WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2023   Facilitator: Julie Wiest, President

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm   Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Location: Zoom teleconference   Type of Meeting: Scheduled meeting

Attendees

Senators

❖ Bolton, David	Present		❖ Mishra, Vipanchi	Present
❖ Brenner, Jim	Present		❖ Mraz, Megan	Present
❖ Chen, Tianran	Present		❖ Panagiotidou, Eirini	Proxy
❖ Cherry, Dan	Present		❖ Panichelli, Meg	Present
❖ Childs, Gary	Present		❖ Park, Innhwa	Proxy
❖ Cooke, Laquana	Present		❖ Pierlott, Matt	Present
❖ Daltry, Rachel	Present		❖ Razon, Selen	Present
❖ Forbes, Dan	Present		❖ Riley, Kathleen	Absent
❖ Grassetti, Stevie	Present		❖ Ruchti, Simon	Present
❖ Guerriero, Tara	Present		❖ Saboe, Matt	Present
❖ Hill, Erin	Present		❖ Sanz-Sánchez, Israel	Present
❖ Hodes, Jackie	Present		❖ Schugar, Heather	Present
❖ Houser, Mary	Present		❖ Smidt, Esther	Present
❖ Junius, Premalatha	Present		❖ Stokes, Jordan	Present
❖ Kolasinski, Kurt	Present		❖ Studlien-Webb, Gretchen	Present
❖ Lawton, Bessie	Present		❖ Tennille, Julie	Present
❖ Lightner, Sarah	Present		❖ Wade, Michelle	Present
❖ Mandel, Deborah	Present		❖ Wiest, Julie	Present
❖ Metz, Stacie	Present		❖ Wilbur, Veronica	Present

Representatives

❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Bill Sawyer	Present
❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Priya Selvarathinam	Absent
❖ APSCUF Representative: Bessie Lawton	Present
❖ Student Government Association Representative: Sarah Leszczewski	Absent
❖ Graduate Student Association Representative:	Absent
❖ ROTC Representative:	Absent

Senate Proxies

❖ Edelblute, Heather	Present
❖ Howard, Rick	Absent
❖ Kaulback, Michelle	Present

- ❖ Mohajeri, Orkideh — Absent
- ❖ O'Brien, Lia — Present
- ❖ Owens, Jackie — Present
- ❖ Patriarca, Ashley — Proxy for Eirini Panagiotidou
- ❖ Tully, Greg — Absent
- ❖ Whidden, Melissa — Proxy for Innhwa Park

Guests In Attendance

Naomie Nyanungo, Erin Knight, Sarah Campbell, Angela Howard, Linda Stevenson, Dara Dirhan, InYoung Lee, Nene Okunna, John Hess, Megan Jerabek, Trachanda Garcia, Kim Doan, Margaret Ervin

Agenda

Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

Senate Business and Announcements

1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on December 9, 2022.
   a. Bill: Motion to approve. Kurt: Seconded. Approved by all Senators present except Ronnie Wilbur (abstention).
2. Meeting updates
   a. President Chris Fiorentino and Interim Provost Jeffery Osgood
      i. Julie Wiest: We asked about enrollments. There was a lot of detail, but we fell short by 500 students for the Spring target. Most of the undergraduate shortfall was due to retention. There were fewer new and transfer students than anticipated. President Fiorentino pointed out that shortfalls compound over time because they affect future semesters. Jeff Osgood projects small declines through 2025.
      ii. Julie: We asked about why classes were canceled so late; Jeff said that priority registration is not as appealing anymore to students. Chris disagreed with some of the strategies some of the deans used including cancelling fully enrolled courses. Israel: I recall from our conversation with Fiorentino that he felt that part of what the deans did this semester was a consequence of the fact that some of these deans don't have a lot of experience managing enrollment losses (because enrollment has historically been pretty strong at WCU), so, in reacting to the enrollment losses this semester, they sometimes applied strategies that may not have been the best.
      iii. Julie: We asked about the budget impact. It is a $3.6 million hit to the budget, which is difficult to make up. They don't have data on whether it was mostly first-year students who did not come back.
      iv. Julie: We know acceptance rates have increased; we asked if this related to retention (as an issue of readiness). Jeff admitted it might be. They reiterated that GPAs and class rankings of admitted students have stayed the same over time. Simon: I got a late admit FYE group, and I could tell there was a difference in preparedness. But if they meet the same benchmarks we can't do anything about that.

