

WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, March 28, 2025

Facilitator: Israel Sanz-Sánchez, President

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Location: Zoom teleconference

Type of Meeting: Scheduled meeting

Attendees

Senators

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

Representatives

❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Bill Sawyer	Present
❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Priya Selvarathinam	Absent
❖ APSCUF Representative: Julie Wiest	Present
❖ Student Government Association Representative: Avery McKnight	Present
❖ Graduate Student Association Representative: Matheeha Majeeth	Absent
❖ ROTC Representative: Cadet Augustus Fadden	Absent

Senate Proxies

❖ Asempapa, Bridget	Absent
❖ Brenner, Jim	Present
❖ Howard, Rick	Present, proxy Michelle Dasilva

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

Other Proxies

Jackie Hodes (general proxy), Heather Schugar (proxy Orkideh Mohajeri)

Guests In Attendance

B. K. Taylor, David Thomas, Vanessa Kahen, Bradley Flamm, Jackie Hodes (proxy), Tracey Robinson, Heather Schugar (proxy Orkideh Mohajeri)

Agenda

Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

Senate Business and Announcements

1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on January 31, 2025.
 - a. Julie W. moves to approve, Kurt seconds. All present vote to approve the minutes.
2. Meeting updates (Shared Governance meetings on February 28 and March 21; with Interim Provost Jeffery Osgood on March 4; with President Laurie Bernotsky on March 4)
 - a. Israel: Senate last met two months ago, so we've had multiple meetings. Some highlights—Susan Gans is working with the folks at the Academic Support and Advocacy Center (ASA), and at a shared governance meeting we got a preview. There was a recent email from March 18 with more information. Large programs have different needs, so ASA will be working with programs to help support them. Amanda Corsi will be the new head of ASA; Senate Exec was concerned that there was not a national search for this position. The administration thought it was reasonable for Corsi to be named director as she had been serving as interim.
 - b. Israel: Administration wanted to ask us if faculty want to be informed if students are posting about them on social media. If there is an actual complaint to the university the administration handles this, but there are also cases where administration learns that someone has posted something about an instructor on social media. They as things stand are not going to inform faculty unless there is a specific threat. We are being asked if we are okay with this. Julie W.: This also includes cases where students or parents contact administration to complain about something they are teaching. Israel: They are going to deal with these complaints unless there are pressing reasons to communicate this to faculty. They don't have a systematic way to do this anyway. Erin Hill: I agree that unless there's a threat, or there's a critical threshold where something gets mentioned repeatedly, we already have so much going on that we can't have all this noise going on in our heads. We already have enough to attend to. Israel: If there were requests from news outlets to address a complaint, they don't want to engage

unless there is something wrong. It's not clear what constitutes a news outlet now anyway.

- c. Israel: Administration is watching implications for dismantling the Department of Education. We've had issues with FAFSA recently; what happens if the financial aid process is disrupted? They are thinking about it; they may have to keep students on the roster longer than they ordinarily have when they have not paid. They want to be flexible and support students.
- d. Israel: Update on Chancellor's search—Jeff has met some of the candidates. The interviews will be wrapped up by April 9, and by that date the Board of Governors will have selected the new Chancellor.
- e. Israel: The budget will be positive at the end of the year. They are getting rid of the Distance Ed fee because of equity concerns. But they will be increasing the tech fee by \$145 for all students. This is the one way the administration can control getting money from students. This can be used to repair and upgrade technology.
- f. Israel: Enrollments look good; we performed well in the Spring. Enrollment projections are for slight growth, but mostly flat. We have the lowest average debt per student in PASSHE because we have invested in scholarships.
- g. Israel: This year we have one summer session, but different classes can be scheduled on different dates. This is due to Banner, which cannot handle multiple summer sessions. We showed Osgood how difficult it is to search for courses in Banner; they will continue to look at this, perhaps produce a document that shows everything in one place.
- h. Israel: We asked about the Global Engagement Office, whose associate directors have left. They have started searches for replacements. We asked about support for students in the current political climate. The Global Engagement Office is still able to handle this.
- i. Israel: There were rumors about moving evening classes to the BPAC building for security purposes. This was a recommendation from the Ombuds. The administration is not sure this is feasible, but they will be contacting individual programs to ask about their needs.
- j. Israel: At winter commencement students believed names were being read by AI and were unhappy. The university contacted the company managing this and they said that the AI was used to match names to voice, but the names were not read by AI. They will continue to work with this company, but the company will not use AI using forward. Faculty and staff will not be reading student names at commencement because of the potential for mispronouncing them.
- k. Israel: President Bernotsky is attentive to the current political climate. There was a "Dear Colleague" letter sent to PASSHE; it is not law, so PASSHE does not have to respond to it. Other universities around the country have reacted. Everything we do is open to everybody, and PASSHE says we need to show that what we do is not discriminatory according to law. The goal is to show that the things we are doing are not against the law. So if someone outside the university goes into this information they will not be able to point to something to argue it is discriminating against someone. There can still be student groups with ethnic focus—but they must be framed so that they are not closed off to any students. The president is confident that PASSHE and the governor are stepping up in a coordinated way.

