

WCU FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Date: September 17, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom teleconference

Facilitator: Julie Wiest, President

Type of meeting: Scheduled Meeting

Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Misc.

Members Present: *designated by an X*

Attendees:

Bolton, David		Mandel, Deborah	x
Brenner, James	x	Metz, Stacie	x
Chang, Janet	x	Mishra, Vipanchi	x
Cherry, Dan	x	Mraz, Megan	x
Gary Childs	x	Panagiotidou, Eirini	x
Cooke, Laquana	x	Panichelli, Meg	x
Daltry, Rachel	x	Pierlott, Matthew	x
Forbes, Daniel	x	Raskauskas, Jenn	x
Guerriero, Tara	<i>Proxy Ashley Miller</i>	Riley, Kathleen	
He, Yuhong	x	Ruchti, Simon	x
Hill, Erin		Saboe, Matt	x
Hodes, Jacqueline	x	Sanz-Sánchez, Israel	x
Junius, Premalatha	x	Schugar, Heather	x
Karahan, Selcuk	x	Smidt, Esther	x
Kolasinski, Kurt	x	Studien-Webb, Gretchen	x
Konigsberg, Lisa		Tennille, Julie	x
Lawton, Bessie Lee	x	Wade, Michelle	x
Lightner, Sarah	x	Wiest, Julie	x
Major, Marci	x	Wilbur, Veronica	x
Adjunct Faculty Rep: Ann Hiloski-Fowler	x	Student Govt. Assoc. Rep: Bill Mortimer	x
Adjunct Faculty Rep: William Sawyer	x	Graduate Student Assoc. Rep: TBA	
APSCUF Rep: Bessie Lee Lawton	x	ROTC rep: TBA	

Guests in Attendance: Tammy James, Janet Lacey, Miguel Ceballos, Jackie Zalewski, Orkideh Mohajeri, Dara Dirhan, Michelle Kaulback, Selen Razon, Mahrukh Azam, Amy Baker, Gwenelle O'Neal, Anne Larrivee, Margaret Ervin, Greg Tully, Josh Auld, Shannon McQueen, Susan Johnston

AGENDA ITEMS

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests (J. Wiest)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductions and welcome to new senators 	
<p>Margaret Ervin, <i>APSCUF-WCU President</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Margaret: I'm the new APSCUF President as of this fall. Most of what we're doing right now relates to COVID-19. We've been working with Senate and TLAC to put pressure on the administration to get COVID mitigations in place and post the "dashboard." These are last-minute accomplishments; it seemed like there was some denial about the seriousness of the pandemic because things initially looked good in the summer. The plan for masking was settled maybe three weeks before the start of classes. 2. Margaret: The APSCUF exec committee decided to give two \$2K scholarships for students on campus who get fully vaccinated; they will be awarded after Thanksgiving. This will be advertised in <i>The Quad</i>. 3. Margaret: There was a survey that came out yesterday to ask about COVID situation. When we have enough responses we will crunch the data. So far it looks like faculty are pretty upset. When it is complete we will have some data to share. 4. Margaret: The BPMC has been having problems with humidity; there were three major engineering updates done today, and we will find out whether it worked by Monday. Lawrence Center had humidity that caused a mold problem, which has since been abated. <p>Q: Simon: Science Link 151 is a sauna. I've not heard a lot of complaints from faculty about how administration has handled this. I'm hearing a lot of positive feedback—what concerns are you hearing?</p> <p>A: Margaret: Once we've analyzed the survey we will have better info, but a lot of comments so far are about the dashboard and wanting to see all the stats. Some are concerned that random selection of 10% to test is too low.</p> <p>Q: Ashley Miller: There are problems with temperature in Recitation, and it's not possible to open the windows. At night the temperatures read 83 degrees. Meg Panicelli: It feels like there isn't air in Recitation. Julie: Anderson is mentioned too.</p> <p>A: Margaret: I'll add that to the list. I've been hearing generally it's many buildings, but not specifically which ones.</p> <p>Q: Gary: When we're dealing with individuals who comply with mask requests, but then take it down again, we don't have a way to address that currently. Most individuals have been great, and even apologize, but there are some difficult few exceptions. We need a policy with teeth to address those individuals.</p> <p>Q: Bessie: I hear there's compliance in classrooms but not so much in the hallways. Could the building managers patrol the hallways between classes?</p> <p>Q: Simon: I'm confused about the dashboard. When I look at those numbers, and think about the students who have contacted me or have been reported as having "acute illness," the numbers are greater than those reported on the dashboard. It seems a lot are not getting tracked. How do we resolve that there's no tracking data?</p> <p>A: Margaret: There is the report form that faculty can use or students can self-report on. It could be that students aren't using that; faculty can, of course.</p> <p>Q: Ashley: What is the policy about eating and drinking in the classroom? Are they supposed to go outside?</p> <p>A: Margaret: I think the policy is that they should not be eating or drinking except in the dining hall. But then you couldn't even take a sip of water. If faculty come up with a better plan it is likely to be accepted. In our college our dean asked faculty to make space for students to go outside and eat and drink during evening classes.</p> <p>Q: Julie: What are the big issues at State APSCUF right now?</p> <p>A: Margaret: We passed some side-letter agreements so that consolidated universities will work. For example there was going to be one biology chair for three schools, and there is a side-letter that allows for a faculty lead on campuses to fulfill chair responsibilities when the</p>	

