

WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, April 28, 2023

Facilitator: Julie Wiest, President

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Location: Zoom teleconference

Type of Meeting: Scheduled meeting

Attendees

Senators

❖ Bolton, David	Present	❖ Mishra, Vipanchi	Present
❖ Brenner, Jim	Present	❖ Mraz, Megan	Proxy
❖ Chen, Tianran	Present	❖ Panagiotidou, Eirini	Proxy
❖ Cherry, Dan	Present	❖ Panichelli, Meg	Present
❖ Childs, Gary	Present	❖ Park, Innhwa	Present
❖ Cooke, Laquana	Present	❖ Pierlott, Matt	Present
❖ Daltrey, Rachel	Present	❖ Razon, Selen	Present
❖ Forbes, Dan	Present	❖ Riley, Kathleen	Present
❖ Grasseti, Stevie	Present	❖ Ruchti, Simon	Present
❖ Guerriero, Tara	Present	❖ Saboe, Matt	Present
❖ Hill, Erin	Present	❖ Sanz-Sánchez, Israel	Present
❖ Hodes, Jackie	Present	❖ Schugar, Heather	Present
❖ Houser, Mary	Present	❖ Smidt, Esther	Present
❖ Junius, Premalatha	Present	❖ Stokes, Jordan	Absent
❖ Kolasinski, Kurt	Present	❖ Studlien-Webb, Gretchen	Proxy
❖ Lawton, Bessie	Present	❖ Tennille, Julie	Present
❖ Lightner, Sarah	Present	❖ Wade, Michelle	Present
❖ Mandel, Deborah	Proxy	❖ Wiest, Julie	Present
❖ Metz, Stacie	Present	❖ Wilbur, Veronica	Present

Representatives

❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Bill Sawyer	Proxy
❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Priya Selvarathinam	Absent
❖ APSCUF Representative: Bessie Lawton	Present
❖ Student Government Association Representative: Sarah Leszczewski	Absent
❖ Graduate Student Association Representative:	Absent
❖ ROTC Representative:	Absent

Senate Proxies

❖ Edelblute, Heather	Absent
❖ Howard, Rick	Proxy for Bill Sawyer
❖ Kaulback, Michelle	Proxy for Meg Mraz

❖ Mohajeri, Orkideh	Present
❖ O'Brien, Lia	Absent
❖ Owens, Jackie	Proxy for Debi Mandel
❖ Patriarca, Ashley	Proxy for Eirini Panagiotidou
❖ Tully, Greg	Absent
❖ Whidden, Melissa	Absent

Guests In Attendance

Vicki McGinley, Maria Van Liew (Proxy for Gretchen Studlien-Webb), Dara Dirhan, Karen Watkins, Clayton Garthwait, Wei Du, Jordan Schugar, Zeinab Baba, Tracey Robinson, Janneken Smucker

Agenda

Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

Welcome to new Senators Kristopher Benedict, Wei Du, Clayton Garthwait, and Karen Watkins; and congratulations to re-elected Senators Gary Childs, Rachel Daltry, Erin Hill, Kurt Kolasinski, Sarah Lightner, Vipanchi Mishra, Megan Mraz, Heather Schugar, and Veronica Wilbur!

Senate Business and Announcements

1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on March 24, 2023. Motion to approve from Gary Childs, seconded by Kurt Kolasinski. Approved by all Senators present.
2. Meeting updates (President Chris Fiorentino and Interim Provost Jeff Osgood)
 - a. Julie Wiest: These were in early April, and some information has been updated since. We have one more meeting with each next week. Please let me know if you have feedback or items to pass on to them.
 - b. Julie: We asked about enrollments. Jeff projected 3088 new students for Fall, total enrollment 16,615. We are ahead so far, so they are cautiously optimistic. The Deans are working hard to keep class sizes stable, and are committed to maintaining caps in Speaking and Writing Emphasis courses. They are projecting resumption of enrollment growth in 2027 due to Moon Shot for Equity efforts.
 - c. Julie: We asked Chris about housing. He had met with West Goshen Township supervisors. It was reported in the *News & Observer* that they proposed to convert the Microtel temporarily (five-year contract, 150-200 beds) involving a zoning variance overlay. The best scenario is the deal would be resolved by June, but this is unlikely. This isn't far from campus but it won't be walkable. Jim Brenner: I've heard that this proposal has fallen through; something about facilities' ability to maintain it when they are already stretched. Julie: Obviously student housing remains a difficult issue for students.
 - d. Julie: We asked about PASSHE and Penn West. The chancellor had meetings with house and senate appropriation committees; there appears to be legislative support for us. Governor Shapiro plans to appoint a commission to study higher ed in the state and to decide how it should be funded in the commonwealth. Jeff says we should pay close attention to this. Chris says there is talk of a bailout for Penn West due to a significant financial gap, and schools with reserves are bracing to have those confiscated. If the