3. Additional announcements
 - a. Senate 2025-2028 term elections (at large nominations due March 31)
 - i. Kurt: We have folks who have self-nominated; you can see who is running (<http://www.apscufwcu.com/cgi-bin/elections/viewnominations.cgi?submit=1&ecode=SENATEA25033135>). The college seats have been settled. Elections will begin soon, April 11 through 18. You can always see when your term ends on the Faculty Senate website(<https://www.wcupa.edu/FACSTAFF/facultySenate/senators.aspx>).
 - b. Senate Executive Committee 2025-2026 elections, final Senate meeting for the academic year on April 25)
 - i. Israel: All positions are open; if you are considering running and have questions please reach out to me and I can give you more information. You can also self-nominate at the April 25 meeting; if you do so beforehand we can ensure you are on the ballot.
 - c. Senate representation on new Committee for Institutional Effectiveness and Title IX Coordinator
 - i. Israel: The Committee for Institutional Effectiveness has the goal to ensure that different forms of institutional assessment are talking to each other. It is not about faculty evaluation. We've been approached to provide a representative. Sarah Lightner has volunteered, and Tara Guerriero will serve as the alternate.
 - ii. Israel: By our next meeting we need a representative for the Title IX Coordinator search.
 - d. New liaison with ORSP Research Advisory Board – Senator Stevie Grassetti (interim)
 - i. Israel: Faculty Senate has been involved in advocating for research, but we've not had a liaison on this board. Stevie Grassetti has agreed to serve on an interim basis. We'll select a more permanent liaison next year.
4. Other announcements?
 - a. Israel: Heather Schugar was mentioned by the President at her inauguration today as someone who is making a difference for her students, and the President mentioned this in connection Faculty Senate.
5. Feedback opportunities:
 - a. Israel: There is a Campus Master Plan survey (email from VP for Finance and Administration, March 19, feedback due by April 2). This is not for requests for new projects; they want feedback on the timeline for the projects they have already decided on. There are different stages, and they want to know which projects should be slated for which stage.
 - b. Israel: There is a CAPC feedback survey (sent only to faculty who have submitted proposals in the last five years; email from Rebecca Miller, March 20). If you have thoughts about CAPC you want to share, be sure to complete the survey. No deadline was noted in the email.
 - c. Israel: State Board of Higher Education is holding town halls (scheduled late March to early May; see email from Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez, March 21). There is a virtual attendance option.
6. Senate committees

- a. Israel: Please convene and keep collecting questions for administration and send them to Senate Exec.

Dr. B. K. Taylor, Assistant Vice President for Health and Wellness, Chair of CARE Team