	<p>chair is not on campus. Some concerned curriculum. If you are a member you can access the side letters on the APSCUF website. There was discussion for whether there should be one chapter president for each of the consolidated universities. There was a lot of debate, and State APSCUF exec is going to continue to discuss that. The side letter on retrenchments delays retrenchment for two years, which gives more time for the faculty member to find a job. Also the sick-leave payout is being extended; this is the only way to do a lump-sum retirement incentive. Any faculty at any PASSHE school can take advantage of this.</p> <p>Q: Jackie Hodes: I want to applaud Julie moving this meeting on Zoom quickly. There seemed to be a press to have in-person meetings, and then they got shifted to remote at the last minute. Also, Provost Bernotsky has said we were a little short on our enrollment; what are the conversations that are happening about this, considering the demographic drop that is coming?</p> <p>A: Margaret: I've not heard any conversations about that. The enrollment decrease was initially considered very low, but considered larger after add/drop. The demographic "slide" hasn't been discussed either.</p> <p>Q: Jackie Hodes: If the consolidation doesn't work because of low enrollments, what does that mean for WCU?</p> <p>A: Bessie: When we met with the Provost and Deputy Provost, they said we are still aiming for 18K students, and they think we will grow via grad enrollment.</p> <p>Q: Bessie: Is there a goal for the early retirement incentive? Are there numbers?</p> <p>A: Margaret: There aren't numbers. The chancellor did give numbers earlier for faculty reduction in the system, but those cuts took place last year. These decisions are being made school by school. Faculty are expensive, so they would like to have fewer of us. I haven't seen this at WCU; it doesn't seem to be what this university really wants.</p> <p>Q: Julie: What involvement did APSCUF have on the syllabus statement on antiracism?</p> <p>A: Margaret: The original statement that came out of APSCUF's social justice committee was the basis for it. The statement about a student being asked to leave the classroom based on the disruptive classroom policy was taken out because there are organizations that are poised to sue when these policies are enacted. Legal counsel said that if the student is asked to leave for something they say, the university will be sued.</p> <p>Q: Simon: If I call a student a racist in the classroom, will the university defend my freedom of speech? It seems like students will be protected, but not faculty.</p> <p>A: Margaret: I think that has happened elsewhere. Well said, Simon.</p>	
<p>Susan Johnston, CAPC Chair, and Josh Auld, CAPC Vice-Chair</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Susan: We send CAPC agenda to all faculty and all faculty are invited to CAPC assembly to see what is going on. We encourage faculty who have made proposals to be present to answer questions. We're in the process of recovering from COVID-19 setbacks, catching up on revalidating general education course attributes. We'll be planning the future schedule. We'll continue to provide workshops for course development relating to new gen ed attributes. 2. Josh: We've been working on the review of the disruptive student behavior classroom policy. Susan: Right now that is with the grad committee; it has been looked at by the undergrad committee. There are legal questions, and we want to allow faculty to manage their classrooms. <p>Q: Julie: I knew there was an issue with the antiracism statement, but not this. How will it be revised?</p> <p>A: Josh: Margaret's framing is the way I'd frame it: there is a PASSHE-level working group that is hashing out the 1st Amendment issues, and we're waiting for the results on that. At present we have the Disruptive Behavior policy under review; it was limited to the classroom and didn't apply to email or office hours, for example. It was also unique to the graduate level. It's a complex matter, and it's a work in progress. We asked Senate exec to give feedback last year, and we have incorporated that. Orkideh: We looked at it this morning. The distinction between "behavior" and "free speech" is pretty muddy, and we'll look at it again once the lawyers have looked at it.</p> <p>Q: Julie: Is there an anticipated date for the completion of revisions?</p> <p>A: Susan: No.</p> <p>Q: Simon: This makes me uncomfortable; there's no concern for what's ethical, or for protecting the most vulnerable. We are focused only on lawsuits and not on pedagogy. I realize there's not much to be done about this.</p>	