new allocation model is honored we will get another \$3.2 million. If not, we may be able to raise tuition.

- e. Julie: We asked about staffing across campus. The new AVP for Facilities starts May 8, and cabinet is meeting with consultants concerning a facilities master plan. The VP for Student Affairs search should be coming to an end soon; four candidates visited campus, and the committee will be making a recommendation soon. Chris said they are being careful about new tenure-track lines so as not to disrupt existing employment. There will need to be more caution about issuing contracts for adjuncts because enrollments can no longer be taken for granted. Simon: They were talking about cutting administrative assistants; our dean is telling us to cut course offerings; they are adding more high-paid positions. I don't understand how an administration that is numbers-focused is doing this. Julie: We ask about this, and we will continue to ask about this. Kurt: The Budget Review Committee met today; there are requests for new positions and discussion about how effective those are. So this is part of the official discussion. Simon: If we look at the number of hours we do service, we work for the university for free. Every time they cut staff and add administrators this means our service work goes up. Would there be interest in conversations about right-sizing our work? And doing this in such a way that it does not land on the shoulders of administrative assistants and graduate students? Julie: This is something that concerns APSCUF.
- f. Julie: Chris says staffing in HR and Finance and Accounting are stabilizing and they are moving toward a hiring freeze. Unfilled staff positions have helped with the budget.
- g. Julie: We asked about WCUSTands; the faculty leaders said that in response to the Time, Place, and Manner Policy they did not feel comfortable continuing due to the disciplinary parts of the policy with regard to faculty and staff. Chris said that protests used to be led by students and he plans to speak to SGA about this. The Trump visit was the motivation for the policy. Jeff thought that the disbanding was an overreaction and didn't have to happen. He said the policy will not be used to target faculty. They are open to hearing further concerns.
- h. Julie: We shared concerns about students reaching out to the WCU Promise Program and were not getting responses. Jeff was alarmed to hear this and said he would look into this.
- i. Julie: We asked about burdensome research processes, and mentioned Stevie Grasseti's presentation on this here [see Faculty Senate minutes for February 10, 2023]. Jeff said they are working on that list of items and will have something to report by the end of the summer.
- j. Julie: I finally got an answer on where the written responses went for the Get Inclusive training. Jeff says PASSHE and WCU have no access to it, but Get Inclusive has that data, and it is not known how they use it.
- k. Julie: We were asked about there seeming to be fewer faculty present on campus. We are prepared to take feedback back to the president. Simon: It's not a good thing, but I don't see a lot of administrators on campus either; I've seen nobody there in their offices. Heather Schugar: Student behavior has changed. A lot of students prefer to meet via Zoom. Ronnie: Graduate students in Nursing are online, so this works for us. Julie: The CBA requires faculty to be on campus at least twice a week. Gary: I work at a

physical desk where people walk up; we are still seeing that, but when people schedule appointments more folks make online appointments. It's not a default, but more requests are for online. Stevie: Students seem to prefer online even when you're in your office. Simon: Mine prefer in person usually. Kurt: Maybe because we are a lab science (chemistry) my students prefer to see me in person, not online. Rachel: Students are afraid to talk to their professors in person; they are feeling anxious about that. They lost a lot of skill through the pandemic. Julie: I remember offering online office hours before the pandemic, and students weren't interested. Dan Cherry: There's a lot of in-person stuff in our school (the School of Music). But our academic colleagues in the building we barely see. There is a morale issue here. Michelle Wade: We shouldn't assume that someone is not working if they are not on campus. I'm working for an online program and so I'm not on campus as much. Simon: For me what's hard is when stuff comes up, I end up being the one to deal with it because I'm on campus most of the week. When I see students having a breakdown in the hall I'm the one that has to deal with it. I know faculty with in-person course loads have only online office hours. Heather: We have both graduate and undergraduate programs, but we only look at the university through an undergraduate lens. We're expected to be on campus all day and then teach at night. We need to be advocating for our changing university and how this requires flexibility across programs. Julie: This is clearly a nuanced issue. Bessie: Are people clear about what the office hour policy is? Just listening to this conversation I am getting the sense that there is some confusion. It might be worth it to bring this up with APSCUF.