1. B. K.: CARE teams started in the wake of the attack at Virginia Tech; the student had showed cause for concern, but there was no centralized place to collect information about this. We predominantly work with students experiencing concern themselves, however. We help students with a spectrum of mental health concerns, though violence is a rare concern. We balance the needs of the individual with the needs of the community. We also center the autonomy of the student. Everyone is part of a CARE team; willingness to take action or have a conversation is part of this. The members of the CARE team come from across campus, with multiple disciplines represented. We try to limit communication to the student so that they get the best quality communication. We also have many key partners on campus to help us provide the appropriate support for the students.
2. B. K.: When a student rises to the level of concern, first have a conversation with the student. This is powerful for the student. You may not always be able to do that. Second, how many times have you had the conversation—if it has been multiple times, then, perhaps contacting the CARE team can help. Third, do they need something other than what you can do? Then contact the CARE Team. We are here to help; no one is alone in this process.
3. David Bolton: Have you noted any increase in stress based on the current political situation? B. K.: Closer to the conclusion of the election there was. We have seen an increase in suicidality over the academic year, including in Counseling, something like up 50%.
4. Kurt: One concern I hear is that students can't find information about university services. But CARE is easy to find on the website. Why can't more offices have this visibility through the search engine? What did you do? B. K.: There needs to be some search optimization. I champion for that. We worked on that and it paid off. We're trying to streamline access for services.
5. Israel: How do you measure your work? B. K.: We collect data and do an annual analysis. I've not published that publicly, and am not sure how to do that, but we do this regularly. I'd be interested in distributing that further, and make sure that people don't read the wrong thing; we want to make sure people don't misrepresent the data.
6. B. K.: I'm happy to talk with any group; we are transparent about how we do our work. You should know how it functions.

Dr. Bradley Flamm, Director, Office of Sustainability

1. Bradley: I was the first person hired for this role as a full-time position, about eight years ago. Our office is small. I have background in city and regional planning. I've taught a few courses here at WCU. We're part of a larger group of folks at WCU working toward the university's sustainability commitments. The Sustainability Council is over 200 faculty and students, and meets three times per semester. A lot of the work happens because of the Council. Some of the best work has been the result of students speaking up about the importance of these efforts. We have folks from many parts of the university making contributions.
2. Bradley: WCU has a climate action plan, which uses UN sustainable development goals as an organizing structure for what we do. We think about climate action planning, food systems, health, education, and more. The Climate Action Plan is twelve years old and still guides much of the work we do; the Strategic Plan also is part of this, and there will soon be a new Strategic

Plan initiative. There are seven key chapters in the Climate Action Plan. There are dozens of objectives set out in these chapters. Our office and the Sustainability Council has responsibilities both on the operational and academic sides. Our office monitors and evaluates; we have made good progress toward a carbon neutrality goal. We've reduced total carbon emissions by over one-third, which is very good progress, though it will not get us to total carbon neutrality by 2025.

3. Bradley: We participate in the Sustainability Tracking and Assessment System; we earn silver status regularly, and we have ideas about how we can do better.
4. Bradley: We run a weekly seminar, the Sustainability Research and Practice Seminar; some of you have presented, including Kurt Kolasinski and Meg Panichelli. Nur Ritter will be presenting next week about using trail cams to detect species in the Gordon Natural Area.
5. Bradley: We run university-wide events, including a sustainability expo and a Zero-Waste Summit. This year the Zero Waste Summit is on Earth Day, April 22, in Sykes Ballrooms. We also sponsor academic talks; for example March 31 Dr. Randall Amster will talk about military-industrial complex and sustainability, and April 24 Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim will speak at the Spirituality and Sustainability Colloquium.
6. Bradley: We have a 125-acre natural space on South Campus. Faculty and students use it—not just biology but art and design and other programs. There are three miles of trails, and open year round. We sponsor workshops for faculty, staff, and students called the Brandywine Sustainability Workshops.
7. Bradley: If you have interests in sustainability, join our council and learn more about what we do. We have a weekly email bulletin; you can subscribe to it.
8. Israel: How have you seen sustainability evolve at WCU? Bradley: The original carbon neutrality commitment was very ambitious, and it was intended to inspire action. We have one of the largest geoexchange systems on any university campus. It allowed us to cut in half carbon emissions from fossil fuels. There have been challenges being an innovator; there are some upgrades and repairs that we need to make before expanding it. 40% of our building space is heated and cooled with the system. The recent presidents have been very supportive. The more that they hear from faculty, staff, and students the easier it will be to take the harder operational next steps. Your teaching is also important; you can learn more by attending a Brandywine Sustainability Workshop.
9. Erin Hill: To what extent do you take into account vegetarian options on campus? There's a lot of meat-centric offerings. Bradley: We try to offer vegetarian options. Ashley Delshad and Jeanie Subach work on this. Aramark is willing to work with us; consistency and persistence are important, as there's a lot of turnover in Aramark. Erin: Vegetarian options are also cheaper, so it ought to be low-hanging fruit.