v. Julie: We asked about the temporary faculty target. Jeff explained that there is a maximum faculty complement for a given semester based on student credit hours. Permanent faculty numbers are fixed, so the temporary faculty number is the only one that can shift. They have to stay within the CBA's 25% cap, but this is a different matter. We asked if we should anticipate future limits on temporary faculty; Jeff said we don't know. But he said we are nowhere near retrenchment. Bessie: He said we have a lot of wiggle room in terms of adjunct faculty because there are so many. So this protects permanent faculty. Simon: Departments like Philosophy are being asked to carry weight of a college with higher enrollments, which makes it harder to build our majors and minors. In the long term this can hurt programs like Women's and Gender Studies. We need to think about who is sacrificing in order to meet these numbers.

vi. Julie: We asked about raises in caps for courses; these caps will return to normal, and Chris emphasized that raising caps is not a strategy moving forward.

vii. Julie: We asked about housing, specifically about availability of summer housing. Jeff said they are taking several residence halls offline for badly needed repairs. Two of the USH buildings will be offline to fix geothermal system air conditioning. We will continue to house all homeless students. Chris and Jeff said they are looking at all possible options to increase housing options for fall. We all received an email from Chris earlier today and they are working on finding a place for a new residence hall. WCU will own all future housing, but they cannot do anything about USH because of bond covenants. USH beds have to be filled before university-owned housing; this agreement was made under President Adler and is binding for another twenty years. Meg: So students have to buy space USH to capacity before the campus housing fills? Julie: USH housing is more expensive. It sounds like they are stuck with it due to the contract. Meg: I didn't think we had USH housing twenty years ago. Julie: The agreement might have been as late as 2008.

viii. Julie: PASSHE update: other schools are still struggling with reduced enrollments.

ix. Julie: We asked about AI tools such as ChatGPT. Chris was unaware of this. Jeff was not well-versed enough to want to comment. He said he would have something more to share next time.

x. Julie: The VP of Student Affairs search—Chris is confident there will be a good applicant pool due to the R2 status and financial solvency of the institution. There are 112 open staff positions, so if you feel that some departments are short-staffed, this is true; he also says this is helping with budget issues. They are looking closely at all staff positions to see if they are really needed. But they will be adding to DEI because there is critical need. We asked about Accounts Payable, because some were having difficulty with reimbursements; Jeff says that should be fixed now, and folks waiting for checks should be receiving them. Jeff says Student Affairs staffing is difficult, and they will hire ten more Student Success Coordinators. We asked about the Honors College search; since it is a

faculty line we won't have a representative on the committee. They are currently crafting an ad; if you have feedback, please contact me; they are thinking about really changing the role. Julie Tennille: I've talked with faculty with who had shocking rejections of travel expenses; was there more detail about that? We had red pen marks all over our expense reports, weird alterations. Julie Wiest: Jeff said they instructed payroll staff to cut checks for what they've approved rather than reject the whole request because part was not approved, and then follow up with the rest.

    xi. Jackie Hodes: It seemed to me that there was similarity about how course cuts were made across the colleges. It seemed like the dean of our college was directed to do what they did. Also, we should have numbers about which students didn't come back; why don't we have the specifics? How else will we know what to do? I'm on the VP of Student Affairs search, and the committee is less optimistic about the applicant pool. Student Affairs has been split apart; it's going to be a hard sell where the new position doesn't have the usual portfolio of responsibility.

    xii. Gary: Did we hear anything about the qualitative data we were putting into those online training module forms? Julie Wiest: Nobody seems to know where that is going. Gary: That astounds me; we're talking about FERPA, and this is clearly a third party. Julie: And these trainings were mandated by PASSHE.

    xiii. Selen: I came across an article about software development to detect ChatGPT material. I had two advisees who dropped out because they felt a lack of support from faculty. Julie Wiest: There was a survey, and their number one reason for dropping out was trouble finding classes. Bessie: I have some of those numbers; there was difficulty getting courses, then general uncertainty, family issues, and financial issues.

