

## MINUTES

West Virginia University Faculty Senate

Monday, January 13, 2025, 3:15 P.M.

Location: WVU College of Law; Zoom

Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis brought the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Attendance unavailable due to a software malfunction. A manual headcount was used to confirm quorum.

1. The [Minutes](#) of the December 2, 2024, Faculty Senate meeting were approved without corrections.
2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Diana Davis
  - a. Faculty Senate leadership has met with the WVU Government Relations team to discuss the upcoming legislative session and the concerns raised at the December Faculty Senate meeting. Faculty are encouraged to monitor their emails for updates from the Government Relations Team, often in the form of the “Under the Dome” newsletter. If there are any questions, please reach out to Travis Mollohan, Eloise Elliott, or the Faculty Senate Office.
  - b. The University Promotion and Tenure Review Panel is still seeking faculty volunteers, most notably from the main campus. Interested faculty make contact Chris Staples in the Office of the Provost.
  - c. Senate leadership also continues to work with the presidential selection committee to ensure as much faculty interaction with the process as possible. More information will be released as plans are finalized.
3. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Committee on CommitteeFor Approval – Committee Appointments – [Annex I](#)Curriculum Committee

Programs for Approval:

- a. Applied Human Sciences:
  - For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: [Secondary Mathematics Education](#), Key: 1540 (Major)
  - For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: [Secondary Science Education](#), Key: 1626 (Major)
- b. Chambers:
  - New Program – NEW-TBD: [AI in HR](#), Key: 1672 (AOE)
  - New Program – NEW-TBD: [Global HR](#), Key: 1671 (AOE)
  - New Program – NEW-TBD: [People and Culture](#), Key: 1674 (AOE)
  - New Program – NEW-TBD: [Human Resource Management](#), Key: 1673 (Minor)
  - Program Change – HRMG\_BSBAD: [Human Resource Management](#), Key: 43 (Major)
- c. Eberly:
  - Program Change – DATASCI\_BS: [Data Science](#), Key: 1229 (Major)

For Approval – New Course Report – [Annex II](#)For Approval – Course Change Report – [Annex III](#)

4. Student Recruitment and Retention Committee Chair Miriam Leary reported the following committee actions:
  - a. Developed and distributed a survey designed to collect feedback from faculty advisors about their resource needs and current practices.
  - b. Reviewing of the eight-week course schedule's impact on student registration and success, with a subcommittee actively working on recommendations.
  - c. Collaboration with Sarah McCorkle from the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) to create a one-page resource on best teaching practices to promote student retention.
  - d. Coordination with Steve Hahn on strategies for faculty involvement in recruitment efforts, including feedback from professional recruiters.
  - e. Analysis of student withdrawal data, revealing that mental health challenges, financial concerns, and overall academic fit are the top reasons for students leaving WVU.
    - i. Evan Widders elaborated on survey results, noting that mental health issues account for approximately 40% of student withdrawals, with financial and academic concerns also contributing significantly.
5. Curriculum Committee Chair Darko Velichkovski reported that the committee reviewed a total of 112 course proposals and 8 program proposals.
6. General Education Foundations Committee Chair Cody Hood had no report but noted that there are courses in workflow and that the temporary pause on GEF course approvals had been lifted last semester. Hood encouraged faculty with courses that may qualify for the GEF program to submit their courses for consideration.
7. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Sheri Chisholm)
  - a. SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching) survey participation strategies were implemented based on feedback from student focus groups.
  - b. A survey was distributed to gather suggestions for new SPOT questions, with evaluated submissions incorporated as appropriate.
  - c. Ashlee Sowards was named the committee's chair-elect, to serve as chair for the 2025-2026 academic year.
  - d. A subcommittee met on December 30 to discuss the process for redacting student comments upon faculty request.
  - e. Coordination with the College of Law underway to deploy a Qualtrics survey for faculty to request comment redactions and should be distributed by the end of the week.
  - f. The committee scheduled meetings for February, March, and April to continue work on improving SPOT participation rates and collaborating with the TLC on faculty development activities.
8. Committee on Committees Chair Ilkin Bilgesu had no updates to report.
9. Board of Governors Representative Lesley Cottrell

- a. Cottrell summarized the Board of Governors' December meetings, which included updates on the presidential search timeline and the next phase of the university's IT modernization project. No decisions were made during the executive session.
- b. Cottrell was asked about the number of applicants under consideration for the presidential search. Cottrell noted that the Faculty Senate had requested this information and expected updates soon.

10. Report from Vice President for Enrollment Management Steve Hahn

[Link to Presentation Slides - PDF](#)

- a. Hahn provided detailed enrollment statistics, reporting a 16.2% increase in applications over the previous year, representing over 2,500 additional applications. Graduate and professional applications also showed growth.
- b. Hahn announced the launch of the WVU Guarantee, a “last dollar in” financial aid initiative to cover tuition and fees for qualifying West Virginia residents with a family adjusted gross income of \$65,000 or less. Faculty were encouraged to direct questions to the Faculty Senate office for coordinated responses.
  - i. Students must be first-time freshmen enrolled degree granting program, must attend one of the three WVU campuses, and complete the FAFSA each year (by Aug 1 for Fall 2025).

11. Report from Sarah McCorkle, Administrative Director of the Teaching and Learning Center

- a. McCorkle announced the opening of two new Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) locations, one at Stewart Hall and another at Evansdale Library. Faculty were invited to participate in upcoming development events posted in the TLC newsletter.
- b. The TLC is also in the process of hiring educational development staff and selecting a faculty director.

12. Report from Interim Provost Paul Kreider

- a. Successful five-year reviews and reappointments for Libraries Dean Karen Diaz and Associate Provost Evan Widders.
- b. National recognition for the Literacy Education Master’s program, including a distinction award from the International Literacy Association.
- c. Recognition of Beth Nardella for her contributions to global education and student mobility programming.
- d. Updates on the campus-wide accreditation reaffirmation process, with an open comment period and upcoming Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit.
- e. Announcement of faculty award nomination sessions scheduled for January 16.

13. No new business was introduced.

14. Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m., to reconvene on February 10, 2025.

Diana Davis  
Faculty Senate Chair

\*You may access program proposals at <https://futurecatalog.wvu.edu/programadmin/> by using your login credentials. Search for programs using the 3- or 4-digit key provided above. Course Proposals may be similarly accessed at <https://futurecatalog.wvu.edu/courseadmin>