Dr. David J. Thomas, Director, Office of Educational Accessibility

1. David: Some updates—We have over one-thousand students affiliated with the office. The most common accommodations are extended time for exams and note-taking support. Modified attendance agreements may seem to be increasing, and absolute numbers are growing, but the percentage of students receiving access is actually declining. This mirrors national trends. We've got a new way of managing those agreements to ensure that it is happening. Folks get reminders they need to complete them. In the fall we'll be moving toward a system where you provide information about your class and we use that information to work out the modified

attendance agreement. We've found that a lot of folk weren't having those conversations, so this makes sure folks have access.

2. David: We had some hiccups with getting accommodation letters out; this was RamPortal connection issues, as we didn't have access to student schedules until after the semester began, and then the information about adds and drops weren't updated. Those issues have been resolved.
3. David: If you would like us to meet with you and talk about our office, we are happy to do so.
4. David: Most people think that students disclose to OEA first. But they do not necessarily disclose to us; they can start the process by disclosing to faculty or some other office, so it is important to direct students to OEA so that we can help them. We use a variety of sources of information to review the student's needs, identify barriers they might experience, and we draw from a "pot" of accommodations. We look at the individual course, what the student needs to be able to do to participate in the class, and the course pedagogy. Where we've run into issues are courses with unique settings or pedagogies, like music or art settings or labs.
5. Julie W.: To what do you attribute the increases in accommodations? David: Chief is that students who wouldn't have received accommodations in high school are now receiving that support. The ADA generation is anyone born after 1990, so we've got folks who wouldn't have been able to complete an undergraduate degree are now becoming graduate students. Sometimes students needed accommodations but didn't realize it before.
6. Eirini: What accommodations do you have for encouraging developing skills to overcome obstacles? David: We have academic coaching, where they are trained to anticipate what disabled students face. They run a variety of workshops but work one-on-one for the most part—not content of class, but "doing school." We might have a conversation where the student plots out what they want to bring up with the professor, and we role-play it. We coach them through these interactions. We leave anxiety to the folks who are qualified to do that.

Dr. Vanessa Kahlen, Director, WCU Moon Shot for Equity, Department Chair and Professor of Psychology; Dr. Tracey Robinson, Vice President, Division for Access, Compliance and Engagement

1. Vanessa: MSE is a collaborative effort, partnering with Delaware Community College and EAB's professional consultants, with the aim of closing equity gaps in student success by 2030. We are seeing progress, though there is a lot of work yet to do. Our most recent data is that equity gaps for 6-year graduation rates for Black students has decreased, and 4-year graduation rates for Latinx students have also decreased.
2. Vanessa: There is a lot of going on with MSE right now; we will focus on recommendations that have moved into implementation. Microgrants—when students face financial barriers they can come in many areas, and we are working to build more emergency grants beyond just tuition. We rely on the student to tell us that they have these needs. Students now have to go through different processes that are complicated and they may not understand the results. Right now our processes are focused on financial aid—meeting criteria for being awarded more money—and the student has to find the right person and ask them, and have to tell their story over and over again. It's like having to go to different stores for different things. We want a model where the student tells us what they need, and we find the things they need for them. This "case worker" will come to the student and the advisor to support them, help the student to

understand the options and navigate the process, translating financial aid talk for them. That way the student doesn't have to do all this work. We're hoping that the beginnings of this process will be available in fall of the next academic year.

3. Vanessa: Proactive advising with technology—the ASA has four principles. Students should be assigned a student success coordinator to help them with the transition to college; remove the distinction between enrollment support and advocate; integrate the student success coordinators throughout campus; and improve collaborative communication with faculty and staff.
4. Tracey: When we take a developmental approach, the ASA will think about the student's transition and ability to navigate other parts of coming to university beyond academics. How does WCU solidify itself in terms of financial and enrollment strength and stability in upcoming uncertainty, like the "enrollment cliff"? PA is one of five states that collectively constitute 75% of the enrollment cliff. How can we think of pre-college and dual enrollment opportunities? This sets WCU up for further success. We just attended an MSE summit, learning about innovative practices and sharing the work we have done at WCU.
5. Israel: How long has MSE been active at WCU? Vanessa: Two years.
6. Julie Tennille: I had not heard that PA was such a large part of the "enrollment cliff" numbers. Vanessa: MSE helps us to better retain the students we have, and allow for more equitable success so that we are a more attractive place for students to come. Tracey: Some of what we do as a university helps the community and industry beyond just producing future employees.