3. Senate Constitution updates
   a. Julie: Senate Exec has been working on updating the Constitution for a while; the existing Constitution does not represent the body that we are. It seems like we're in a good place to get it done now. I anticipate sharing what we've done before the next meeting. I'm hoping we will be able to vote on a version at our next meeting. If approved then, it will go to the whole university faculty in a vote administered by APSCUF. We're close to having an Exec-approved version.

4. Research and Creative Activities Committee
   a. Stevie: We were working on developing a list of cumbersome research processes. One is the dual compensation process, which is requested for grant-related research. You complete a form that has to be approved by HR. Then you have to fill out an Excel sheet that goes to your college, which then goes to the Provost. It is all happening in email, and it can easily get lost or delayed. There's no clear accountability track. We'd like ideas for proposed solutions, and who we might talk to in order to get improvements to this process. Erin Hill: They prefer dual compensation to AWA. It seems like there is a lot going through OnBase now. Thanks for your work on this! Stevie: Send any other ideas to me, including which office to follow up with! Julie Wiest: I think there's another group in CSM working on this. Stevie: I was invited to this group yesterday. They have other

concerns about cumbersome processes. Julie Tennille: Everything seems to connect to the loss of staff. There are so many new people, and a lot of experienced people who are gone. Our processes are old-fashioned. I think some people are giving up on dual compensation because of the commitment.

b. Stevie: We also identified hiring student workers as another cumbersome process. There are different sorts with differing processes. And students don't know if they've been onboarded. This could use an automated routing system too. Julie Wiest: I'm happy to bring this to Jeff's attention.

c. Matt Saboe: The work-study students—there is a large amount of money, but it is difficult to identify who qualifies, including for students. If they qualify it is difficult to get them on our payroll. It took in my case over two months for the student to get paid. Each college has different finance people, and some have the institutional knowledge of what to do and others do not. They need some leadership to push on this issue.

d. Stevie: Student travel reimbursement requests are also cumbersome. Not just for students presenting at conferences, but regular travel to field sites. Students cannot complete these forms themselves, even though it includes information on where the student would prefer the check to be sent. There's an Excel file that has to be sent out for signatures, it requires proof of mileage which students cannot do themselves—it is a big implementation and labor intensive.

5. Additional announcements
   a. New library resources (Senator Gary Childs)
      i. Gary: We have two new resources. There is a new health sciences database, the Cochrane Library. We lost it, and now we have it back. It's higher level of review of the totality of literature on topics and large reports on the data. The Presser Music Library has medici.tv, which has streaming videos of classical music and opera.
      ii. Erin Hill: I'm not sure when it was added, but I love that you just need a DOI for ILLiad now! It makes it so easy to order articles. (I just noticed it recently.) Gary: Yes! That came out last semester as well! It's a really nice addition!
   b. Please submit Open Forum questions to jwiest@wcupa.edu by 5:00pm, Monday, February 27.

Dr. Angela Howard, Associate Provost for Global Engagement; Trachanda Garcia, Associate Director for Education Abroad

1. Angela: I am in my 30th year at this institution in various roles. I've led several programs abroad, studied the education system in Japan, and currently serve as Associate Provost for Global Engagement. We handle international programs and services, education abroad, language training (the English-language training programs right now have dissolved, and we are working to bring those back), exchange visitor program (we have three visiting scholars this year), and international partner development (there are continuing partnerships and new ones in the pipeline). The pandemic has presented many challenges, and had a big impact on international partners.