	<p>A: Susan: I don't disagree.</p> <p>Q: Julie: Do you have a list of common errors when faculty move proposals through the CIM system?</p> <p>A: Susan: There's no list, but preparers are well-advised to use the resources on the CAPC website—to ensure the syllabus has all the required components, or that it meets the expectations of the gen ed category. We don't have a list of dos and don'ts. The common things are things like setting policies that violate university policy, for example relating to attendance. Josh: The way CAPC is set up is that every department has a representative; hypothetically there is someone in your department who can help. Ann: Workshops are very helpful!</p> <p>Q: Bessie: If we have a syllabus statement that is required, does CAPC approve that as a body—for example, the antiracism statement? Can you update us on gen ed courses we are requiring—do we have enough S-courses now, for example?</p> <p>A: Susan: The antiracism statement was developed by a shared governance group (which I was not part of at the time). Policies sometimes originate in CAPC. But the Title IX policy came from PASSHE, and so it is not subject to CAPC review. Josh: The antiracism statement was not subject to CAPC approval. It happened over the summer while faculty were developing courses; CAPC doesn't have assembly until the end of September. Susan: We're doing well with Ethics courses, and Speaking courses took a hit from COVID, but we expect those to grow this year. The credits for S-courses was adjusted from 9 to 6. Bessie: Is that still the case? Josh: Not 100% sure. Susan: The guidelines sheet from the Registrar has not changed.</p> <p>Q: Veronica: I'm grad coordinator for nursing. If you have a small thing to do, like take away a prerequisite because something changed, does every little change have to go through CAPC?</p> <p>A: Susan: Things that are not part of university policy you can change. Prerequisite changes do have to be approved by CAPC because you want that reflected in the catalog. CIM is effectively the catalog, so you want that information in the catalog. Veronica: We've been handling that prerequisite issue with overrides, so that makes sense. Susan: There are some things that can go through an expedited process; you can contact Patrick Richard about that. He and I staff the CIM open labs. He handles CIM, and I handle policies. Josh: These are less like workshops and more like "office hours"; there's not a presentation, but hands-on help with your proposals.</p> <p>Q: Gary: What are the things we can do relating to the antiracism statement? We had some tough discussions in this task force, but it was beneficial for us. One of the big pieces was what environments the statement pertained to. It's a statement and not policy, and it expands beyond the classroom, in the hallways, Zoom rooms, clinical settings, etc. We can't single a student out who might be expressing themselves in a horrible fashion, but we can shut the class down for everyone if we feel like something dangerous is about to happen. We do have that right. Ashley: Does that apply to anything? Hate speech, discrimination? Why not apply that to physical health, like someone coughing? That seems equally unsafe.</p> <p>Q: Megan Mraz: Policies on video or audio recording—is there a policy about our decision to have recordings during presentations or lectures? Susan: A student recording? Megan: Yes, a student recording Zoom, or downloading and sharing something on TikTok.</p> <p>A: Susan: Students are expected to ask permission to record unless they have a formal OSSD accommodation.</p>	
Senate business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of minutes from April 30, 2021 meeting. 2. Meeting updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Meeting with President Fiorentino <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Julie: The President explained that they've identified about 15K students who have at least one class on campus; of those 63% have reported vaccination status. So about 6K or so have not reported their status. The University can only compel athletes and students who live on campus to get tested. Vaccines are available at the testing site, and some students take advantage. If student tests positive, they are required to go home unless they are homeless or otherwise cannot, and those will be sent to isolate at a hotel at the University's cost. Masks are here to stay because there have been breakthrough cases. They will look at multiple factors to decide whether to go remote—things like hospitalizations—but there's no single factor. ii. Julie: Integrations of other PASSHE schools is moving forward. The big 	