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. Julie: The March 4 Day of Action for Education was successful, and the rally was well-attended. There will be another national day of action on April 17. There will be an intensive training on organizing during the week grades are due; AAUP trainers will conduct that. If you are interested there may be space. There will be scheduled coffee hours, with a fancy coffee truck. (There are happy hours, but many can't attend those.) There will be a rally for PA Promise in Harrisburg; no date yet but keep an eye out for that.
4. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski – The committee has not met this year.
5. Campus Climate Intervention Team – Senator Simon Ruchti – The committee has not met this month.
6. Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence – Senator Daris McInnis – Met February 19.
 - a. Passport applicants must list biological sex, but existing passports with a third gender marker remain valid until expiration; PA-born individuals can still amend their birth certificates (resource available); A passport center is available on campus.
 - b. Awaiting legal guidance and lawsuit outcomes to ensure DEI compliance. Clubs/orgs remain multicultural and nondiscriminatory; uncertainty around federal grant changes and general requirements; faculty relying on DEI-based funding may be impacted; Kente ceremony can proceed for now; awaiting legal confirmation.

- c. Next year's university calendar is now open; Moonshot Week (March 17–21): Equity-Minded Leadership Training 1.0 & 2.0; "Allyship is Leadership" session on Fri, 2/28: [Event link](#).
 - d. ICE-related absenteeism is affecting K-12 schools.
- 7. External Relations – Senator Michelle Wade
 - a. Israel: Michelle wants to share there is a Student and Community Leaders roundtable on April 10 at 11:00am in Philips Autograph Library.
- 8. Faculty Mentoring Committee – Senator Innhwa Park – No report.
- 9. Institutional Effectiveness Committee – Senator Sarah Lightner (alternate Tara Guerriero) – Committee's first meeting will be March 31.
- 10. IS&T Faculty Advisory Committee – Senator Simon Ruchti – Senator Dan Forbes attended the committee meeting on Feb. 20.
 - a. TLC updates:
 - i. Jess Drass has put together [semester technology round-ups](#); it's a blog feature on the TLC website. They're timed for the start of each semester.
 - ii. TLC conducted a survey on faculty engagement with OER (Open Educational Resources) in Fall 2024. The [results are now available](#).
 - iii. [AI in Action webinars](#). Some faculty who are engaging with AI in their teaching will be presenting over the course of the Spring semester. These are recorded and posted on the website. It's a sort of "distributed conference" rather than a workshop, with faculty talking about their creative uses of AI in their teaching.
 - iv. Spring CELT book club—the start had to be postponed to early March, so there's still time to join. One of the authors will be the keynote at the Celebration of Teaching event in May.
 - v. [CELT professional development award](#) applications are due March 1.
 - vi. [Celebration of Teaching](#) is May 8; proposals are invited for two events: a forty-minute hands-on workshop involving teaching with technology, and a teaching excellence showcase (it used to be technology only, but it is now broader). Proposals are due by March 30.
 - vii. In June TLC is piloting the QM (Quality Matters) summer camp: rather than preparing courses for certification all year long, it is a boot camp format with courses prepared in three weeks and then submitted. Registration will open in March.
 - viii. [WCU Generative AI Framework](#) Update—This went live at the start of this semester. It is a living document, not a policy but a framework. One question was posed whether syllabuses are public data or not. These sorts of questions will need to be clarified in the framework. Some folks have said they find the Framework helpful. JT Singh noted that things are changing so fast it makes no sense to have a set policy (e.g. Deep Seek from China). There is an email address for providing feedback on the Framework: aiframework@wcupa.edu.
 - ix. Paul Gargiulo reported Shippensburg is planning to host an AI summit in April; if you go to these sorts of events please share what you learn.
 - b. IST updates:

