with the Office of Sponsored Research; grant proposals are scary, so we looked into mentoring with experts in the college mentoring others. The goal was to submit for a research grant. We gave \$500 honoraria for this. Bill Sawyer: [in chat] Does PASSHE dictate the same class size to all the Universities or is it university specific? Scott: Class size average is not dictated by PASSHE, but they require a student-faculty ratio. Take student credit hours, divide by workload hours. We then have to look at non-instructional faculty. That goes into understanding the ratio. If we don't want to give AWA we could have lower class sizes—not all institutions offer AWAs. Jen: The ratio is not the same for every PASSHE school. Scott: Sabbaticals also factor into the number we must achieve. Jill Dixon: In the libraries we have [Read & Publish agreements with publishers](#). Also we have an institutional repository, the [Digital Commons](#). So these are resources we offer. Lisa Calvano: Doctoral students are a big part of our R2 status. We have initiatives with the Statistics department with a statistics helpdesk, doctoral students tutoring other doctoral students, an international competition for students to pitch their research. We also work with the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs. Kurt: Are there ways to provide more opportunities for graduate students to participate in research? Desha: We are using some funds to increase GA opportunities. We have some internal research grants, but one department had good funds with the WCU Foundation, so we worked on helping them with that. We get many internal grants funded, but we'd like to get more external grants. Jen: If you all have other ideas to make it easier to apply for grants, we are eager to have those conversations. Kurt: Can GAs work interdisciplinarily, between departments? Jessica: I have not thought about that idea, but I like it. The fund we worked on with the Foundation was STEM focused, but was intended for multiple departments. Lisa: There are opportunities to use GAs across disciplines. Please reach out with ideas for supporting graduate research.

3. Q: How are graduate students admissions targets being determined? Do we have resources to support the growth of these programs? Lisa: Thanks for this question. The Graduate School has been working with graduate coordinators and shared governance groups to recruit and retain and support students in challenging times. What is growth here? Our high point for graduate enrollment was Fall 2019. Since then our enrollment has fallen until this fall. We had 2740 enrolled in Fall 2025; there were 3050 in Fall 2019. We stabilized the dropoff, but we have further to go. We're trying to get back where we were, regaining ground lost since the pandemic. We don't expect every program to grow. We work with historical data. We have data that 24 programs will have some growth, 23 with modest increase, and 21 with mild decline. When we talk about enrollment goals we are talking about new students only. Institutional Research starts with a statistical model with previous five years of enrollment data, and we use data from graduate coordinators and regional trends, and use this to set tentative goals. We share these goals with deans and make adjustments based on feedback. Each graduate

coordinator gets an email with an explanation of the goals. A lot goes into this. Retention is a big piece of this as well. We work intensively to retain more students through support, tutoring, and financial support beyond assistantships like merit scholarships. Kurt: What trends do you see? Lisa: The hot topic is grad plus loans. This will leave some students in professional programs like nursing at a disadvantage. We're looking at this to learn the impact on our students. The changes apply to new students; existing students are grandfathered in. Eirini [in chat]: Is there any trend in terms of what types of programs are growing vs declining? Lisa [in chat]: Great question, Eirini! The Grad School has been working with EAB to do market analyses of each master's and doctoral program. National and regional trends may vary. Certain health science programs and computer science are experiencing growth. Business growth remains stable, but the number of regional competitors has grown, which impacts our enrollment.

4. Q: Curricular news—are there new programs or programs that might need to be discontinued? Is there impact of federal accountability standards? How are you addressing digital accessibility, or the impact of AI? Evan: In the College of Business and Public Management we are ready to launch new minors, one in real estate and land management in Geography, and Sales and Client Management in Marketing. We have an interdisciplinary certificate in Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management, and one concerning drones. Christopher: We have a bachelor in elective studies in outside fields, with 21 credits. We've got one in education, and we're looking at some in the humanities. Most of these have moved through CAPC. We're currently working on our Master's programs. University of the Arts closed, and we started the Wells Summer Music Institute, and we worked on supporting full-time teachers in the field to advance their standings in their school districts. We went from 80 seats filled to over 200 seats filled in the summers. For the future we are looking at a Master's in Music Therapy. Desha: We are working on a certificate in Board Certified Behavioral Analysis, and an endorsement for the use of AI in K-12 spaces. There are changes to certification to fit new models for K-12 levels. We filed to change a BS to a BSED. We will be hosting a healing-centered trauma education conference; we are looking for folks to present, and for faculty to attend. Jessica: Computer Science has been working on graduate certificates in AI and Cloud Computing. We have two interdisciplinary minors, Data Science and Neuroscience. Jen: We have an undergraduate certificate in Sports Media Broadcasting. We have some programs with low enrollment, and we're trying to streamline those programs and make them more intelligible, easier for students to understand; the Philosophy Department has streamlined their program for example. We are trying to make strategic decisions to help programs succeed. Scott: We are looking at a nursing certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health. Tabetha: We launched the ALICE summer bridge program in August; the second cohort will be in January. We are looking into enhancing support for graduate students. We want to talk about our services differently with graduate students than with undergraduate students. Jill: We have a new Social Sciences librarian, and a Digital Initiatives librarian, focusing on digitizing our collections and supporting digital scholarship. We had some training in making resources accessible.

