

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

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**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 13, 2025 -- 3:45 p.m.**  
**IN PERSON**  
**Senate Chambers - DSU 2081**

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Present: M. Pruitt, K. Liang, B. Thomas, E. Kondratieff, K. Reames (for P. Otto), M. Peterson, S. Riehn, D. Clark, B. Fischer, S. Herbert, K. Smith, C. Basham, J. Logsdon, S. Flener, S. Scali, M. Crowder, J. Maddox, J. Lindsey (for J. Erickson), P. Rusli, J. Shankweiler, T. Jenkins, P. Gunter, D. Strunk, S. Leguizamon, A. Orehek (for T. Seguin), A. Jerome, Y. Petkus, K. Hudepohl (for C. Trojan), M. Salvator, S. Pollatsek, B. Elliott, M. Reece, A. Mienaltowski, L. Plumlee, J. Stewart, A. Wichman,

Guests: J. Klemm, D. Kelley, M. Kerby

A. Approval of previous months Senate Meeting:

1. [Faculty Senate Minutes 1-23-25](#)

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: Pruitt/Flener; motion passes (unanimous)

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Mac McKerral ([Report Posted](#))
2. Vice-Chair - Dan Clark

Reminder to send departmental election outcomes.

3. Secretary - Sarah Bonis

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Tracy Jenkins (Chair): (No Report)

2. Budget and Finance, Eric Kondratieff (Chair): (Reports Posted)

- a. [Jan 9, 2025 Report](#)
- b. [Feb 6, 2025 Report](#)

Motion to bundle and approve, 1<sup>st</sup> Wichman; motion passes (unanimous)

3. Colonnade/General Education, Angie Jerome (Chair): (Reports Posted)

- a. [Dec 3, 2024 Report](#)
- b. [Feb 4, 2025 Report](#)

Motion to bundle and approve, 1<sup>st</sup> Jerome; passes (unanimous)

4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Stephanie Riehn (Chair): (Reports Posted)

- a. [Jan 17, 2025 Report](#)
- b. [Feb 21, 2025 Report](#)

Motion to bundle and approve, 1<sup>st</sup> Riehn; motion passes (unanimous)

5. Graduate Council, Jeremy Logsdon (Chair): (Reports posted)

- a. [Jan 16, 2025 Report](#)
- b. [Feb 13, 2025 Report](#)

Motion to bundle and approve, 1<sup>st</sup> Logsdon; motion passes (unanimous)

6. Graduate Curriculum Committee, Whitley Stone (Chair): (Reports Posted)

- a. [Jan 9, 2025 Report](#)
- b. [Feb 6, 2025 Report](#)

Motion to bundle and approve, 1<sup>st</sup> Logsdon; motion passes (unanimous)

7. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener (Chair): (Reports Posted)

- a. [Jan 21, 2025 Report](#)
- b. [Feb 18, 2025 Report](#)

Motion to bundle and approve, 1<sup>st</sup> Flener; motion passes (unanimous)

8. [Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

Motion to approve, 1<sup>st</sup> Reece; motion passes (unanimous)

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
2. Budget and Executive Committee (BEC)
3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL)
4. ONE WKU

Kerby said that AAUP and COSFL have discussed legislation. HB4 did pass, Governor has 10 days to veto, and then senate/house has 4 days to veto that veto.

Does do away with any differential treatment on campus, does exempt curriculum (DEI, etc. tied to curriculum). "This does not affect academic freedom or the first amendment."

Question RE: Scholarship concern. If scholarships were in place before, there will be consideration. Most of the scholarships here are fine, but can't be exclusionary or earmarked to a student based on a particular identity.

Question RE: any impact on first-gen? This does not apply because it is not exclusionary.

Question RE: ISEC. This is totally okay because it is open to everyone. Includes things like neurodiversity, mental health, food pantries – just spaces that try to make sure everyone is successful.

Question RE: monetary damages. Gone from the language of the bill.

Question RE: Lavender ceremony. It's not a commencement ceremony, it's a graduation celebration (same as hooding ceremony in psych, nursing, etc.).

Question RE: suggestions for departments that have had a scholarship removed, how to approve, reword, etc. Basically, needs to be open to everyone, but can consider those elements you are targeting, but can't be the only reason to apply or that it is granted.