- i. Email Protect software migration (Proofpoint)—The university has moved from Mimecast to Proofpoint as its junk mail and spam detection service; it has been live for two months. 90% of incoming email is spam or junk or phishing of some sort. This is an effort to stay ahead of the curve; more than 90% of the Fortune 500 companies use this solution. JT Singh said he has noticed that the Proofpoint product works much better than Mimecast did.
- ii. DUO Verified Push implementation—Multifactor authentication is now required; telephony and SMS are being cut out, and soon only the DUO app will be allowed, with the additional requirement of entering three digit code rather than just approving an attempted login. Upper administration is already on this version, and it will be pushed out to the faculty. Almost 75% of employees are using the app. IS&T is working on a date for requiring it, sometime during the Spring semester. DUO verification will last only 24 hours.
 - 1. There was discussion about requiring employees to use the DUO app on personal devices. Dan Forbes pointed out that this requirement blurs the distinction between a work device and a personal device, which might expose personal data if DUO were somehow compromised, and possibly opens personal devices to Right To Know requests, which again might expose personal data. JT Singh and Kevin Partridge acknowledged that no security solution is completely secure, but DUO does not collect personal data from devices (and the university would not want DUO collecting university data either due to FERPA). They are confident that DUO is a good solution; the alternatives are less convenient. Restricting work exclusively to university-owned devices (as some medical institutions do) would be extremely burdensome for most.
- iii. RamNet ID, phase 2—Usernames in the system are changing. In the past there were two ID numbers, the WCU ID number and the SAP employee ID number. Phase 1 was the Ellucian number (with a W in front). Rather than requiring students and employees to memorize a new ID number, they are rebranding the old WCU ID number as the RamNet ID. New students next academic year get a RamNet ID in an "identity and access management system." It assigns a number and identity to be used throughout all systems, including email. Username is now the new ID number with the "@wcupa.edu." New employees and students all have the same email format—RamNet ID is first initial/last name/last three digits of the RamNet ID. So username and email address will not be the same, though both look like an email address. Existing users will not have an email address change, but their username is changed as described. There will be a new email address that will receive email just the same as the old one, but it's not what the user will see. Testing starts in March, and then there will be a phased transition/migration that will be complete by June 2026.
- iv. The annual RECAP technology and higher education conference will be held May 15, 2025 at West Chester University. Registration is free and can be done online at [the conference website](#).

11. LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Senator Julie Tennille

- a. Last meeting was March 19. The LGBTQIA+ University Caucus is facing an important and exciting moment in our over 40-year history. We have an open call for the faculty co-chair starting Fall 2025; thanks to Meg Panichelli for her service! We're wanting to rethink the composition of the Caucus, so that people aren't entering and leaving without some sort of structure.
 - b. Jules Walls is the staff Co-Chair par excellence and staying on to lead with the additional support of an Executive Board that will offer guidance toward a reimagining of our Mission and Vision as we recognize that our active Caucus is more important than ever.
 - c. The Healthcare subcommittee is working on a sponsored Fall 2025 event (panel). More information to come!
 - d. Stay tuned for an update on the composition of the Executive Board at the next Senate Meeting in April 2025.
- 12. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – Senator Megan Mraz – No report.
- 13. Multicultural Faculty Commission – Senator Orkideh Mohajeri – No report.
- 14. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Advisory Board – Senator Stevie Grassetti (interim)
 - a. Faculty are encouraged to continue to update the [Ram Research Directory](#) (recommended to update each semester) so that students can use this tool to find mentored research opportunities. Student Success Coordinators are sharing this tool with students.
 - b. There was an increase in SURI (Summer Undergraduate Research Institute) applications this year (62 submissions, 54 complete submissions). The Council for Undergraduate Research reviewed SURI applications earlier this month. Students were notified of the outcome of their applications during the past week. The 2025 cohort will be 35 students. SURI will launch during the “kick off event” on April 25. The closing ceremony will be on July 9.
 - c. ORSP has launched “research hubs” for [undergraduate students](#) and [graduate students](#) as a “one stop shop” for resources for student researchers.
 - d. Research and Creative Activity Day: Research and Creative Activity Day is coming up on Friday, April 4, 9:30AM – 3:00PM in Sykes Ballrooms. You can find an [event schedule here](#). New this year is an interdisciplinary faculty panel organized by faculty research liaisons from each college (11:45-1:00PM) and a faculty/student research connection event (1:00PM-2:00PM) where faculty and students can mingle and discuss research opportunities.
- 15. Philadelphia Campus – Senator Meg Panichelli – No report.
- 16. President's Commission on the Status of Women – Senator Michelle Wade – No report.
- 17. SIS Advisory Board – Senator Sarah Lightner – All meetings have been canceled.
- 18. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
 - a. Converging Crises: Climate, Conflict, and Complacency – Learn about the impacts of the military industrial complex on the environment in a lecture from Dr. Randall Amster, Co-Director and Teaching Professor of Environment & Sustainability at Georgetown University. Join us on March 31st at 11am in Philips Autograph Library.
 - b. Next meeting of the SAC: meeting in person in Sykes 252. If you are unable to attend in person, please join us via Zoom. More details at this link: <https://www.wcupa.edu/sustainability/>
- 19. Student Liaisons:

