WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, March 27, 2026

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: Zoom teleconference

Facilitator: Kurt Kolasinski, President

Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Type of Meeting: Scheduled meeting

Attendees

Senators

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

Representatives

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

Senate Proxies

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

- V O'Brien, Lia — Absent
- V Owens, Jackie — Absent
- V Patriarca, Ashley — Present (proxy for Michelle Dasilva)
- V Tully, Greg — Absent
- V Whidden, Melissa — Present
- V Vealey, Kyle — Absent
- V Wolff, Dominik — Absent

Guests In Attendance

Thomas Kwiatkowski, Karen Maguire and Dana (ASL interpreters), Randy Goin, Christine Cuozzo, Jackie Hodes, Euikyu Choi (proxy for Wei Du), Stephen DiDomenico, Dara Dirhan, David Thomas

Agenda

Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

Guest: Dr. Randy Goin, Strategic Advisor to the President

1. Randy: Nancy Gainer and Sarah Freed are working with me. President Bernotsky asked me to help with the rebranding effort. It is something an institution does from time to time as part of good stewardship. WCU has changed and evolved over the last decade—should we be using the same messages and channels to reach our audiences as we did ten years ago? No. WCU is doing rebranding from a position of strength; some institutions rebrand to repair their reputation. But for WCU this is good stewardship. You are doing the hard work of making WCU "awesome"; rebranding will help tell this story. We are doing this work behind the scenes to tell the story of WCU going into the future.
2. Randy: We've contracted with 20Nine, a group that has helped WCU before with production of a commercial. They start with learning what is moving WCU forward. They meet with groups, students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, high school guidance counselors—they give them surveys to ask what WCU is doing well, and where WCU is missing the mark and can improve. They boil all this information down to help build the next branding platform that will inform marketing and communications. We gathered information from 3000 respondents.
3. Randy: They spent most of fall semester and part of spring gathering data, and working with an advisory body. That group will be looking at the first round of creative, bringing the marketing firm's perspective on how to interpret the data. We will form focus groups, and will ask you to help with that. By fall we want to share resolution to this. Again, WCU is not a broken brand but is strong, and what we share will reflect this. With the tools we develop WCU will be better able to communicate to their audiences about the institution.
4. Kurt: What are the products at the end of the process? Randy: We will have a refreshed messaging system, and from that some core messaging structures. It won't be a single tagline. It is more a vocabulary for talking about WCU. There will be updated university marks, not changing colors or anything like that. Over time this platform will help update other aspects of branding, including marketing materials.
5. Premalatha: Is this taking the other PASSHE institutions into account? Randy: This is just for WCU. I take off my PASSHE hat when doing this work. Other universities may be doing this for themselves. Premalatha: As an R2 university this can help us.

6. Simon: How much does this cost? Do we have to spend this money? Randy: It is built into the budget; I think it is $40-50K. Not just updating marks, but rebranding messaging.
7. Ashley Patriarca: What plans are there for usability and accessibility testing for the rebrand? Randy: Usability and accessibility testing is the right thing to do, and is important. Everything we do will be evaluated by these standards.
8. Kurt: What are the prime objectives—growth, new audience? Randy: It's not about growing the body for undergraduates, though there is room for growth in graduate. It's also about management—you are an R2 institution, and the landscape is different from where it was ten years ago. We want it to be communicated that WCU degree is worth more today than it was ten or twenty years ago. Kurt: Is this focused on state, region, etc.? Randy: The president's action plan goal is to increase the visibility of WCU so that the degree is perceived as more valuable. Our audience is primarily this region for connecting with students—but we want to connect with donors, thought leaders, influencers, business and industry—reputational management connects all of these threads. Kurt: Do graduate and undergraduate need different branding? Randy: At the end of the process we will have tools to communicate with all of them. We wouldn't use the same taglines for prospective students and prospective donors—but the messages should relate, so it is clear we are talking about the same institution.
9. Stephen DiDomenico: When will feedback be solicited? Randy: We'll be starting focus groups this spring and early into summer.
10. Q: Are you considering how the community is understanding this process and why it is happening? Randy: You can go to our website for more information. We've heard from 3000 members of the community, including 600 students; they have been very helpful in shaping this. We understand that people are busy, and this is just one thing happening—it is important, but the most important things are happening in classrooms and labs. We want to respect that. Nancy Gainer: We have a student advisory group as well, from different disciplines, working with 20Nine to give their thoughts as well.
11. Randy: Please reach out to Nancy or me if you have additional questions.