E. Old Business:

F. New Business:

1. [Handbook VII.A.3 Procedure for Dismissal for Cause](#)

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: Reece/Jerome, motion to approve; motion passes (unanimous)

2. [Handbook VIII.A. Faculty Grievance](#)

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: Pruitt/Flener, motion to approve; motion passes (unanimous)

3. Elections and Caucuses

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: Pruitt/Jerome, motion to suspend the rules and hold caucuses in April; motion passes (unanimous)

4. Senate BEC Appointment

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: Neely/Wichman, motion to accept nomination of Jason Bergner (in place of Kirk Atkinson who is withdrawing his seat) through the end of this academic year; motion passes (unanimous)

G. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

Board met under new meeting format. To provide clarification regarding questions Spiller has been asked across campus – Spiller is concerned about pressures we are seeing on higher education at the state and federal level. The board is supposed to look and plan for the future and legislation seems to be cutting taxes, etc. Spiller's wonder is how we will fund education in this state. Continue to tell faculty to take control of the curriculum, if you don't have the resources to do a particular program, make a change, etc. than you need to say so – what will you be cutting back on to allow this new change/course to happen?

Kurtz, Spiller, and Hammonds have unique roles on board. That is to bring perspective to the board, but Spiller thinks of them as a canary in a coal mine. Regents report that faculty/staff/students across the campus is struggling in these ways, which are patterns from many conversations. Spiller seeking more data about how academic quality has changed. He heard from an administrator who went back to faculty role and noted that it just keeps getting harder. Spiller needs data to show it is a shared experience (not an *n* of one).

Sabbaticals were approved at this meeting, Spiller encouraged more faculty to take a sabbatical.

Board meets again on May 8<sup>th</sup>. It is a committee meeting, plus special called meeting to approve promotion & tenure (has to be approved by May 15<sup>th</sup>).

Neely – do we as a body need to discuss with UCC and GCCC about revising/updating those questions on courseleaf about resource needs – yes, are we adequately supporting students, language needs to be reviewed and modified.

## 2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

If you put a new program proposal in, please be honest about what it costs/needs.

Provost is constantly asking about and talking about modernizing curriculum, applied learning, being more flexible, etc. Question for faculty to consider: do we need more programs or do we need to update those programs we have?

Zach Suriano– won NSF CAREER award, please congratulate him.

Two TOP grants presented yesterday, committee deliberating.

Honors Director position is posted, Research position has interviews completed (committee meets tomorrow to make recommendations), Assistant Provost for Student Success and Online Education advertisement went out, too.

SACSCOC left today – special thanks to Beth Laves and her team, Molly Kerby and her team with QEP. Provost was told today ‘it was a great visit.’ Will know more in December.

Continue to have discussions about health on this campus – both weighing costs and wellness overall (wellness committee established and has a broader focus than benefits).

HB424 – passed today, really about evaluating faculty and we already do a great job evaluating faculty. We are already doing the things in this bill (our evaluation process has to be approved by the board of regents – new requirement in legislation). Now sitting with the governor.

SB77 – passed today, bill to allow us to have PhDs. We met all criteria that allowed us to move forward (retention, graduation rates, etc.) The only institution to get over the mark for that. Congratulations to all. Now sitting with the governor. Still 6-8 years at least to meeting R2 status, please remind colleagues about that.

Question RE: will there be resources allocated for PhD program development? Part of the bill was that we had to identify resources and the funds will not come from existing programs, largely from strategic initiative funds that are with the president

Question RE: wellness committee, what is vision and how will it integrate with benefits committee? Vision is how do we help everyone on campus, what should we be offering, think broader.

Question RE: 6-8 years for PhDs. That is due to the requirement for the # of docs graduated in PhDs.

Question RE: wellness committee, is it for the sake of our wellness or for lowering our healthcare cost? Provost thinks it is about as an institution how we can take a broader approach to wellness and how we help people across our campus with different needs get and feel better.

Question RE: any discussion related to just doing away with a program like Vitality. Yes – Provost thinks it is up for discussion.

### 3. SGA President, Sam Kurtz

SGA March Madness currently happening on South Lawn: corn hole tournament, raffle prizes going to Heather Strode scholarship fund, etc.

Week after spring break – virtual battle of the DJs and battle of the bands, preparing student performers for a full-day of music on Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>, while SGA elections open up (8pm). Hoping it is a good way to engage with students and allow them to vote – hoping to get students to care and feel more invested in elections.

This will be Sam's last year with SGA, ending term as SGA president will end April 21<sup>st</sup>.

## H. Informational Items:

### 1. [Advising Evaluations](#)

#### a. [Advising Rubric Sample](#)

2. Todd Stewart, Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, has been invited to speak to the Senate during its April meeting.

## I. Items for the Benefit of the Body:

McKerral notes that he read about five things ER DRs want people to stop doing – riding motorized scooters was on the list. This is a big issue on campus.

## J. Motion to adjourn:

1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup>: Clark/Jerome, motion passes (unanimous).