## Liaison Reports

1. ADA Committee – Senator Heather Waymouth
  - a. Reminder that the web accessibility “deadline” is April 1.

- b. Yuja is an AI-powered tool to review materials and suggest ways to improve their accessibility. It and other resources for faculty working to make their course materials accessible are available for faculty to access through the [digital accessibility resources website](#). IST also has an accessibility webpage some may find helpful, and TLC and OEA are ready to support faculty accessibility efforts as well.
- 2. Alumni Association – Adjunct Faculty Representative Bill Sawyer
  - a. No report.
- 3. APSCUF Exec Representative – Senator Julie Wiest
  - a. The APSCUF-WCU Executive Committee met on Nov. 11, 2025.
  - b. One discussion item came from the adjunct committee, as multiple full-time temporary faculty members (with a reasonable expectation of continuing) have reported receiving Cobra notices in the summer (which is not supposed to happen per CBA Articles 11.1.2 and 21.A). The committee is looking into how widespread the issue is and will work with the chapter president to address it; please let Chris Stangl know if you're aware of adjuncts to whom this has happened.
  - c. This meeting was also when the (now-completed) chapter-sponsored Resource Pantry fundraiser was approved; it ran through Dec. 2 via the WCU Foundation and included a \$5,000 matching contribution from the chapter (the total raised is pending announcement).
  - d. Next, Eryn Travis (chair of the PR committee) is developing a chapter newsletter and is looking for feedback on what faculty would like to see in it, as well as submissions of info and photos; please contact her directly with suggestions and/or submissions.
  - e. There also was ongoing discussion about how to increase engagement among department representatives, with ideas including an orientation for new reps, an info sheet to remind all reps of their duties, and beginning future DRC meetings with a roll call to cultivate departmental issues/topics.
  - f. Finally, recent topics at Meet & Discuss include: improving communication during/after emergencies on/near campus; clarifying scholarship weighting in the Tenure and Promotion policy; improving the process for faculty seeking workplace accommodations; support for meeting accessibility requirements for course materials; upcoming chair elections (clarifying that the candidate slate is not required until the spring and that candidates are NOT required—but are encouraged—to meet with their dean for informational reasons; this meeting is NOT the dean serving as the president's designee); streamlining the HR process for onboarding new adjuncts, ongoing facilities issues around campus; and reviewing and offering feedback on several new or revised HR policies.
- 4. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
  - a. This committee will be rebooted as the Budget Education Committee (or similar) possibly with much different composition. That is, it will become a transparency organ rather than one that makes budgetary decisions.
  - b. The Graduate School is striving to get back to 3000-3100 students. Grad enrollment is now 2743 with 913 new admissions (essentially flat from last year). Undergraduate enrollment is 14657 with an intake of 3025. While the new class was roughly the same size, better retention increased enrollment. Total enrollment now stands at 17400. At the undergraduate level, retention first to second year has improved to 83.8% and now

- focusing on second to third year retention. External was clean, “no material weaknesses”, “no significant deficiencies.”
- c. Details on the budget can be found at the [Budget Review Committee](#). 48% of the E&G budget is covered by tuition. 30% is covered by the state allocation. The state allocation amounts to \$6052 per student. This is compared to a national average of ~\$10,000. PA has moved up two places but still ranks 47th in the country in state support for higher education.
5. Campus Climate Intervention Team –Senator Simon Ruchti
    - a. The administration is revisiting the question of whether to send notices out to students when we have outside protestors come to campus. The problem with emailing students is that it can cause more students to come to the quad to engage or watch the protestors. However, not giving students a heads up means students who want to avoid potentially hateful speech can’t avoid it.
    - b. We also discussed the increase in parties patrolling WCU community members’ social media looking for things to report. The goal being to get faculty/staff fired or students removed from campus. The biggest concern, though, is the doxing that goes along with this.
  6. Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence – Senator Daris McInnis
    - a. MLK Celebration events will be shared via email. Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance has (3 vacant positions) and will be posted soon. Reimaging Student Success: Building on WCU’s Momentum is completed, and the PASSHE Statewide DEI Strategic Framework (2021-2025) is completed.
  7. External Relations – Senator Michelle Wade
    - a. No report.
  8. Faculty Mentoring Committee – Senator Innhwa Park
    - a. Faculty Mentoring Program Spring Events—Save the Dates, Details to Follow in January.
    - b. Promotion Panel— Please join us for the Faculty Mentoring Committee's Promotion Panel on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 12:30pm on Zoom.
    - c. Mentoring Roundtables Drop-In Event— Want to learn more about mentoring strategies and benefits? Come to a drop-in event hosted by the Faculty Mentoring Committee on February 3 and 4 in FHG Library, Room 252. All faculty interested in learning about the many benefits of formal and informal mentoring are welcome!
  9. Institutional Effectiveness Committee – Senator Sarah Lightner, alternate Senator Tara Guerriero
    - a. No report.
  10. IS&T Faculty Advisory Committee – Senator Dan Forbes; alternate Senator Simon Ruchti – No report; no update from IS&T on their plans to reorganize and relaunch this committee. Also: employee and student cybersecurity training modules were alluded to in a cybersecurity awareness email in late October, but nothing has yet transpired. Perhaps IS&T is too busy with the digital accessibility compliance work?
  11. LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Meg Panichelli
    - a. No report.
  12. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – Daris McInnis
    - a. No report; next meeting will be in 2026.