2. Angela: We examined our international programs in a study. In Fall 2021 we looked at the external scan from the ACE (American Council on Education) Laboratory study. We have a range of programs, and have awarded scholarships to students.
3. Angela: We have goals of increasing the number of international students; there are challenges in obtaining visas for these students. We are the only school in PASSHE that has fully opened up international travel. We want to improve access to international educational experiences, integrate global learning outcomes into curriculum and co-curriculum, and promote global awareness of research, scholarship, and learning. If you can travel abroad to help us assess our programs, please let us know.
4. Trachanda: We have many third-party affiliate programs and we are always looking for new partners. You can login to our site to see all the programs we have. We've launched our proposal process; last year 37 faculty applied, though some had to cancel those programs. Exchange programs have updated and standardized contracts, with more in the pipeline. We also do international program management for teaching, research, conferences, and performances. If you let us know if this is planned we can provide support and services for these projects.
5. Israel: Years ago there wasn't much funding for international scholars; has this changed? How long do stays have to be, and what is the process for inviting someone? Angela: This starts with the department. We can help with the meal plan, but these opportunities must come through the scholar's employer or institution. We've had scholars visit anywhere from two weeks to a year and a half.
6. Selen: Is there a possibility for clubs to travel internationally? Trachanda: Yes, clubs can travel. We'd prefer you submit a proposal, and we can work with you to help plan and accommodate that travel through affiliates and partners.
7. Julie Wiest: We have some questions submitted beforehand. The position of a faculty associate; how was this selected? Angela: In the ACE Laboratory study we found we needed a 1.5 faculty associate, and this position will be advertised.
8. Julie: Another question: the study abroad initiative dissuaded faculty from planning trips to areas not up to certain standards. Can you elaborate on this? Trachanda: That is a PASSHE requirement, and we have to abide by that, but we try to find accommodations that meet insurance criteria and standards of housing for faculty and staff.

Megan Jerabek, Senior Associate Vice President for Enrollment Systems and Services and University Registrar

1. Megan: I wanted to give an update on Navigate. This student success platform from the Moon Shot for Equity program helps us to connect with students or about students. It is a single place for us to work, gives us communication tools like texting and push notifications. It helps us to identify where students are struggling, and provides a case management tool to make sure students can access resources they need. This tool has a high impact on student success.
2. Megan: We did add/drop attendance reporting; we had over 80% participation this semester.
3. Megan: For Spring 2023 we are rolling out an invitation to use Navigate for making appointments with students to facilitate Fall 2023 registration. We are rolling out the tools for advising. Career Services will be onboarded soon.

4. Megan: Faculty appointment scheduling using Navigate has improved appointment attendance and increased use of office hours. Students can select the category of support they need and the service they want to connect with faculty about. We would like feedback about the categories and the classifications. There are default appointment lengths, though this can be adjusted. There is a student self-service function that students can initiate in Navigate, where they can see when faculty are available. There is also a faculty Personal Availability Link, which you can include in your email signature. Finally, there is an Appointment Campaign where faculty can reach out to students to schedule appointments. You get to choose the appointment length, and these are particularly effective in engaging appointment management.

5. Simon: I tried using this last semester, and it told students they could schedule wherever I wasn't booked, and I couldn't control what times they could schedule. Megan: There are two steps. First link the Outlook calendar. Then set your availability; you can set different times of availability for different sorts of services. You have full control if you take this second step. I'll send more information about that.

6. Gary: Can you differentiate between in person or online? Megan: You can specify that through availability.

7. Ronnie: My list of students is never the same as what appears in myWCU. Megan: It only tells you the students who are enrolled in classes currently; you can change the filter to show all of your students regardless of enrollment.

8. Julie Wiest: Are there independent assessments of EAB's claims? Megan: I'll look into that.

9. Megan: We are also seeking to improve case management. But in the fall we did not have improvement in engagement with student support services. We had close to 8,000 cases, which shows faculty are using the system. We are focusing on timeliness, multiple modes of contacting the student, and escalation strategies for addressing when students do not engage. The Student Success & Engagement Team deals with academic success, while CARE Team deals with disruptive behavior.