3. Senate Constitution update

- a. Julie Wiest: Our revised constitution has been ratified. Thank you all for your efforts and participating in the vote, especially the executive committee that did a lot of work behind the scenes. The constitution now reflects what we do!

4. Meeting format proposal for AY 2023-24

- a. Julie Wiest: If you've not had a chance to review this proposal (the executive committee has agreed to this), the gist is that we would hold two in-person Senate meetings during the next academic year, likely the first meeting of each semester, and the remaining four Senate meetings would remain virtual. Stevie: Same time, Friday afternoon? Julie: Yes, most likely, as it is a reliable time. Israel: What we're trying to do is acknowledge that while online meetings are easy to attend, there are different communication styles, and there are constraints to online meetings. Some Senators approached the executive committee to ask about this. Julie: It relates to the feeling of being disconnected.
- b. Israel moves to vote on the proposal. Kurt seconds the motion.
- c. Gary: Senate used to meet in the library. Has this come up with library administration to make sure the space is available? Julie: No. Gary: I can help with bringing this up to library leadership. Stevie: Would there be options for attending virtually? Julie: No. We have proxies, and that system would apply if someone could not attend in person. Dan Cherry: Why not have the option to Zoom in to these in-person meetings? Julie: It is logistically difficult with regard to the technology—people can't always hear, and the experience is not great for everyone. Jackie: A hybrid is a good option; maybe we can ask for IT support. I understand the convenience of being at home when the weather is bad. Gary: The library room doesn't have the technology for this sort of thing. Israel: The

technical concern also relates to how people participate in the meeting. We are thinking about these meetings as an opportunity for people to network with one another. Some of you I have never met in person, even though we have seen one another on screen. It could end up with low in-person attendance. Ronnie: If we know ahead of time, it is a good idea. These meetings work best either fully remote, or everyone is present. Michelle: I appreciate the combination of meetings. The hyflex environment is where I teach; there are always challenges and technical difficulties.

- d. Julie Wiest: 86% of voting Senators approve of the proposal, so the motion passes.
5. Executive Committee Elections
- a. Israel: Only elected permanent faculty who will serve on Senate next year have the right to vote. So outgoing Senators, proxies, and adjunct faculty serving will *not* receive a ballot.
 - b. Israel: Dan Forbes has been nominated for Vice President. Julie Tennille has been nominated for Corresponding Secretary. Selen Razon has been nominated for Recording Secretary. Rachel Daltry, Kurt Kolasinski, Vipanchi Mishra, and Ronnie Wilbur have been nominated for At-Large members of the Executive Committee (two positions). Israel Sanz-Sánchez has been nominated for President.
 - c. Israel: The vote will take place through Qualtrics, and you will receive an email ballot if you are eligible.
 - d. Israel: I'm having technical difficulties with the Qualtrics survey. The ballots will be emailed as soon as possible, and you'll have until Monday, May 1, 2023 at 5:00pm to vote.
6. Julie: This is my last meeting as President; thank you all for your service to Senate! Israel: I want to thank Julie for her service as President; it has been an honor!
7. Motion to adjourn from Israel, seconded by Kurt Kolasinski. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

Dr. Vicki McGinley, Faculty Ombuds Office

1. Vicki: Joan Woolfrey is on leave, so as Ombuds alternate I have been filling in for her. Thanks to Faculty Senate for your advocacy for the Ombuds office!
2. Vicki: Dr. Lisa Montgomery is the Student Ombudsperson; we do not yet have a staff ombuds office. We're in solidarity with getting a staff ombuds position.
3. Vicki: The Ombuds office provides free, informal assistance and serves as a neutral party. We belong to the National Ombuds Association. All such offices are independent and confidential. Our goals are to listen and strategize possible solutions. There are standard codes for tracking kinds of visits and we use these to find patterns. We advise administrators on issues brought to the office.
4. Vicki: We survey every other year, and we will be surveying again in August 2023. We've had a 54% response rate in the past. Most faculty who reported coming to the Ombuds office were satisfied with the assistance offered. Some reported that had they not visited the Ombuds they might have left the university or filed a grievance or lawsuit. Most visits occur in the fall semester; immediately following the pandemic visits were a lot higher. Some faculty have multiple issues, but common ones concern career progression (particularly evaluation) and peer and colleague relationships.