Senate Business and Announcements

1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on January 30, 2026. Motion to approve from Israel; Julie Wiest seconds. All senators present vote to approve the minutes.
2. Discussion: holding Faculty Senate meetings in person for 2026-2027 academic year
    a. Kurt: We'd like to move to having more meetings in person. The energy in in-person meetings is good, and I've heard the same thought from other senators. It cultivates shared governance; it helps junior faculty to meet with faculty from other departments and to network. Committee work is helped as well. Currently one meeting per semester is in-person; should we move to either two in-person meetings (first and last of each semester), or all three per semester? Open Forums are a separate issue, as that involves administrators and their availability.
    b. Israel: This conversation has come out of Exec. We've heard from other senators as well; it's not a spur-of-the-moment idea. All online meetings have less prominent discussion, and it is important for our mission that it is not just sharing information, but also discussing and bringing the results of our conversations to the administration. Zoom is convenient, but not the most conducive to give opportunities to weigh in and have a voice.

c. Bessie: Speaking from many years of experience, we've lost a lot of the input from the members of the full senate body in these meetings. I feel with the in-person meetings we get more feedback and interactions.
d. Michelle: I'm fine either way—we do get more energy for in-person meetings. But I'd prefer to do Open Forums on Zoom—there's less interaction in those in general, and I was a senator when those were in-person.
e. Julie W.: I agree that we don't get the same sort of interaction and engagement on Zoom. We also may be selling newer senators short; a lot of those connections before the meeting can't be done here. I'm against hybrid options because they are a miserable experience for everyone; I think we need to do one or the other.
f. Meg: I have mixed feelings. At CAPC General Assembly yesterday there was a similar conversation. I like building community—but I also have young children I have to pick up and I'm not on campus every day. It would help those of us with kids to do both. I like the idea of some compromise here. Eirini: I also have young children; it's challenging. I've been able to serve on Senate because we have the online option. I agree that when we see each other there's good energy. Are there alternatives? Other ways to make online meetings more participatory? Simon: I'd struggle with getting my kid off the bus since it happens during the meeting. But faculty are losing our voice with shared governance. Senate becomes toothless if our voices aren't being heard. Thomas Kwiatkowski: I agree with Simon that the Senate needs to hold its voice. If the rebranding discussion had been in person, I think we would have had a much richer dialogue than what just happened on Zoom.
g. Jordan Stokes: Would it be possible to schedule the live meetings slightly earlier, to make things easier for those with small children? Stevie: I wonder if an alternating meeting time could help…maybe mixing up the meeting time so that it is not always at pick up time for schools. Erin Hill: What about the first two meetings each semester in person and then the third on Zoom (since I feel like things are most hectic right at the end of the semester)? Gary: With 6pm pick up times being common, would Friday 2-4pm be a better option than 3-5pm? Marcos: People who are running for Senate need to know when the meetings are going to be next year. Gary: Rotating days could be very difficult due to teaching schedules. Jackie Hodes: The registrar should be able to give you a breakdown of most popular time for classes…I believe in the past it was 2-3:30 on TR. Kurt: The Friday 3-5pm time has been so standard for Senate that I've made space for it in my schedule. Michelle Wade: I feel like moving to Thursdays would potentially conflict with a lot more people's schedules. I think moving earlier to Friday might be a better option.
h. Ashlee Brown: Great ideas! I do agree that the 3-5pm time presents some challenges for many folks, but in-person is ideal for more robust conversation. I'm assuming 3pm was chosen because it was the end of classwork time for everyone. Kurt: It's historical; there was a Thursday and Friday alternating schedule a long time ago. And there are some classes happening late on Fridays. Heather S.: It was Thursday and Friday for a long time; we may need to look at when people are on campus and see when they are available. Bessie: Another option is for Senators to have a conversation with their chairs to negotiate their time teaching so they are open to attending Senate meetings. Sarah