10. Megan: Navigate has advising tools including Student Profile (which includes what is happening currently in their courses), text and push notifications, appointment scheduling, appointment summaries and advising notes (which are visible to students now), and referrals to support services. We are only doing an appointment campaign right now; there is also an enrollment campaign that will be handled centrally, and a messaging campaign.

11. Julie Wiest: Can faculty have access to a dummy student account so that we can see the student perspective? Megan: Currently we cannot do that. We've learned with the upcoming Banner system it will have that functionality. Simon: We've been trying to show students how to use Navigate, and we can violate FERPA if we show other student accounts. Megan: We do have a dummy account in a non-production environment we can show in a classroom situation.

12. Ronnie: We've been told we cannot use texting. How are you doing this? Megan: We discourage texting because we don't want to encourage you to share your personal phone number, and students need to opt in. The text will come from a generic WCU number that complies with what they've opted into. If the student does not opt into texting they will get the message in their email. Ronnie: How is this marketed to graduate students? This is focused on undergraduates, and there's a lot of redundancy. Megan: We're marketing the mobile application to students; we engaged students to help us to direct this marketing. We recognize that the marketing will need to be different for undergraduate and graduate students. About

the redundancy, we are trying to create some consistency in the student experience, one central place for students to navigate the institution. Right now things are messy, and we're working on it.

13. Julie Wiest: Will advising notes in myWCU be migrated to Navigate? Megan: No. And this is an issue because myWCU is going away. But these notes will not be lost in the immediate future.
14. Julie Wiest: Where do the text responses from students go? Megan: To your WCU email inbox. Julie: Can the link for appointments we provide go to students in clubs? Megan: Yes and no. You have to be instructor of record or advisor for them to request an appointment. But with the appointment campaign link you can send out because that works differently.
15. Julie Wiest: Why extend the waitlist period past the day classes started? Megan: It used to be that students were cut off before the start of the semester. We have noted that student behavior has shifted concerning enrollment. Students are waiting for class cancellations or purges to happen, and then slip into seats. Jim Brenner: I received emails from students or their advisors about being added to courses because they need them for graduation, and there were students on the waitlist already. This puts us in a bad position, and it needs to be addressed. Megan: I don't think this is a new problem. We will need to be more strategic than our technology. The waitlist doesn't necessarily restrict us if the student is in a different situation like needing the course to graduate.
16. Megan: Please try things out and give us feedback!

Liaison Reports

1. ADA Committee – Senator Matt Pierlott – Let me know if you have issues you want me to bring up with the committee. Simon: We're supposed to be using transcription if we use PowerPoint. But PowerPoint censors out language; that can be difficult in my classes.
2. ADA Digital Accessibility Committee – Senator Dan Forbes
3. Alumni Association – Adjunct Faculty Representative Bill Sawyer – No report.
4. APSCUF Exec Representative – Senators Bessie Lawton – Bessie: APSCUF won arbitration for other PASSHE faculty who were retrenched. There was a syllabus statement that was going around because of increased class sizes that students should expect less feedback; Jeff discouraged that because of possible social media backlash. Julie: The administration is planning additional open forums to discuss enrollment issues at APSCUF's request. Bessie: The email just came out.
5. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
6. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
7. Campus Climate Intervention Team – Senator Simon Ruchti
8. Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence – Senator Ronnie Wilbur
9. Faculty Mentoring Committee – Senator Vipanchi Mishra
10. IS&T and LMS Advisory Committees – Senator Dan Forbes
11. LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Senator Julie Tennille
12. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – No current liaison
13. Multicultural Faculty Commission – Senator Meg Panichelli
14. President's Commission on the Status of Women – Senators Michelle Wade, Meg Panichelli, and Sarah Lightner
15. Strategic Plan – Senator Heather Schugar
16. Student Government Association – Sarah Leszczewski

17. Search committees:
    a. Associate Provost for Research and Creative Activity – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
    b. Executive Director and Registrar – Senator Simon Ruchti