Dr. Tracey Ray Robinson, Vice-President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion & Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer

1. Tracey: Some updates from our office: the results from the parent and caregivers survey was presented at this week's cabinet meeting. Sindy Alcidonis was a major contributor, but went on extended leave and ended up leaving WCU, so the presentation had been delayed.
2. Tracey: As of July 1 we have a division and not just an office, and so we have expanded quite a bit. We were almost fully staffed at the start of the year, but now we have five vacancies, two of which are about to be filled. A number of committees and commissions report to this division.
3. Tracey: The Moon Shot for Equity is an ongoing initiative we are involved in. Get Inclusive training modules have been launched for employees and for students. The Frederick Douglass Scholars program had not been active before I started at WCU, but we've been active for the last four years. These are late doctoral candidates or recent graduates, and they have an opportunity to teach courses at WCU. This year's scholar was the first in the College of Health Sciences. Two former scholars are now tenure-track faculty at WCU. We also track these scholars to see if they stay in higher education. We have faculty-led Innovation in Diversity and Inclusion Grants; if you are interested reach out to me and I can share more information. We also have an agreement with North Carolina A&T State University, a bidirectional MOA for a pipeline for graduate programs in STEM where application fees are waived and graduate assistantships are provided. The aim is to diversify graduate enrollment for both institutions.
4. Tracey: Concerning the Spring 2022 Campus Climate Survey, our partner was Insight with its Viewfinder survey, and we provided incentives for students to respond. Our response rate was low for students and faculty, but we have more students and faculty than other institutions in PASSHE. Climate surveys are long; in the future we should make sure any surveys we give have a question or two about climate, and so we can spread out this work. The data from the survey needed to be disaggregated more. I pushed back about this to PASSHE, since it couldn't give much statistically significant data. We couldn't ask about which campus students attend classes at, and could not disaggregate data by race. We will be working in June to find a better way to report out for each of the different campus surveys. We were hoping to have focus groups during the Spring semester due to staff issues.
5. Julie Wiest: What are next steps for the parenting and caregiving survey? Tracey: We need to look into what are some best practices and recommendations moving forward; I have some ideas, but some of this may need to be pursued by a subcommittee of the Women's Commission. Caregiving doesn't go away; we need to look to see where we can do more. Michelle Wade: We're looking forward to further conversation. Tracey: I hope I might be able to help with a subcommittee. Julie Wiest: Senate would be interested in helping with that.
6. Julie Wiest: Do you have thoughts about the recent disbanding of WCUSTands, considering it concerns supporting marginalized groups? Tracey: I hope WCUSTands continues. I know a follow-up meeting is planned with Dean Johnson and Liam Lair to talk about the Time, Place, and Manner Policy. There needs to be more discussion; there may have been misunderstanding and miscommunication in regard to what happened with the housing protest. I was not a part of that conversation but I asked those questions. SGA is being strongly encouraged to be involved. Take Back the Night happened last week—what happens when faculty and staff participate? That's where more conversation needs to happen: are we supporting student activity? This was new territory for some people, and we need more dialogue not less.