concern is the enrollments: in order for them to be considered successful, enrollments need to increase, and this is not looking good right now. Savings are supposed to be in streamlining curriculum and services, and reducing administrative overhead.

- iii. Julie: The president is optimistic about the budget. State appropriations have increased by \$4 million, though if things were equitable compared with other PASSHE schools it would be more like \$8 million.
- iv. Julie: The fountain with the WCU sign is supposed to be ready by Sept. 25. New Science & Engineering Building was supposed to be fully ready; the academic parts of the building are open, but the conference center and dining is not open. The President's Walk will be worked on later. Sturzebecker will be renovated next. There were limited dining options in Sykes because Aramark was having difficulty hiring workers, and they have increased pay offers to address the labor shortage.

b. Meeting with Provost Bernotsky and Deputy Provost Osgood

- i. Julie: We spoke with them a few days after talking with the president, and they said many of the same things. About 75% of faculty reported their vaccination status, but staff reporting is much lower. They were under the impression that there was good mask compliance across campus. Heather and Simon: There's not a lot of compliance. Megan: Especially in common areas. Simon: They walk into the classroom and then put the mask on. I've not seen any managers walking the hallways. Rachel: They are not actually in the buildings; they're on call if there's an issue.
- ii. Julie: Some faculty have requested a separate entrance to the COVID-19 testing center, and they are planning to accommodate this.
- iii. Julie: The Provost is busy with PASSHE issues. The integrated universities will get all new online programs; we keep any existing online programs, but any new ones go to the consolidated universities. Bessie: We were beginning a program where students could do the major completely online, but it could not be advertised. The Provost is pushing back.
- iv. Julie: They talked about budget—reserves before the Science & Engineering building were \$158 million; \$68 millions was allocated for that. Other expenses due to the remote year caused them to drop below the minimum for the reserves which is \$25 million, but they found \$9 million to bring the reserves back up above the minimum. If we're at the minimum it seems unlikely that PASSHE would take from our reserves to give to another PASSHE school.
- v. Julie: Enrollments are down about 1%; growth in graduate programs are saving us. They were impressed with the new physician assistant program; there were far more applications than spots available. All of the grad programs are doing well, and there is no plans to discontinue any of them or to add any new ones.
- vi. Julie: There will be a search for a Dean of the Graduate School; Vanessa Johnson will continue in the interim role for now.
- vii. Julie: If you have multiple students out for COVID-19, you are not required to offer remote instruction. You can do that, but you are not obligated to. When they get back from isolation they can make up work they missed. Students have been told that the release letter from isolation (from the Health Center, even if the student was tested off campus) is required to return to class; most faculty seem to have never heard of this. Bessie: The biggest issue are the students who were exposed and then were told to quarantine. What do we do with these? Sarah: I'm having the same problem. Students say they aren't feeling well, don't want them coming to class, but not sure what to do. Julie: We're not required to do individualized instruction for these students. Janet: What would happen that a faculty member reported they had been exposed? I don't think the administration would want us to quarantine without a positive test. I've recommended students that