- a. Student Government Association – Avery McKnight – Student Government elections have started.
 - b. Graduate Student Association – Mattheeha Majeeth – No report.
 - c. ROTC – Cadet Augustus Fadden - No report.
20. Ad hoc liaisons:
- a. Master Campus Plan Taskforce – Senator Julie Wiest - The draft plan was released to the campus community in an email on March 19, with feedback requested by **4:30 p.m. April 2**. [View the plan here](#), and provide feedback [via this survey](#).
 - b. Students At Risk Taskforce (Equal Opportunity Programs and Strategic Initiatives Office) – Senators Daris McInnis and Heather Waymouth – Met February 27. We’re working with Chancey to create safe event spaces where students can share concerns without fear of reprisal. This is a complex effort, made more challenging by rapidly changing executive orders. The task force will reconvene later in the semester to plan next steps; we’re hoping to schedule something soon before the semester ends.

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 met with Amanda Martin MS, assistant director of campus and community engagement, and Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP) to explore ways to develop faculty resources to support students with autism.
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) – Congratulations to Rick Howard (Kinesiology) who has been elected as the representative of the College of Health Sciences. Nominations for At Large seats close 31 March. More information on self-nominating and current nominees can be found at this link. <http://www.apscufwcu.com/cgi-bin/elections/viewnominations.cgi?submit=1&ecode=SENATEA25033135>
4. Communications – Senators Julie Tennille (chair), Daniel Forbes, Bessie Lawton, Matthew Pierlott, Julie Wiest – No report.
5. Research and Creative Activities – Senators David Bolton (co-chair), Stevie Grasseti (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 – The subcommittee met February 28. We discussed the need to make the process for dual compensation easier, making the process for students to get reimbursed for travel funds easier. We expressed concerns about the IRB process being inconsistent. Different members of the subcommittee expressed this concern. There appears to be a need for better training to produce consistency. It would be good to communicate to faculty when there are conferences at WCU. Perhaps we need a bulletin board on the WCU website to announce them. We discussed the need for a CGR—Council for Graduate Research—the equivalent body to the CUR—Council for Graduate Research, which would promote and support research among graduate students. In her tour, Dr. Bernotsky hinted at developing two different tracks for faculty members: Teaching and Research. It was felt that more clarity is needed about this possibility from the administration. We discussed the need for the Senate to find ways to support the faculty in their research. A recommendation was to find other universities who have

gone through the process from a primary teaching university to a teaching/research university and to find out how they support faculty with their research. We talked about the need for the administration to provide clarity on how indirect funds are used. What are the rules for the use of indirect funds?

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

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

Senate Meetings 2024-25

Fall 2024

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

- ❖ Friday, September 6, 3-5pm
- ❖ Friday, October 18, 3-5pm
- ❖ (Open Forum) Wednesday, November 6, 2-3pm
- ❖ Friday, December 6, 3-5pm

Spring 2025

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

- ❖ Friday, January 31, 3-5pm
- ❖ (Open Forum) Tuesday, February 25, 11am-12pm
- ❖ Friday, March 28, 3-5pm
- ❖ Friday, April 25, 3-5pm