Dr. Jordan Schugar, Professor of English & Digital Humanities and Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities

1. Jordan: I'd like to talk about inclusive and equitable course design. This is a joint project between ODEI and ODLI and TLAC. It is interdisciplinary and cuts across multiple units on campus. We want students to feel their ideas matter, and to reduce barriers to success. We hope for a future with no barriers, all voices are valued. Some equity gaps have been reduced. The Moon Shot for Equity covers a lot of ground, and we are interested in what we can do in the classroom. We've been working with Jason Vanfossen [plays audio of Vanfossen discussing rebranding "office hours" as "student hours"]. Jason is mentioning one pivot he's making in his classroom that seems simple, but these can have profound impacts on our students. Equity and inclusion are more than just this sort of pivot, but there are quick things we can do. We can ask questions that are more open-ended; add another method of delivery of content; provide structure; etc. There are library resources for improving equity that you can read.
2. Janneken Smucker: TLAC is also a resource. We will have a new name because we are going to merge with ODLI. We are emphasizing equitable pedagogy, and we will offer workshops. We want to visit department meetings and other smaller settings, have conversations that are more targeted to your needs. We've been working on materials including UDL, inclusive syllabi, etc. Our instructional designers have prepared a lot of resources. Each of you should have an instructional designer assigned to you; they are not just for Distance Ed! Please reach out to them and recommend them to colleagues.

Liaison Reports

1. ADA Committee – Senator Matt Pierlott
2. ADA Digital Accessibility Committee – Senator Dan Forbes
3. Alumni Association – Adjunct Faculty Representative Bill Sawyer
4. APSCUF Exec Representative – Senator Bessie Lawton
5. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski – We've had multiple meetings because there have been things to discuss; in recent years we had a hole in the budget. There has been discussion about how to use the portion of the allocation that was not held for faculty raises. The growth phase of the university has stopped for the next few years, so the budgeting will be more of a zero-sum game.
6. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
7. Campus Climate Intervention Team – Senator Simon Ruchti
8. Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence – Senator Ronnie Wilbur
9. Faculty Mentoring Committee – Senator Vipanchi Mishra
10. IS&T and LMS Advisory Committees – Senator Dan Forbes
11. LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Senator Julie Tennille – Meg Panichelli has been elected new Co-Chair of the Caucus.
12. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – No current liaison
13. Multicultural Faculty Commission – Senator Meg Panichelli
14. President's Commission on the Status of Women – Senator Michelle Wade
15. Strategic Plan – Senator Heather Schugar
16. Student Government Association – Sarah Leszczewski
17. Ad hoc committees:

- a. Associate Provost for Research and Creative Activity Search – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
- b. Vice President for Student Affairs Search – Senator Jackie Hodes
- c. Scheduling alternatives working group – Senator Meg Mraz
- d. SIS Advisory Board – Senators Sarah Lightner and Simon Ruchti
- e. Dean of College of Science and Mathematics Search – Senator Julie Wiest

Committee Reports

1. Faculty Welfare/Ethics – Senators Matt Pierlott (co-chair), Ronnie Wilbur (co-chair), Tara Guerriero, Erin Hill, Mary Houser, Bessie Lawton, Eirini Panagiotidou, Meg Mraz, Stacie Metz, Esther Smidt, Michelle Wade
2. Student Welfare – Senators Selen Razon (chair), Dan Cherry, Rachel Daltry, Dan Forbes, Jackie Hodes, Jim Brenner, Meg Panichelli, Simon Ruchti
3. Membership & Elections – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez (chair)
4. Communications – Senator Erin Hill (chair)
5. Research and Creative Activities – Senators Matt Saboe (co-chair), Stevie Grassetti (co-chair), Bill Sawyer, Gary Childs, Laquana Cooke, Debi Mandel, Heather Schugar, Israel Sanz-Sánchez, Sarah Lightner, Innhwa Park, Gretchen Studlien-Webb, Julie Tennille, Tienran Chen

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

- ❖ President – Senator Julie Wiest
- ❖ Vice President – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
- ❖ Recording Secretary – Senator Dan Forbes
- ❖ Corresponding Secretary – Senator Erin Hill
- ❖ At-Large Members – Senators Kurt Kolasinski and Julie Tennille
- ❖ Immediate Past President – Senator Bessie Lawton
- ❖ Past Presidents – Senators Jim Brenner and Heather Schugar

Senate Meetings 2022-23

Fall 2022

(all meetings via Zoom)

- ❖ Friday, September 9, 3-5pm
- ❖ Friday, October 14, 3-5pm
- ❖ (Open Forum) Monday, October 31, 2-3pm
- ❖ Friday, December 9, 3-5pm

Spring 2023

(all meetings via Zoom)

- ❖ Friday, February 10, 3-5pm
- ❖ (Open Forum) Thursday, March 2, 2-3pm
- ❖ Friday, March 24, 3-5pm
- ❖ Friday, April 28, 3-5pm

Faculty Senate Committee Chair & Liaison Reports | April 28, 2023

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership & Elections (Israel Sanz-Sánchez)

No report

Communications (Erin Hill)

No report

Faculty Welfare (Matt Pierlott & Ronnie Wilbur)

Plan was to meet with Joan Woolfrey again but was canceled at this time. Ronnie Wilbur connected with Chair of the Mentoring Committee regarding an initiative to assist with Junior and Senior faculty but will have to wait until Fall 2023 for further work.