Committee Reports

1. Faculty Welfare/Ethics – Senators Matt Pierlott (co-chair), Ronnie Wilbur (co-chair), Tara Guerriero, Erin Hill, Mary Houser, Bessie Lawton, Eirini Panagiotidou, Meg Mraz, Stacie Metz, Esther Smidt, Michelle Wade
2. Student Welfare – Senators Selen Razon (chair), Dan Cherry, Rachel Daltry, Dan Forbes, Jackie Hodes, Jim Brenner, Meg Panichelli, Simon Ruchti
3. Membership & Elections – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez (chair)
4. Communications – Senator Erin Hill (chair)
5. Research and Creative Activities – Senators Matt Saboe (co-chair), Stevie Grassetti (co-chair), Bill Sawyer, Gary Childs, Laquana Cooke, Debi Mandel, Heather Schugar, Israel Sanz-Sánchez, Sarah Lightner, Innhwa Park, Gretchen Studlien-Webb, Julie Tennille, Tienran Chen

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

❖ President – Senator Julie Wiest
❖ Vice President – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
❖ Recording Secretary – Senator Dan Forbes
❖ Corresponding Secretary – Senator Erin Hill
❖ At-Large Members – Senators Kurt Kolasinski and Julie Tennille
❖ Immediate Past President – Senator Bessie Lawton
❖ Past Presidents – Senators Jim Brenner and Heather Schugar

Senate Meetings 2022-23

Fall 2022
(all meetings via Zoom)

❖ Friday, September 9, 3-5pm
❖ Friday, October 14, 3-5pm
❖ (Open Forum) Monday, October 31, 2-3pm
❖ Friday, December 9, 3-5pm

Spring 2023
(all meetings via Zoom)

❖ Friday, February 10, 3-5pm
❖ (Open Forum) Thursday, March 2, 2-3pm
❖ Friday, March 24, 3-5pm
❖ Friday, April 28, 3-5pm

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership & Elections (Israel Sanz-Sánchez)
No report

Communications (Erin Hill)
No report

Faculty Welfare (Matt Pierlott & Ronnie Wilbur)
Joan Woolfrey reached out to the co-chairs about a meeting to brainstorm about the anti-bullying "policy" that we see on the HR website. 2/22 at 11am will be the meeting room to be determined.

We are still planning to meet with the Mentoring Committee to find ways to help junior and senior faculty with these issues. The initiative is a leftover from the fall. The chair of the mentoring committee is a colleague of R. Wilbur, who will reach out.

Student Welfare (Selen Razon)
No report

Research & Creative Activity (Stevie Grassetti & Matt Saboe)
We have continued to provide feedback to ORSP on the faculty research survey. Survey is planned to launch in the next month or so and we are generating ideas to encourage participation. We have identified cumbersome research processes and shared this with ORSP. We plan to bring some of the items to the full senate to facilitate discussion about next steps for improving processes.

LIAISON REPORTS

APSCUF Exec Rep (Bessie Lawton)
Report given in meeting

Alumni Association (Bill Sawyer)
No report; haven't met.

Budget Review Committee (Kurt Kolasinski)
First meeting in a while should be held Thursday, February 23, 2023.

Sustainability Advisory Council (Kurt Kolasinski)
Join **Veg Out** and **Net Impact WCU** on **Thursday, February 16th** at **8pm** to learn about alternative protein with **The Good Food Institute's Academic Community Coordinator, Asia Sheehab.** The event will take place in the **Business and Public Management Building, Room 212** with food provided. RSVP on RamConnect using https://ramconnect.wcupa.edu/veg/rsvp_boot?id=1884325

Another exciting round of presentations is getting under way as the Sustainability Research and Practice Seminar returns for the Spring 2023 semester! These weekly seminars are hosted on Wednesdays during the lunch hour, 12pm to 12:50pm. The Sustainability Research and Practice Seminar is hosted in Sykes 255 A/B and on Zoom, link below.
https://wcupa.zoom.us/j/98607753162?pwd=dm4wbDFnMjFNMW5ncWo1T2diajZLQT09
Meeting ID: 986 0775 3162
Passcode: 878376
2/15/23
Professor Jen Maresh, Biology - *Saving the Eastern Gray Whale: How Science, Industry, and the Public are Coming Together to Protect a Critically Endangered Species from Oil & Gas Activities*

Campus Climate Intervention Team (Simon Ruchti)
No meeting since last Fac Senate meeting

Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence (Ronnie Wilbur)
There is nothing to report, we have not met yet this spring.