	<p>don't feel well that they get tested. I've asked students who were willing to be contacted to share notes from students who have missed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Discussion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Format of Senate meetings for 2021-22 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Julie: The exec committee met and decided in the face of this uncertainty it would be best to meet remotely and revisit the possibility of meeting in person in the spring. 4. Announcements <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Julie: Our next meeting is the Open Forum; if you cannot attend, make sure to select a proxy to attend on your behalf. Please submit Open Forum questions (jwiest@wcupa.edu) by Friday, Oct. 15. 	
Liaison reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADA – Senator Matt Pierlott: The committee will be meeting next week. 2. Alumni Association – Adjunct Faculty Representative William Sawyer: No report. 3. APSCUF Executive Committee representative – Senator Bessie Lawton: Nothing to add; Margaret covered it all. 4. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski: No report. 5. Campus Climate Intervention Team – Senators Kathleen Riley (fall) and Erin Hill (spring) 6. Council for Diversity, Inclusion and Academic Excellence – Julie: Veronica has indicated interest in serving as this liaison. 7. Faculty Mentoring Committee – Mishra: I'm on that committee, and I'll be liaison. We met this week. We'll be having a fall event for mentor/mentee pairs next week. We're planning an adjunct faculty support workshop in October. 8. IS&T Faculty Advisory Committee – Senator Dan Forbes (fall): Google Workspace for education is now available; you should have received an email about that. You can log in with your WCU email and password (go to https://google.wcupa.edu), and it gives you access to the familiar Google Workspace apps (not mail or calendar, though). Google Sites appears to be replacing D2L's ePortfolio, which is getting sunsetted. WCU is taking over the Philly campus space, and so the IT infrastructure will be upgraded to hyflex and branded wifi access. IS&T now offers "roadshow" training sessions that can be tailored to department needs and interests. Sustainability "green office" initiative is underway (https://www.wcupa.edu/Sustainability/documents/GOP_InfoSheet_WORKINGDIGITALLY.pdf). Kaltura and Mediasite streaming media solution is in the process of being replaced with Panopto, and this will be rolled out over the course of this academic year. Panopto has the advantage of being an integrated solution, and Zoom cloud recordings will be automatically migrated there once the rollout is complete. Content migration from Kaltura to Panopto is in the process of happening, and it will only migrate video content that has been used in the last three years. So if you have any video content that hasn't been viewed recently but that you'd like to make sure gets migrated, just view it in Kaltura. If you don't do this, then you may have to migrate the content manually yourself. Kaltura Capture will continue to work for this fall, but you'll either need to switch to the Panopto system or use Camtasia this spring. For folks who use the ODLI content templates in D2L, the Daylight Responsive Code generator for embedding videos has been updated so that it will work anywhere in D2L where you can use embed codes and not just in the templates. Right now it still works for Kaltura, and will be compatible with the new Panopto solution. There is a new registration process of "internet of things" devices for wireless access; this applies to things like game consoles and streaming devices so it's more relevant to students, but if you have something that connects to the internet other than your computer, tablet, or phone then it may affect you. Not all devices will be supported, and wifi boosters will be actively prohibited (see https://wifi.wcupa.edu). Ann: I'll add that ODLI is the new name for DE. There are also some new faculty initiatives, and a "Tech Talk and Treats" program for sharing. The wireless problem at the start of classes, and it was caused by vendor problems; they worked very hard for 48 hours to get it fixed. There will be more cybersecurity training. There will be some simulation exercises with phishing messages to see who is getting caught by these emails. 9. Learning Lab Working Group – Senators Megan Mraz and Meg Panichelli, Senate Proxy Selen Razon – Megan: We've been looking at formats for the Learning Lab. We submitted reports at the end of last semester. We were supposed to meet but it got canceled. More info next Senate meeting. 10. LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Senator Julie Tennille: Our meetings have been scheduled 	