Lightner: Is Faculty Senate having difficulty getting faculty to serve on Faculty Senate? CAPC was having difficulty with getting representatives from certain departments and flexibility might have something to do with people's willingness to participate. Julie W.: Friday has been very helpful in scheduling guests—it is a time that guests who are usually very busy can find time to visit. Kurt: We can look into these options.

i. Israel: We have a lot of feedback from folks; we can take this to Exec so we have a clearer idea of what is being voted on. Julie W.: We can easily put a vote with clear descriptions on the ballot for the Exec elections in April.

3. Faculty Senate Elections
    a. Results of elections for College and Non-Classroom seats, 2026-2029 term
        i. Kurt: Congrats to Rachel Daltry and Gary Childs for re-election to seats as Non-Classroom Faculty representatives. Erin Hill has been re-elected for CSM representative, and Euikyu Choi has been elected BPM representative. The next round of elections is for At-Large representatives; there are seven positions open. Nominations close on April 3. Please self-nominate if you have not already, and encourage others who you think might be interested.
    b. Faculty Senate Executive Committee election next meeting (Friday, April 24, 2026)
        i. There are positions open. Julie Tennille, VP, has retired, so there will be a place open. Please look at the website for more information on the roles. You may self-nominate for one of the roles before April 17; you will be asked to speak in support of your nomination during the April 24 meeting.
4. Discussion: redistributing teaching loads to provide increased research opportunities
    a. Kurt: The Research and Creative Activities committee has been looking into this.
    b. Israel: Sarah and Tianran are chairs of the committee. Sarah: We haven't had new discussions recently; the deans when they visited suggested they wanted faculty to recommend new ideas, so we are still in a research phase as to what the options are.
    c. Israel: We are having a hard time understanding the president's recommendation on the listening tour to think outside of the box. Administration says they are open to the idea, but then they ask faculty to provide the ideas. It is hard to know what will be acceptable to administration.
    d. Stevie: We have come up with concrete ideas and documented them; I thought they went to Exec, who would bring them to administration. Our question is how to get from talking about this to concrete plans. Does Exec have a copy of this list? Israel: Was this a document about research and creative activities in general, or more specifically about load distributions? Stevie: It included load-levelling, research as part of the curriculum, hitting target ratios with larger sections, a process for applying for course releases. Should we send this to Exec, to push this forward. Israel: Thank you for this reminder; it can definitely be shared with Exec.
    e. Jackie Hodes: Many years ago at Middle States at Montclair State University, who had moved from teaching to R3 and also had a unionized faculty. They actually did this; I remember that faculty could decide to teach a 4/4 load, or have a reduced teaching load to do research. You could reach out to them to learn more. Kurt: Who needs to see this list? Administration? APSCUF? Israel: We contacted Montclair State some years ago in connection with our R2 designation. For some of these possibilities APSCUF would have

to be included in the conversation. Kurt: We can work with our APSCUF liaison to figure out next steps. Heather S.: It seems TEP might need to be involved as part of APSCUF because it seems like by nature it would change promotion expectations.