13. Multicultural Faculty Commission – Senator Orkideh Mohajeri
  - a. No report.
14. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Research Advisory Board – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
  - a. Last meeting was December 2. Grant updates were shared: SURF application was closed, 51 applications this year, highest ever. We were able to fund 45 of the 51, with some of these being funded by college funds and most being funded by ORSP indirect cost funds. 43 applications for PRG (Provost Research Grants). This year, we shifted the reviews to folks that received the grant in the past (the reviews are not being done by the ORSP advisory board anymore). PRG awardees will hopefully be announced by the end of the semester. RCDA: 4 applications. FPDC is out now; we are having workshops; the Zoom link and call went out in the ORSP newsletter. This is an internal process first so we can then submit to PASSHE, due internally on January 21st. SURI and SRCA: also out, some applications coming in; it's great to see the energy but it's also a lot of opportunities to keep supporting from the ORSP office.
  - b. Other announcements: Grant management administrator position reopened after the previous one left Oct. 25. Interviews next week; the goal is for the new person to start in the Spring semester. There is a new podcast. AI-themed, with 3 faculty talking about how to use AI for faculty-student research. Also ORSP meeting with IS&T to use AI as a resource for the office for faculty to collect information about lit reviews and grant reviews.
  - c. Group discussion: 1. What training or resources do faculty need to enhance their competitiveness in securing funding? 2. What infrastructure improvements are necessary to support innovative research at our university? 3. How can we ensure that research and sponsored programs are sustainable long term, both financially and in terms of impact?
15. Philadelphia Campus – Senator Meg Panichelli
  - a. No report.
16. President's Commission on the Status of Women – Senator Michelle Wade
  - a. No report.
17. SIS Advisory Board – Senator Sarah Lightner
  - a. No report.
18. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Rick Howard
  - a. No report.
19. Search committees:
  - a. Dean of Arts and Humanities Search – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
    - i. The search is currently in the market recruiting phase, which will go until the prospect review meeting on Jan. 26. In the meantime, GA&A (the recruiting firm) is recruiting candidates. The committee will have access to submitted applications around Jan. 1, which should already be the majority of the candidates. At the prospect review meeting in January, the committee will identify candidates to interview from the pool. Feb 9-10: Round 1 interviews. Feb. 23-27: Round 2 interviews. Both rounds will be in West Chester (round 1 at a hotel, round 2 on campus). .An offer will be made in March.

## 20. Student Liaisons:

- a. Student Government Association – Avery McKnight
  - i. No report.
- b. Graduate Student Association – Vacant
- c. ROTC – Vacant

## Committee Reports

1. Faculty Welfare/Ethics – Senators Eirini Panagiotidou (chair), Marcos Campillo-Fenoll, Tara Guerriero, Erin Hill, Mary Houser, Michelle Kaulback, Simon Ruchti, Michelle Wade – The committee is compiling a document of examples, policies, and best practices from other universities related to faculty service expectations and workload.
2. Student Welfare – Senators Dan Cherry (co-chair), Daris McInnis (co-chair), Rachel Daltry, Heather Waymouth – No report.
3. Membership & Elections – Senator Kurt Kolasinski (chair) – No report.
4. Communications – Senator Gary Childs (chair) – Uploaded approved minutes from Sept. 5, 2025 Faculty Senate meeting to the Senate website.
5. Research and Creative Activities – Senators Sarah Lightner (co-chair), Tianran Chen (co-chair), Kris Benedict, Tienran Chen, Gary Childs, Wei Du, Prema Junius, Kurt Kolasinski, Sarah Lightner, Vipanchi Mishra, Orkideh Mohajeri, Innhwa Park, Selen Razon, Bill Sawyer, Heather Schugar, Esther Smidt – No report.

## 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