ADA Committee (Matt Pierlott)
o **OSSD** - David Thomas & IS&T are working on the summer launch of **Accommodate**. Training will be provided to faculty prior to Fall 2023. Renovations to the **Proctoring Center** are underway, and a 2nd Proctoring swing space has been identified in the Library. David Thomas is working to connect with students needing accommodations when they register for **field placements/clinical experiences**, and is hoping students will be directed to OSSD when they complete their background checks/clearances.
o **Residence Life** – Res Life is working with campus partners on the **Exceptions/Exemptions to Housing, Dining and Parking Policy** and streamlining the **Emotional Support Animal** approval process. Additionally, Res Life is addressing the **housing selection process** (to be released in the spring for incoming students) and is challenged by the limited housing stock. A review of current and potential housing stock is also underway.
o **Library** – Kate Manwiller and Walt Cressler worked with David Thomas (OSSD) to create a distinction for **disability-related scholarship** in our online repository **Digital Commons**: Disability Research & Creative Activities @WCU page. The goal is to have one place to gather the various disability work happening across campus. Check it out!

o **ODEI** – Lynn Klingensmith shared that the launch of a **portal to report accessibility issues** is on hold pending a review from PASSHE legal. Meg Hazel recently facilitated **ADA Training** for the Human Resources/Labor Relations staffs, and facilitated **Implicit Bias Training** for Conduct officers. Feedback from the training was positive! Meg Hazel is drafting an **Accessible Bus** proposal for President's Cabinet to review, including user data and cost projections for a WCU internal fleet, and a suggestion was to include **golf carts** to ensure a timelier response to requests.

o **Guest Presenters:** Honors students, Colby and Noah presented their capstone project, **WCU Accessibility Map**, which entailed an extensive review and "mapping" of campus facilities and spaces. The current WCU map did not reflect several changes to the campus (facilities, and internal changes to buildings) and did not include the identification of accessibility features. Their capstone project was a herculean effort and the committee was impressed with their extensive review and passion for this project.

Digital Accessibility Committee (Dan Forbes & Matt Pierlott)
No report; committee has not yet met for spring, and the test accessibility information website is not yet public.

IS&T and LMS Advisory Committees (Dan Forbes)
No report for LMS Advisory Committee.

IS&T Faculty Advisory Committee met Feb. 10, 2023. IS&T reports that the loaner laptop program is continuing to support students and temporary faculty who need access to technology. The student end of this program is linked to MSE. IS&T intends to continue to develop this program; if you are aware of students or temporary faculty who need access to loaner laptops please make them aware of the program.

The existing RamCloud cloud computing platform is in the process of being replaced. It requires a client app and doesn't work well with older devices or Chromebooks. IS&T is demoing a platform called Apporto, which is exclusive to higher education applications. It is browser-based and does not require client software. It runs software virtually, with processing load handled by servers rather than the student's device. This enables, for example, access to 3D modeling software even when using a device that is older or has lower processing power. It can provide Windows or Mac desktop environments as needed. Apporto also can be integrated into D2L as an "External Learning Tool." IS&T is currently demoing Apporto, and are looking for faculty who are interested in helping evaluate and test this platform. If you are interested contact Theresa Friedman (tfriedman@wcupa.edu) or Paul Gargiulo (pgargiulo@wcupa.edu).

The annual RECAP instructional technology conference for 2013 is returning to being held in-person on May 17, with a second virtual day on May 18. Proposals for presentations are due March 1, 2023. For more information consult the RECAP website (https://www.wcupa.edu/recap/).