Student Welfare (Selen Razon & Dan Cherry)

- **Campus life-related concerns:**
 - Ongoing housing issues. Students are still on the waitlist for housing. Rental is very high around the campus. Campus shuttle buses still don't stop at all designated stops. We need to make sure to complete the survey.
 - Transloc (shuttle app) is not updating on location or amount of buses in route. Shuttles not evenly spread out, many come to the same stop at the same time while other stops have been waiting for long periods of time. Occasional issues with the shuttle buses where students are not getting to class on time because the buses are not on schedule.
 - The housing issues are hitting some of the students hard. Some students mention that they are reluctant to register for Fall classes because they do not have campus housing. Other students are finding themselves in difficult situations with renting off campus, creating some serious financial hardship. This said, some students seem to be moving off the waiting list and being assigned to housing.
 - **Navigate:**
 - Senate could discuss the best ways to use navigate, and how to teach it to others. Designating a super user in each department could be an idea.
 - Students are being told to use Navigate versus MyWCU, but not all professors are pushing it. Causing confusion in whether or not to use it or if it is mandatory.
 - **Kudos:** GA stipend was doubled for academic year 23-24!
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Research & Creative Activity (Stevie Grasseti & Matt Saboe)

In March, we learned that 141 faculty members responded to the faculty research survey that we helped ORSP to create (there may be more at this point). We plan to assist ORSP in analyzing data and hope to put together a short presentation for faculty senate sometime in the fall.

A group of faculty in CSM are also organizing in problem solving around cumbersome research processes. They have reflected the concerns raised by our committee in a recent document sent to Jeff Osgood (among other concerns). The search process is continuing for APRCA, and finalists were invited to campus this week.

LIAISON REPORTS

APSCUF Exec Rep (Bessie Lawton)
Report given in meeting

Alumni Association (Bill Sawyer)
No report

Budget Review Committee (Kurt Kolasinski)
Report given in meeting

Sustainability Advisory Council (Kurt Kolasinski)
No report

Campus Climate Intervention Team (Simon Ruchti)
We had a meeting on Monday. We discussed next year's DEI PASSHE conference. It will likely be held in Shippensburg, but Tracy is hoping we will be able to host some things at WCU, too. It is still being decided. We also discussed the new policy from the President's office regulating how and where protests can happen on campus, as well as the disbanding of WCU Stands. Several participants had to explain why faculty might feel unsafe engaging in protests or mentoring students in their protests with this policy in place.

Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence (Ronnie Wilbur)
The Committee met on 4/21/2023 led by Dr. Robinson - here are the highlights:

- **Conferences:**
 - Save the date for the PASSHE 3rd Annual DEI Summit - Wednesday November 8-10th. Hosting campus is Shippensburg - theme still to be determined.
 - Latinx Communities Conference - Quinceanera - TBD
- Consider the state of DEI in the nation to keep the excitement and engagement at WCU going.
- **New Partnerships:**
 - Together Endowment - Acknowledgment of Andrew Dinniman's contributions in the PA Legislature.
 - NC AT&T State Bi-directional MOA/Student Visit - occurred on March 6 and was successful. NC AT&T students came to campus including Philadelphia, all activities were student led.