5. Meeting updates
    a. Shared governance meeting (Feb. 11, 2026)
        i. Kurt: We talked about the CARHU dean's search. Four candidates were brought to campus to interview, and were considered strong.
        ii. Kurt: We talked about enrollment; spring enrollment targets were met, though some retention was down. Grad enrollment is still low.
        iii. Kurt: We discussed campus visitors. Public spaces are public spaces, and visitors are allowed there. If there are concerns about interactions you should go through Public Safety.
        iv. Kurt: We discussed accessibility; a lot of the concerns voiced then have since been addressed. They are going to delete files from older than six years in D2L; if you want them saved you need to contact IS&T.
        v. Kurt: Moon Shot for Equity leadership is evolving so that it is not just one person overseeing it.
    b. Meetings with President Laurie Bernotsky (Feb. 18, attended by Julie Wiest and Kurt W. Kolasinski; Mar. 18, attended by Julie Wiest, Orkideh Mohajeri, and Kurt W. Kolasinski)
        i. Kurt: We talked about grad programs. Laurie said that we wanted to get grad enrollment back to where it was; she was talking with the deans, and some programs are falling behind competitors. She has been leaving it to deans to talk with program directors about enrollments; progress has been slow. She has not pushed on modality, but wonders if this is a factor for declining enrollments in some programs. She believes this should be a reason for some programs to consider the modality of their programs. Heather S.: The university needs to change their stance for grad to move more online. Grad programs are often online but opportunities for students to participate in WCU campus grad related things (research awards/presentations etc.) are currently fully in person.
        ii. Kurt: We asked about an org chart for the president's office. They are redistributing Jeff's tasks, so they should have their offices' charges all in line.
        iii. Kurt: We talked about financial stability and capital projects. The financial stability is good, even with a flat state budget. The counties where WCU, East Stroudsburg and Shippensburg are located are good, but in the north of the state populations are not growing. The renovation of old residence halls is too expensive to undertake without state support. There are funding opportunities that should be more frequent for WCU compared with other PASSHE institutions. There is 80% occupancy of traditional student housing (residence halls). USH Affiliated Housing fills up more quickly. Students want more housing, but they may not accept traditional housing. Simon: Students say that housing decisions are made and reported so late that they have to get off-campus housing before they are notified. Kurt: The lottery process has problems; Jasmine Buxton is working to get this improved.

iv. Kurt: Undergraduate student numbers on main campus are where they ought to be; the Philly campus is where there is room for increase. They hope to have 30 interested faculty to develop a cohort of around 500 students there.
v. Kurt: We talked about Borough relations and College Arms. That side of the street is not in this unified planning district, and is negotiated separately. There was a proposed idea for housing and commercial development, but it now has been scaled back to just housing. They don't want to do anything with College Arms if it does not result in more beds.
vi. Kurt: There will be some developments in the WCU Foundation over the summer. Experiential learning may open up relationships with donors; they are looking to expand this effort.
vii. Kurt: We discussed campus visitors. There is a governor's pamphlet on "Know Your Rights." Contact Public Safety if you have concerns.
viii. Kurt: We discussed retention. They were confident in the fall semester, but the messaging changed with spring semester; they were more concerned. We've declined to 83% retention from a high of 87%. Laurie has the idea of a "one stop shop," a center with representatives from each of the support offices, an inviting space, where students can go to find support, rather than go to several different offices. This is evolving, and they are considering locations. We should hear more about this soon. Julie: Laurie said she would like to pilot this in the fall. Israel: When we talk about retention there is an assumption about the reason why students aren't coming back. The "one stop shop" may be helpful for logistical reasons, but students are dropping because of mental health challenges, for instance. It's not a logistical problem, but there are other needs that are not being met. If we don't have a clear picture of the causes of students leaving we won't be able to effectively address the issue. Kurt: They have demographic data about retention, and they need to mine it. Rachel: Has the president spoken with these offices about whether student needs are being met? No one comes to me to ask what is going on or what might be helpful. They should consult with the experts and who know what is happening before piloting things. Students with financial needs and who get information about financial aid late are an issue as well. Stevie: Financial concerns and figuring out financial aid—it's confusing for faculty, but especially confusing for students trying to understand federal work study. There are information sessions; there's one contact person for that whole office, which may affect timely responses. Kurt: The administration looks at statistics that suggest they have higher standardized test scores and GPAs than ever before, but there is serious grade inflation in high schools and there have been ongoing problems with assessment since COVID. Students also choose whether to report their test scores, and only one in three report; those with scores that aren't as good won't report them.