The 8th Annual Teaching with Technology Excellence Showcase and Award will be held on March 3rd in Sykes Ballroom from 11:30am – 1:30pm. Note that in the past it has been held in May, but has been moved earlier in the semester this year. The morning will be

devoted to poster presentations on faculty use of technology in instruction, and the afternoon will have a reception, a keynote from Dr. Naomie Nyanungo, Associate Provost for Learning and Teaching Innovation, and finally a roundtable discussion. The event is designed so that you can come and go as your schedule permits.

I asked the IS&T folks what they would like to know from faculty about their concerns surrounding new AI text-generation tools such as ChatGPT. JT Singh pointed out that the ServiceNow platform uses a chatbot and has been a game-changer for tech support at WCU, so this technology has benefits as well as disadvantages. IS&T has been having discussions about this technology, and they have also been considering the longer-term questions considering that this technology is continuing to develop quickly. Naomie Nyanungo noted that there will be some forums on February 14 and 15 to solicit faculty input about their concerns (and hopes) for this technology. JT and Paul Gargiulo both have experimented with ChatGPT to see what it is capable of; they seem to perceive it as tool for information collation that requires the user to carefully evaluate the output. A number of committee members present, including some faculty, compared the reaction to ChatGPT to the reaction to the development of consumer-grade graphing calculators that changed how math is taught. So there are already a diversity of perspectives on the significance of these new AI tools for pedagogy and assessment.

Faculty Mentoring Committee (Vipanchi Mishra)
The FMC hosted its first event of the semester "feed the body feed the soul" work-life balance strategies on February 6th in SECC Food Lab.The session was focused on discussing work life balance strategies that may be helpful in dealing with work demands.

LGBTQA+ University Caucus (Julie Tennille)
Met on 2/6/2023.
General: Over past two years, the caucus has laid the groundwork for functioning subcommittees (see below) via conducting preliminary research in the designated areas of 1) **Vendor non-discrimination**, fostering 2) **Inclusive language** for persons identifying as LGBTQIA, providing quality 3) **Student health** care that signals competency and inclusivity, and 4) **Faculty training**.
Budget & appropriations: The LGBTQIA Caucus now has a budget and is seeking greater visibility on campus. To that end, we would like to sponsor events where our name/logo is visible on event advertising materials. If you or your departments/programs are planning /hosting events related to LGBTQIA+ topics/issues, please reach out to the Caucus or Leigh Robinson with details for possible sponsorship.

Multicultural Faculty Commission (Meg Panichelli)
MFC plans are on stand-by due to management issues since last semester and the director is unable to communicate directly with faculty…in a way that is unlike any other committee on campus. This reason is because we are unable to target and outreach to individuals based on race.

Namesake Committee (Simon Ruchti)
Now that a policy is in place to change names for buildings like Schmucker, we will have our first meeting to discuss the name of that building on February 22. I'm being vague only because I don't know the proper language to explain the process. :)

President's Commission on the Status of Women (Michelle Wade & Meg Panichelli)
The Commission will be presenting the Caregiving Report to Cabinet later this month. Two undergraduate students have been selected to intern at Tailor Made Life and Home of the Sparrow. They will receive a stipend from the Commission.

Strategic Plan (Heather Schugar)
Strategic Plan has not met.

Search committees:

Executive Director & Registrar (Simon Ruchti)
We are bringing a candidate on campus Wednesday the 22nd. More details will be coming. We had given an offer to a candidate during the last round, but she had to turn us down at the last minute. The committee is working hard to fill the position so things are moving quickly at times. We are trying to keep the campus community up to date as soon as things change.

Associate Provost for Research & Creative Activity (Kurt Kolasinski)
No report

Vice President for Student Affairs (Jackie Hodes)
The search firm (Greenwood Asher) held listening sessions at the end of January. The search is moving quickly. Airport style interviews will be held on March 20/21 but instead of being held at the actual airport, they are hosting candidates in West Chester so they can become more familiar with the area. Interviews will be held in April. As soon as the dates for on-campus interviews are solidified, I will keep Senators informed. Please try to make time to participate in the open fora once scheduled. Thank you!