- Tribal Specialist Training Program w/ Dr. Heather Wholey - Pilot program four weeks in the first summer session, but not funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, was directly funded by Tribal Nations. The program will train assistants to work with archeologists to return scattered remains to their ancestral homes. The tribal nations will fund up to three students.
- Young Men and Women in Charge Foundation is a outside group that is housed in the Graduate Center at WCU. Dr. Robinson is seeking a MOA. The group initiatives include an Upward Bound program, scholarships, and large pipeline of potential students for STEM. Their initiatives being at third grade up to senior in high school and currently hold summer camps on the WCU main campus.
- **DEI Vacancies:** There are currently five vacancies in various stages of search. The Associate Director, Center for Trans & Queer Advocacy is wrapping up. Others including Compliance and Database Coordinator, ODEI, Director, Center for Women & Gender Equity, Assistant Director, Center for Women & Gender Equity are in various committee stages.
- **Spring 2022 University/Systemwide Climate Survey Report (next steps):** Dr. Robinson discussed the data is not aggregated enough to show meaningful findings, and we will work on it with staff this summer. The aim is for focus groups to the campus in Fall 2023.
- **New Business: Safety Philadelphia Campus**
 - A discussion was held about safety issues at the Philadelphia Campus. The suggestion was generated to have a representative from that campus. Dr. Robinson addressed the climate survey's lack of identification by campus. It also addressed the various jurisdictions of law within and surrounding that campus. Town Halls with the Cabinet are held in the fall, but only on the main campus; a suggestion is to have a specific Philly Town Hall at hours better for students and staff.
 - Ronnie Wilbur is also a member of the Anti-racism Work Group (ARWG) and brought attention to the work similar to this counsel. Some of the initiatives include syllabi that reference BIPOC and are respectful and policies such as the safety issue discussed above. Dr. Robinson mentioned that having a representative from the group is an excellent idea. There was a lot of interest from those attending in the syllabi work.

ADA Committee (Matt Pierlott)

No new report

Digital Accessibility Committee (Dan Forbes & Matt Pierlott)

No new report. The committee has not met since last fall, and the proposed accessibility website that was supposed to be live at the start of the semester still is not.

IS&T and LMS Advisory Committees (Dan Forbes)

The committee met April 14. Megan Jerabek met with the committee to update on the implementation of Banner as the new student information system. All PASSHE institutions are migrating to Banner. The new system is more mobile-friendly and faster, and so more cutting-edge and user-friendly. It also has more data with better access. There's a student naming contest for the new WCU instance of the system and the

winner will be announced at Ramboree. Megan shared four guiding principles: "implement" new system with greater flexibility for future change, "innovate" the business processes rather than migrate the old ones, "integrate" people and business processes, and "inspire" us to think about how to serve students differently moving forward. Banner is already running alongside myWCU as part of the transition process. There are a lot of administration groups working on the transition. This first year has been working on the infrastructure, and now is the process of training and onboarding. There are evidently different groups at different stages of implementation. It's only now that they are beginning to select faculty for their advisory group; some have already been identified. There is a [Student System Modernization website](#) with more information. There are biweekly emails featuring "BannerBot" (looks like a purple LEGO brick) with updates. The aim is to open Fall 2024, which means much has to happen before then. Curriculum is to move to Banner by June 2023; and admissions, scheduling, registration, accounts receivable will be going live along the way.

ODLI now has office hours, some virtual and some in-person. There are upcoming ODLI events; information is available in the current email newsletter.

JT Singh gave cybersecurity updates. IS&T continues to do simulated phishing emails. Students continue to be vulnerable—almost 62% of students who received a simulated phishing email about a job offer clicked on the link in the email. These students receive a follow-up email informing them of their mistake, but there isn't currently any training directed at these students. The cybersecurity module for students in D2L still has not been completed by many students. Naomie Nyanungo suggested that students may need broader training in critical information literacy. The administration evidently has approved some increases in security monitoring. The university will be migrating from the Carbon Black security software to Cybereason; this should happen automatically without any need for intervention, evidently near July, but a university-owned computer will need to be connected to the internet for this to happen. Kevin Partridge says Cybereason is able to intervene and quarantine things in real time rather than have WCU IS&T having to assess and do it themselves. The WCU team is currently monitoring systems over the weekend and that's difficult for them; evidently this product can take action on the accounts. The DUO dual-factor authentication service will be reducing the browser trust time to 14 days (down from 30); best practice is evidently one day! So this is a compromise. Some faculty present were not happy with this, but JT pointed out that once somebody has hijacked your browser, the trust period is how long they have to make mischief using your account, and two weeks is a lot of time.

The replacement for the Ramcloud Virtual Desktop Interface is close to being settled. Faculty and student testers like the new product. The transition process will take place over the summer.