c. Meetings with Acting Provost Josh Auld (Feb. 16, attended by Israel Sanz-Sánchez and Kurt W. Kolasinski; Mar. 16, attended by Julie Wiest and Kurt W. Kolasinski)

i. Kurt: We talked about accommodations. There is a report following an audit of OEA; it has been delayed for a long time. The provost has been reading it; the report focuses on how there is a need to meet legal requirements but not to exceed them. Josh hopes to have resolved things this semester.
ii. Kurt: We talked about digital accessibility. All documents need to be compliant, and the standard is YuJa. There will not be an audit of courses, but they want to be reactive to student needs; if a student flags a document as inaccessible you have 60 days to remediate the case. TLC will be hiring additional graduate assistants for drop-by help for these issues. Getting a document through YuJa will be the standard you need to meet.
iii. Kurt: We talked about administrative changes. We've been asking for an org chart; Middle States has commented on this as well. An org chart is needed for structure and transparency. Jeff Osgood has been recommended by the Board of Trustees at Commonwealth for the role of president; we'll know in the first half of April whether he will take the position. The president's office is looking at how Jeff's duties have been distributed through the administration, and this will inform a new org chart.
iv. Kurt: We discussed AI. Faculty are paying for their own subscriptions for these tools. If you can share your own use, please contact me.
v. Kurt: We asked about grad enrollment. They are not trying to grow grad, but get back to where we were before, around 3000 students. We don't know why we lost students; there are external factors like loans and program availability. Rules about reclassifications are in flux, and will not be set until July 1. They are considering offering more accelerated programs. The Philly campus will be getting a new space, and that may be an opportunity to increase student numbers. They are looking for faculty who are interested. They are also considering credentialing for the Philadelphia school district.
vi. Kurt: We discussed retention. They have more data now. We recommended more targeted use of this data for retention efforts; they are working on this.

6. Additional announcements and items
   a. APSCUF Executive Liaison report – Senator Julie Wiest
      i. Julie W.: See the liaison report below. There will be tabling for PA Promise on April 1 for PR, to drum up more support. It has been introduced in the legislature but has never hit the floor. If students knew that there was a bill that would give them free tuition they would have more voice. The Commonwealth did not renew the grant that funds the Resource Pantry. The fundraising from last fall was even more valuable than was realized.
   b. Faculty Ombuds – Senator Bessie Lawton
      i. Bessie: There is a workshop April 2 from 12-1pm in the lounge in the faculty/staff lounge in SECC; this time there will be stories about conflict in the classroom. We would like participants submit stories anonymously to discuss. You received an email invitation; please sign up.
   c. Other announcements

i. Kurt: Proxies should only proxy for one Senator per meeting and Senators may not proxy for other Senators. We do want more proxies—it is a good way to get involved in Senate. See the Senator and proxy list on the Faculty Senate website for more information. Julie W.: Any permanent faculty member can serve as a proxy, so you do not need to see a proxy from the list. Israel: It needs to be a faculty member from the consitutency the Senator represents—so if you are a college rep, it needs to be someone from your college, and at-large senators can have any faculty proxy for them.

ii. Please share your experiences with Accessibility Compliance

   1. Kurt: The compliance is the important part—the document must pass YuJa. If it does this, it is legally compliant. Good pedagogy is another matter. If you can share your experiences, I can pass these on to the administration. By summer and fall they want all documents to be accessible.
   2. Bessie: How many feel you are ready to meet the April deadline? Simon: I went to a workshop, but the presentation was unhelpful. I felt I went through a lot of work to do this, and they are not prepared to support us. We asked questions and the presenter did not have answers. They aren't ready to help us. Bessie: I attended some of these sessions, and worked one-on-one with designers and had mixed experiences. There are some things we know that we can share with each other.
   3. Heather: The messaging on standards hasn't been consistent. Kurt: The provost says that YuJa will be the standard for compliance; you want to get in the top two rankings. Other offices may say different things.
   4. Eirini: I was setting up classes, and they got the green sign initially, and then later it changed. I asked for Adobe Creative Cloud access, and ran PDFs through it to tag everything. Heather W.: They changed "green" from 75% to 95% in February. Innhwa: I've had mixed experiences with training sessions. I've found it most helpful when I brought specific documents and we problem-solved with them. A lot of us will be working on this over the summer. Will there be more support—earlier access to course shells, more training? Kurt: Every document must have at least one header. Every figure must have a caption and alt-text. If you have handwritten material you can change it to a figure and give it alt-text. I have an equation editor that produces accessible equations. Some AI accessibility tools won't convert things in a way that meet standards. Every PowerPoint slide needs an accessible title.

