



**University Senate Executive Meeting (SEC)**  
**Monday, February 9, 2026 - 3:15 p.m.**  
**Wetherby Administration Building 227**  
*Minutes*

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Present: Dan Clark, Susann DeVries, Sheila Flener, Ashley Chance Fox, Brooke Gross, Eric Kondratoeff, Mac McKerral, Andy Mienaltowski, Ashley Orehek, Kandy Smith, and Sarah Scali

Guest: Rob Hale, and Rush Robinson

Not Present: Kirk Atkinson, Robin Ayers, Sebastian Leguizamon, Matt Pruitt, and Missy Travelsted

**Call to Order: 3:20 pm**

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

- Ashley Orehek's name was inadvertently left off the attendees.

**1st/2nd: Mienaltowski/McKerral motion passes unanimously**

1. **SEC Meeting Minutes, 1.12.26**

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Dan Clark

a. **Academic Sustainability Task Force data request (Posted)**

- The data request was posted, and the first data came in late last week. They are working on the second request.
- Todd Stewart is coming to the Senate this month. The survey was sent out and only 5 responses in it. A reminder will be sent out.
  - MAC: Were there any questions concerning the payment of athletes, the universities' move to conferences, and how it will affect payment? Stewart made the state they were going to need more money.
  - Clark: The BEC perspective, they did balance their books for the last two years. The BEC is starting the budget allocation process, and it will be seen as to where monies will come from, whether it is from our budget or outside donors.

b. Committee chairs: Please give a brief update, even if you have no report. A minute update on what you have been doing.

- Looking for faculty who will consider running for Faculty regent

## 2. Vice Chair - Brooke Gross

- At-large elections will start next week. Numbers will be tweaked due to IDFS moving to PCAL.

## 3. Secretary - Sheila Flener: (No Report)

### C. Standing Committee Reports:

#### 1. Academic Quality, Missy Travelsted (Chair): (Report Posted)

##### **1st/2nd: Gross/Kondratieff, motion passes unanimously**

- Interested expressed that AI features from technologies on campus. IT states that it cannot be removed from campus technologies. Information Technology stated that it is up to the faculty to guide students into ethical practices in using AI. Different disciplines have different concerns about it.
- The committee is looking at other universities' policies. WKU does not have a policy regarding the use of AI.
  - Kondratieff: Attended a conference concerning AI. No way to ethically use AI. AI is a plagiarist machine. AI scrapes the internet and does not give references.
  - Gross: It's never ethical to copy and paste from AI. There is a way to ask for references. Those are being used more. There is a database that tracks ongoing lawsuits. She is keeping up with AI-related lawsuits. She feels that every faculty should have a policy on AI. Encourage use but inform students about the ethical or unethical uses of AI. Students should debate and come to conclusions.  
Kondratieff: People do not value the hundreds of hours that it takes to produce research. Brains are shrinking, and students will not be able to think for themselves. There are too many layers of AI-generated plagiarism.
  - Gross: WKU is having a Generative AI conference in April.
  - MAC: School of Media & Communications has formed a committee concerning AI. Steven Morrel converted AI for client representation. He gave a presentation; he uses it for creative purposes. Shana Feldman, film faculty, has passed along AI articles along with himself.

##### **2. Budget and Finance, Eric J. Kondratieff (Chair): (No Report)**

- Sent around questions for Tania Bastia, productive meeting, and he used AI on Zoom for a summary of the meeting. It is different because he was not submitting for publication.

##### **3. Colonnade/General Education, Andrew Mienaltowski (Chair): (No Report)**

- Working on a final draft for the revised program for GEN ED. Hope to have something for the Dean's at the next Colonnade meeting

#### 4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Ashley Orehek (Chair): (Report Posted)

##### **1st/2nd: Orehek motion passes unanimously**

- Proposed HR policies.
- New business has the new faculty warfare survey next week or the following week.
- Waiting for an answer concerning the syllabi on how it is accessed by the public?

- Dan: Please email Jennifer again.
- MAC: Do we need to bring a resolution forward concerning syllabi? Who is in charge, HR or Legal?
- Hale: It is not an HR decision, probably Registrar, Academic Affairs, and Legal. Faculty objections are: 1. Track facility 2. Political Hot Topics 3. Personal contact information 4. Intellectual Property 5 Social Media He thinks the legislature will want this information in the future. If you put it behind a firewall, it will cause suspicion.
- MAC: The largest issue is intellectual property.
- Orehek: Faculty personal information should not be available publicly.
- Hale: There is the TopNet syllabus where you can scrub certain information and give out the real syllabi to students.

5. Graduate Council, Kirk Atkinson (Chair): (Report Posted)

**1st/2nd: Kondratieff/McKerral, motion passes unanimously**

6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Ashley Fox (Chair): (Report Posted)

**1st/2nd: Fox, motion passes unanimously**

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

- Will meet in March and take up some problems brought up by the deans

**D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:**

**1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP) No report**

**2. Budget Executive Committee (BEC)**

- Looking at support for budget changes

**3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) / ONE WKU, No Report**

**E. Advisory Member Reports:**

**1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller**

- Shane is in Frankfurt meeting with legislators today.
- The state budget is not complete yet
- Will take questions from faculty, just reach out.

**2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer**

- In Frankfort with legislatures today was well.
- MAC: Tipton Bill targeting Tenure if your program gets smaller.
- Hale: We already have the ability to do that

**3. SGA President, Rush Robinson**

- SGA: New campus safety committee.
  - Hale: What does the committee do?

- Rush: Rising mental health crises, campus safety walk, Campus shootings, and a CPR class.
- Strategic plan evaluation, SGA can have an impact on it. Our students' heading is being revised by next week. It is due the first week in March.
- Board meeting Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. Have not seen the new housing contracts and have been told there won't be anything of it.
- Kondraiteff. Article on injured students. Have you heard anything about it?
- Rush: Has not heard anything. It is unfair to send students home when they don't have Wi-Fi.
- Kondraiteff: Can't we record the course and have it available for students to do after we come back? The policy is too restrictive and open to interpretation.
- Hale: The inclement weather policy is the most excruciating policy discussion. Any policy can be changed through a vote. Pitch ideas. We wish we could use financial aid to purchase laptops and hotspots.
- Orehek: NTI at Lindsey Wilson after the first day.
- MAC: How do we make changes to the policy? Do we send it to Academic Quality?
- Rob: It's a tricky policy because it is a university policy. Write something down and see what the provost thinks. Don't start by putting it on the floor.
- MAC: One of the problems is that part of the sidewalks is the city's jurisdiction. Someone from higher up in the university could have called the city to see if we could clear the sidewalks.
- Gross: I am not clear on the policy. The provost said we could make assignments, but it would be optional.
- Mienaltowski: CITL could develop on its website what students could do as possible assignments.
- MAC: How are we supposed to get those days back
- Hale: We need to have make-up assignments for those missed days.

#### **F. Old Business:**

#### **G. New Business:**

- The Wellness committee will be asking for volunteers for a Q & A for a focus group. It will be trickled down to students.
- Gross: Will we get an email about that?
- Yes
- Will it be given to the benefits committee?
- Fall 2026 timeline
- Discussion about Dan's beard and fashion choices

#### **H. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn Gross /? motion passes (unanimous)

Faithfully submitted: Sheila Flener