

## **Academic Quality Committee (AQC) Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 16, 2025, 3:45 PM

**Location:** Zoom

**Present:** Missy Travelsted- Nursing, Committee Chair, Sarah Herbert-Music, Rob Hale- Provost Office, Nancy Hulan-Education, Nadia Houchens-Public Health. Blair Thomas- Political Science, Matt Shake-Psychology, Jennifer Hammonds-Registrar, Gihan Edirisinghe-Business, Brooke Gross-Library, Jaden Marshall-SGA Rep

**Guest:** Jess Folk -Proposal presentation

**Absent:** Miranda Peterson, Nursing undergraduate program

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Missy Travelsted, who welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the meeting objectives and committee by-laws.

### **Responsibilities:**

The functions of the Committee on Academic Quality shall be:

- a. to study and monitor the changes to the grading system;
- b. to study and monitor changes in the Drop/Add policy;
- c. to study and monitor changes in advising policies;
- d. to explore additional ways to strengthen the academic culture at WKU; and,
- e. to study matters assigned to it by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

We analyze these matters carefully and report recommendations to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC). The SEC may then add our recommendations to Senate agenda. If approved by Faculty Senate, the recommendations then proceed to the Provost.

Link to the Committee on Academic Quality Bylaws:

<https://www.wku.edu/senate/documents/by-laws/academic-quality-bylaws.pdf>

### **2. Old Business**

#### ***Resolution Discussion***

The committee reviewed the Faculty Senate resolution concerning academic quality. Members noted that only certain elements (class size caps, in-person assessments, academic integrity concerns, and AI-related challenges) fell directly within the committee's purview. Brooke Gross emphasized cross-committee collaboration to link workload, compensation, and academic quality. The committee agreed to identify relevant data to guide actions before the end of the semester.

### **3. New Business**

### ***Course Schedule Change Proposal***

Guest presenter Jess Folk introduced her proposal to shift WKU to a four-day course schedule (MW/TR or MR/TF). She discussed the schedule change could improve student engagement, faculty workload balance, and recruitment, citing examples from other institutions.

Discussion points included:

- Possible scheduling and space constraints (Rob Hale, Jennifer Hammonds).
- Effects on retention and sense of belonging, especially for freshmen/commuters (Gihan Edirisinghe).
- Concerns about optics and public perception (Rob Hale, Blair Thomas).
- Need for financial impact analysis, with clarification of credit-hour costs (Jennifer Hammonds).
- Student perspectives: Jaden Marshall reported many peers already skip Fridays, suggesting a potential benefit to eliminating Friday classes.
- Opportunities for structured campus programming on the open day (Brooke Gross).

### **4. Action Items & Next Steps**

- Identify priority data points for analysis. (Rob Hale offered to facilitate access to institutional data)
- Coordinate with registrar and institutional research for scheduling/financial feasibility.
- Explore faculty and student feedback survey options.
- Report findings at October 21, 2025 meeting.
- The committee will determine priority data points to review at the next meeting.

### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM .

The next scheduled meeting is October 21, 2025, at 3:45 PM.

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**Minutes submitted by:** Miranda Peterson, DNP, RN, CNE  
**Academic Quality Committee Secretary**