iii. Getting AI tools that you need, and workshop on prompt engineering

   1. Kurt: I've heard concerns from faculty about what AI tools they need. Have you heard of "prompt engineering"? This is crafting prompts in order to get good results from the AI. You can burn through tokens quickly if you don't prompt well. It is a skill, and perhaps we need workshops to learn how to better use these tools.

iv. Middle States Accreditation process

        1. Kurt: The process is underway. The kickoff meeting has occurred, and we have good Faculty Senate representation.
            a. Senators Bessie Lawson (Ethics & Integrity), Israel Sanz-Sánchez (Support of the Student Experience), and Kurt W. Kolasinski (Governance, Leadership & Administration)
        2. Kurt: It is a two-year process. They are looking for faculty input; if you are interested in getting involved reach out.
    d. Other business?

Liaison Reports

1. ADA Committee – Senator Heather Waymouth
    a. The committee met on February 20th. Web Accessibility dominated the meeting. All are encouraged to work towards meeting web accessibility standards by the April deadline. The first round of courses that need to be accessible are summer courses. TLC is offering workshops and there are several helpful pages on the WCU website (e.g. TLC Accessibility, EQOC Accessibility). In-person drop-in sessions are expected shortly. Several pernicious issues still remain, primarily that even reaching a 100% rating in YuJa might still not fully meet accessibility standards. The team has increased the percentage of what gets a “green thumb” to 95% from 75% in alignment with peer institutions across the country. PDFs were noted as one of the largest challenges. YuJa has a tool which can better remediate PDFs, but institutions must pay per use. Kutztown piloted the tool, and blew through the large sum they'd allocated in under 2 weeks. The Library recommended trying a permalink and pursuing course reserves as efficient ways to handle PDFs. Some colleges and departments are finding success in training graduate assistants to support faculty’s pursuit of accessibility. Members of the Web Accessibility Task Force were appreciative of the feedback Senate College Reps had provided and the suggestion to promote streamlined, consistent messaging around expectations. (The weekly accessibility tip emails you’re receiving are an outcome of this.) If there is additional faculty feedback we would like to share, I can gather it and take it forward.
    b. There will be a committee forming to guide developments toward enhanced physical accessibility around campus, partially due to recent unfortunate incidents. If faculty want to be involved, they are welcome.
2. Alumni Association – Adjunct Faculty Representative Bill Sawyer – No report.
3. APSCUF Exec Representative – Senator Julie Wiest
    a. The APSCUF-WCU Executive Committee (EC) most recently met on March 17, 2026. The main item of business was a presentation from the ad-hoc committee tasked with revising the chapter bylaws. Suggested changes included: aligning the language with practices related to policy grievances, revising the quorum for conducting EC business (related to a previous expansion of the committee membership), clarifying the parameters around conducting EC business via email, synchronizing the fiscal year with that of state APSCUF, and adding the Scholarships Committee and BIPOC Faculty Alliance as permanent committees. All substantive changes passed and will move forward for a vote of the Department Representatives Council. There also were announcements related to several planned events: (1) tabling for the PA Promise on April 1 (look for an announcement seeking volunteers soon); (2) staffing a table for

Banana Day (as a main sponsor); and (3) planning for the annual Philadelphia Labor Day parade (contact Jen Hummer if you're interested in helping). Lastly, the Commonwealth for the first time did not renew our Hunger-Free Campus Grant, which has been supporting the Resource Pantry; this means the $11,406 raised in APSCUF's fundraiser last semester is even more valuable now but also that plans for the donation may not be realized.

4. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski – No meeting to report. There is a call for interest in membership.
5. Campus Climate Intervention Team –Senator Simon Ruchti – No report; we have not met yet.
6. Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence – Senator Daris McInnis
    a. No updates, our next meeting is April 14, 2026, I will provide updates thereafter.
7. External Relations – Senator Michelle Wade – No report.
8. Faculty Mentoring Committee – Senator Innhwa Park – No report.
9. Institutional Effectiveness Committee – Senator Sarah Lightner, alternate Senator Tara Guerriero
    a. The committee has been working on compiling data sources to address the Middle States standards. We have been meeting monthly.
10. LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Meg Panichelli – No report.
11. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – Daris McInnis – No report or updates.
12. Multicultural Faculty Commission – Senator Orkideh Mohajeri – No report.
13. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Research Advisory Board – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
    a. The Board is now organized into four working groups with the following areas of concern:
        i. Supporting and streamlining 5-year research plan for new/TT faculty
        ii. Faculty Research Database Initiative
        iii. Innovative Initiatives to further support faculty collaboration and research efficiency
        iv. Collaboration with the Graduate School to further support graduate student research
14. Philadelphia Campus – Senator Meg Panichelli – No report.
15. President's Commission on the Status of Women – Senator Michelle Wade
    a. The Women's Commission met on 3/23/26. The Commission has established working groups: Recruitment and Retention of Women of Color, Caregiving, Women's Visibility, and Inclusive Facilities. There were a variety of events for Women's History Month, including the Justice Bell event. The Recruitment and Retention of Women of Color committee has an awards event on 4/29 from 12-2 in Phillips Autograph Library, so save the date and register if you're interested in attending. The Women's Visibility committee is looking to plan a fall event in addition to the spring event that they collaborated on this March. It will likely be a panel discussion in October centered around Domestic Violence Awareness month and Breast Cancer Awareness month. We are looking for interested moderators. The Inclusive Facilities Committee continues to meet with Facilities and is currently waiting on more information to come out regarding the campus master plan. The Caregiving committee worked on supporting the creation

of a centralized website for summer camps. There will be a Black Maternal Health Week Panel on Tuesday, April 14th 11:00 -12:15/30 PM Sykes Ballrooms A & B. There will be a Racial & Social Justice Campus Climate Symposium on April 14th 9 am - 5pm Sykes 115.

16. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Rick Howard – No report.
17. Search committees:
    a. Dean of College of Arts and Humanities Search – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
        i. The search concluded after campus visits in late February and early March, with four candidates that included opportunities for the community to participate. The search committee met after the campus visits and provided feedback on the four candidates to upper administration, and they will decide who to contact with an offer. As of this update, no announcement has been shared regarding any hires.
18. Student Liaisons:
    a. Student Government Association – Avery McKnight – No report.
    b. Graduate Student Association – (Vacant)
    c. ROTC – Vacant
19. Ad Hoc Liaisons:
    a. Students At Risk Taskforce (Equal Opportunity Programs and Strategic Initiatives Office) – Senators Daris McInnis and Heather Waymouth
        i. No updates. We reached out to Tracey Robinson regarding the status of this taskforce. Since Chancey's departure, the taskforce is currently on hold until his position is filled.

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
    a. The committee has been working on a Faculty Service Resource to explore how other institutions navigate the balance between service and other faculty responsibilities, provide concrete examples and models, and offer guidance for creating equitable, meaningful, and recognized service practices at WCU.
2. Student Welfare – Senators Dan Cherry (co-chair), Daris McInnis (co-chair), Rachel Daltry, Heather Waymouth
    a. No updates. We haven't met recently; we plan a dialog with leaders of student organizations in April to set goals moving forward. More to come soon.
3. Membership & Elections – Senator Kurt Kolasinski (chair)
    a. Congratulations to Rachel Daltry (Non-classroom faculty), Gary Childs (Non-classroom faculty), Erin Hill (CSM), and Euikyu Choi (CBPM) for being duly elected as representatives of their respective constituencies. The nomination window for At Large representatives is open until 4/3. Please consider nominating yourself at the APSCUF elections website if you are eligible and have not yet done so.
4. Communications – Senator Gary Childs (chair)
    a. Kurt and I are currently in conversation with Daniel Smith, Director of Web Communications regarding PDF documents hosted on the Faculty Senate website. I have paused adding minutes to the website until we have clarity on accessibility parameters in terms of these archival documents.

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 Kolasinksi, 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