	<p>for the fall. There was a grant awarded this summer, and there will be an Integrated Care and Support for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents Symposium on Oct. 1. The Ruby Jones Conference on Race, Social Justice and Civic Leadership takes place on Oct. 9; the proposal deadline has been extended.</p> <p>11. LMS Advisory Committee – Senator Dan Forbes: D2L team is now in Allegheny Hall; they are available on an appointment-only basis because you can't get into the building without someone letting you in. The D2L HTML editor has been upgraded to the "Brightspace HTML Editor," which seems to work a bit better though some of the icons have changed. There is a new "Assignment Evaluation Experience" interface; please let the D2L team know if you experience problems because it has been a bit buggy. The "Quiz Introduction" field has been eliminated, and the "Quiz Description" field takes its place (though you have to make sure that it is visible to students), and you can now have written response items report as "Pending evaluation" rather than automatically report a zero grade. If you use widgets there is a new "slim Announcements" widget that you can try out. There is also a new "Work To Do" widget that shows students which tasks they have due; it works for anything assigned a due date in D2L, and reports things due in the next two weeks (I've been using it, and it seems buggy so far; if you use it, you can only see it from the student view setting). There's a new "Insights Portal" (it's a link on the menu on your main D2L landing page) that you can use to get a lot more data on student progress than the standard Student Progress reports; for example, you can get a sense of a student's D2L access in general, not just visiting your course. The data can also be exported as a .csv file. Zoom updates: you can now share pronouns; there's a new AI "live transcription" function that can be manually activated (and participants can request it in Zoom); there's an "immersive view" function; you can now share screen when in breakout rooms. All this functionality requires you to update your Zoom client to the latest version; make sure you're doing that regularly!</p> <p>12. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee –</p> <p>13. Multicultural Faculty Commission (MFC) – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez: No report. Janet: I'm the chair of that; there's a new chair-elect.</p> <p>14. President's Commission on the Status of Women – Senator Kathleen Riley</p> <p>15. Strategic Plan – Senator Heather Schugar</p> <p>16. Student Group: Graduate Student Association –</p> <p>17. Student Group: Student Government Association – Bill Mortimer: We had a meeting recently and discussed the parking issue on campus.</p> <p>18. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Kurt Kolasinski: There are seminars on Wednesdays; next week Brad Flamm will be presenting. Past presentations have been recorded and are available at Digital Commons. There is a Commute with Care initiative on the transportation site (there's a new carpooling service). Social Innovation competition is announced. If there's anyone who'd like to present for the seminars in the spring, contact me!</p>	
Committee Reports	Faculty Welfare/Ethics – (Chair) Student Welfare – (Chair) Membership and Elections – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez (Chair) Communications – Senator Erin Hill (Chair) Research – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez (Chair)	
Committees	Committee meeting: Faculty Welfare/Ethics – (Chair) Student Welfare – (Chair) Membership and Elections – (Chair) Communications – (Chair) Research – (Chair)	
Senate Exec Committee	President: Julie Wiest Vice President: Israel Sanz-Sánchez Recording Secretary: Dan Forbes Corresponding Secretary: Erin Hill At-Large Members: Kurt Kolasinski and Julie Tennille Immediate Past President: Bessie Lee Lawton	

	5 pm adjournment	
NEXT MEETING		
Day and Time:	Open Forum: Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, 11:00am-12:00pm Senate meeting: Friday, Oct. 29, 2021, 3-5 pm via Zoom	
Topics/ Presenters:	Oct. 29 meeting: TBD	