



University Senate Executive Meeting (SEC)
Monday, October 13, 2025 -- 3:15 p.m.
Wetherby Administration Building 227
Minutes

Call to Order: Call to order at 3:20

Members Present: Mac McKerrall, Andrew Mienaltowski, Kandy Smith, Ashley Chance Fox, Missy Travelsted, Matt Pruitt, Ashley Orehek, Sheila Flener, Dan Clark, Brooke Gross, Karen Schifferdecker

Guest: Rob Hale, Bud Fischer, Shane Spiller, Rush Robison and Jennifer Hammond

A. Approval minutes of the previous month's SEC Meeting:

1. [SEC Meeting Minutes, 9.8.25](#)

1st/2nd: Pruitt/Travelsted **Motion passes unanimously.**

C. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Dan Clark

Dr. Caboni's visit went very well, and the president enjoyed his visit.

Dan to start visiting committees.

Several people want to present to the Senate.

Trio wants to give a brief presentation.

- It was suggested by Andrew Mienaltowski Trio should meet with faculty leadership in the colleges.
- Brooke: If it is informational items, have them craft an informational email
- McKerrall, we get criticized for not doing things. Turning people down can make enemies.

2. Vice Chair - Brooke Gross

- Committees have been filled that the president has asked for.
- College reps are still needed for two committees

3. Secretary - Sheila Flener

No report

D. Standing Committee Reports:

1. **Academic Quality, Missy Travelsted (Chair): (Report Posted)**
Motion to include: Travelsted; motion passes (unanimous)
2. **Budget and Finance, Eric J. Kondratieff (Chair): (Report Posted)**
Motion to include 1st/2nd Pruitt/Fox Motion passes (unanimous)
2. **Colonnade/General Education, Andrew Mienaltowski (Chair): (Report Posted)**
Motion to include Mienaltowski; motion passes (unanimous)
 - Brooke asked for a friendly amendment to be listed as a voting member not as a visitor
3. **Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Ashley Orehek (Chair): (Report Posted)**
Motion to include Orehek Motion passes (unanimous)
4. **Graduate Council, Kirk Atkinson (Chair): (Report Posted)**
Motion to include Travelsted/Clark ; motion passes (unanimous)
5. **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Ashley Fox (Chair): (Report Posted)**
Motion to include Fox; motion passes (unanimous)

7. Faculty Handbook, Mac McKerral (Chair): (No Report)

No report. Moved meeting time from 2:00 to 3:00

E. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

No report

2. Executive Budget Committee (BEC) (No Report)

Approved the resolution for the compensation pool and sent forward, might know by senate meeting

3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) / ONE WKU

No report

F. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

*Shifted schedule, so there have been no meetings.

*Perspective on the president's contract

Pruitt wanted to know how the president's compensation was determined.

Spiller: There are benchmarks to determine compensation. He went to the middle of the group from the 50%. (medium of the benchmarks) The new contract is performance-based— the previous contract was automatic. The new contract is now based on metrics. The discussion is unclear about who or how that will be done.

Spiller brought up the question “why the faculty pay is not raised to the median instead of 80% of the median?” The faculty raises are based on old data.

Pruitt: What benchmarks are being used?

Hammonds: Conference USA. Mainly

McKerral: The president stated that he has nothing to do with the budget. The president indicated that administrators get paid for their expertise. Shouldn't the faculty be paid for their expertise?

Clark: Tenure lines have been heard before; many staff and instructors do not have tenure.

Ashley: The benchmark list does not reflect WKU.

Fischer: Why do you have a list that is not us? There are no comparisons. They have worked on a new list, which will be released. They are trying to get a better handle on what they are.

Pruitt:

Spiller: The Drift of higher education is being run by professionals and not faculty, and the tension that it causes.

Brooke: Is there a best practice for hiring outside of faculty, and if so, what are the limitations?

Fischer: Yes, but it needs to go through academic affairs. You will be asked many questions.

McKerral: Several provosts before you thought Arizona State was the golden bubble, which does not look anything like WKU

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

*BEC moves compensation forward. It was discussed during the meeting but not moved forward.

*Enrollment numbers will be finalized soon.

*Need candidates for the Ombudsman position to apply.

McKerral: How many hours, 10 to 20?

Clark: The current ombudsman is Sheryl Jones. You can ask her questions

*Blanco Brown's concert is tomorrow.

*As part of Homecoming week, WKU alumni are invited back to the Hill for a unique opportunity to reconnect with campus life—by stepping back into the classroom! October 30-31st. Link: [Flood the Classroom | Western Kentucky University](#)

Fox: Is there a list of volunteer opportunities? On the homecoming website.

MaKerral: Admissions needs to have a map of where people are

3. SGA President, Rush Robinson

When Homecoming and Halloween fall on the same weekend, it cuts into merchants' profits.

The graduate SGA member has been appointed but is not a voting member.

Pink Walk is next Wednesday, the 22nd. Need guest speakers.

F. Old Business:

No

G. New Business:

No

H.

Film coordinator: Wrote for AMC.

Cultural enrichment speaker for PCAL Neuroscience from Gatton on the dying brain. CHHS book club on November 11: The anxious generation.

H. Adjourn

1st/2nd: Pruitt/McKerrall Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned. The motion passes unanimously.

Faithfully submitted: Sheila S. Flener