There was also some discussion about the new Turnitin [AI detection tool](#). It went live in early April. Paul Gargiulo says it is in beta; it is automatically turned on. He warned that there needs to be an ongoing conversation about use of this new tool, since it is still in the process of being developed: it should be seen as a gauge, and you can have false positives. We don't know how good the tool is at this moment, so faculty should exercise caution when evaluating the tool's reports.

Registration for the RECAP conference is live (<https://www.wcupa.edu/recap>). The first day will be a return to in-person sessions with food and schwag. There will be 17 sessions on the first day. The second day is virtual, with three keynote speakers.

Faculty Mentoring Committee (Vipanchi Mishra)

The adjunct mentoring cohorts met once this semester in March, there were 16 participants in the program (mentor-mentee combined). The FMC end of year event will take place May 8th at 4:00 PM (on campus location TBD). Associate Provost of Teaching Excellence and Innovation Dr. Naomi Nyanongo will be joining the session to recognize the mentor-mentee pairs for their participation in the program.

LGBTQA+ University Caucus (Julie Tennille)

- Liam Lair concludes his term as co-chair this spring. Thank you for your superb service, Liam! Congratulations to Meg Panichelli who will be the new co-chair of the caucus beginning in fall 2023! Meg will be serving as the faculty co-chair.
 - BLOCK event a huge success (Carrie Brennan's film) Carrie is a compelling speaker/activist and has generously attended/spoken in classes in psychology and social work
 - Subcommittees to resume their work this fall (1. Health Insurance, 2. Vendor Non-Discrimination, 3. Faculty Training Group, 4. Inclusive Language, 5. Budget & Appropriations)
-

Multicultural Faculty Commission (Meg Panichelli)

No report

Namesake Committee (Simon Ruchti)

We have been meeting weekly. We have one more set of conversations to have before we write our report and make a recommendation. It will then go to the president who will make a recommendation to the trustees. We plan to have our recommendation submitted by the end of the term, but we are still trying to meet with one last group.

Philadelphia campus (Meg Panichelli)

No report

President's Commission on the Status of Women (Michelle Wade)

Lisa Huebner, Lindsey Mosvick, and Michelle Wade met with Cabinet on 4/26 to officially present the results of the Faculty & Staff Parenting and Caregiving Survey. The discussion was good, and Tracey is coordinating a meeting with this team and the incoming chairs of the Women's Commission to discuss next steps.

The Women of Color Recruitment and Retention Committee is hosting its end-of-year celebration on May 2. The Student & Community Engagement Committee successfully placed two undergraduate interns in local nonprofits (Tailor Made and Home of the Sparrow). The Women's Commission paid each student a stipend of \$1,000 for the internship. They also had a successful panel for undergraduate students that featured

alums providing advice on navigating life after graduation. The Facilities Team continues to work with Facilities on gender neutral restrooms and providing free menstrual products. And the Women's Visibility Committee has ordered a plaque with the names of women who were honored last year for the WCU 150.

Strategic Plan (Heather Schugar)
Has not met.

Ad-hoc reps:

Associate Provost for Research & Creative Activity search (Kurt Kolasinski)
No report

Vice President for Student Affairs search (Jackie Hodes)
Four VPSA candidates were invited to campus for interviews. The interviews concluded on 4.25.23 and the search committee will be meeting on 4.27.23 to provide recommendations to the President.

Scheduling alternatives working group (Meg Mraz)
The scheduling committee has completed its charge and is now come to a close. After a six-week process to explore various scheduling templates, the scheduling committee met with many faculty groups (inclusive of faculty senate), student groups (both undergraduate, graduate, and international), and University staff. The committee distributed and collected over 300 surveys from the student body and evaluated for feedback. After careful consideration, the scheduling committee recommended a scheduling model called the nested model with two recommended "open block times" for university community gathering. This model was submitted to university administration along with compliance guidelines. Respectfully submitted, Meg Mraz

SIS Advisory Board (Sarah Lightner & Simon Ruchti)
No report yet.

CSM dean search (Julie Wiest)
The committee has been formed, and the first meeting is scheduled for May 9. After the job ad is finalized, the search firm will work to identify candidates over the summer, with interviews beginning early in the fall semester.