

WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: 4.26.2024

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Israel Sanz-Sánchez, President

Note Taker: Selen Razon, Recording Secretary

Type of Meeting: Scheduled meeting

Attendees

Senators

❖ Benedict, Kristopher	Present	❖ Metz, Stacie	Absent
❖ Bolton, David	Absent	❖ Mishra, Vipanchi	Present
❖ Brenner, Jim	Present	❖ Mohajeri, Orkideh	Present (New Senator)
❖ Chen, Tianran	Present	❖ Mraz, Megan	Present
❖ Cherry, Dan	Present	❖ Panagiotidou, Eirini	Present
❖ Childs, Gary	Present	❖ Panichelli, Meg	Present
❖ Cooke, Laquana	Absent	❖ Park, Innhwa	Absent
❖ Daltry, Rachel	Present	❖ Pierlott, Matt	Absent
❖ Du, Wei	Absent	❖ Razon, Selen	Present
❖ Forbes, Dan.	Present	❖ Ruchti, Simon	Present
❖ Garthwait, Clayton	Present	❖ Sanz-Sánchez, Israel	Present
❖ Grasseti, Stevie	Absent	❖ Sawyer, William	Present
❖ Guerriero, Tara	Present	❖ Schugar, Heather	Present
❖ Hill, Erin	Present	❖ Selvarathinam, Priya	Absent
❖ Hodes, Jackie	Present	❖ Smidt, Esther	Present
❖ Houser, Mary	Present	❖ Stokes, Jordan	Absent
❖ Junius, Premalatha	Present	❖ Tennille, Julie	Present
❖ Kolasinski, Kurt	Present	❖ Wade, Michelle	Present
❖ Kaulback, Michelle	Present (New Senator)	❖ Watkins, Karen	Absent
❖ Lawton, Bessie	Present	❖ Waymouth, Heather	Present (New Senator)
❖ Lightner, Sarah	Present	❖ Wiest, Julie	Present
❖ McInnis, Daris	Present (New Senator)	❖ Wilbur, Veronica	Present

Representatives

❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Bill Sawyer	Present
❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Priya Selvarathinam	Absent
❖ APSCUF Representative: Bessie Lawton (Alternate: Julie Wiest)	Present
❖ Student Government Association Representative: Caleb Winters	Present
❖ Graduate Student Association Representative: Amah Ensume	Absent
❖ ROTC Representative: Salamatu Dumbuya	Absent

Senate Proxies

❖ Edelblute, Heather	Not present
❖ Howard, Rick	Present-proxying for Wei Du
❖ Kaulback, Michelle	Present (Newly elected senator)
❖ Mohajeri, Orkideh	Present (Newly elected senator)
❖ O'Brien, Lia	Present-proxying for Karin Watkins
❖ Owens, Jackie	Present-proxying for Innhwa Park
❖ Patriarca, Ashley	Present-not proxying

- ❖ Tully, Greg Not present
- ❖ Van Liew, Maria Not present
- ❖ Whidden, Melissa Not present
- ❖ Kruger-Ross, Matthew Not present
- ❖ Southerton, Emily Present-proxying for David Bolton

Other Attendees:

- ❖ Ervin, Margaret
- ❖ James, Tammy
- ❖ Jussaume, Tim
- ❖ Sylvester, Paul
- ❖ Heckert, Megan-representing research liaison

Guests In Attendance

Timothy Jussaume: Honors College Director

Naomie Nyanungo: Associate Provost for Learning & Teaching Innovation

Angela Howard: Associate Provost for Global Engagement

Agenda

Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

Guest: Timothy Jussaume: Honors College Director

Timothy Jussaume, the Honors College Director, presented on the Honors College's mission, curriculum, and opportunities for faculty involvement. He emphasized inclusivity in defining honor students beyond traditional metrics like high SAT scores and GPAs. He also emphasized that the Honors College aims to foster excellence through diverse pathways, including a focus on leadership, community engagement, and global perspective. Concerning the inclusive definition of honor students, Jussaume stressed the importance of broadening the definition of honor students beyond academic achievements to encompass diverse forms of excellence and potential for growth. He outlined three pathways for students to participate in the Honors College: the core pathway, the bridge pathway, and the seminar pathway. Each pathway offers a unique experience, with opportunities for residential engagement, interdisciplinary seminars, and flexible course options.

Regarding faculty engagement, Jussaume highlighted the importance of faculty involvement in teaching honors seminars. He encouraged faculty to propose innovative courses that engage students across disciplines and promote experiential learning. He also discussed the application process for faculty to teach honors seminars and emphasized the need for diverse course offerings. He also emphasized the value of transformative experiences, such as travel classes and partnerships with institutions like Nobel, to enhance students' learning and cultural understanding. Next, Jussaume discussed the Honors College's initiative to support students in applying for competitive graduate fellowships like Fulbright, Rhodes, and Truman scholarships. He emphasized the need for faculty support in guiding students through the application process.

During the Q&A portion of the presentation, the following questions were addressed:

1. **Criteria for teaching honors seminars:** Jussaume outlined the criteria for faculty proposing courses in the Honors program. He mentioned that they are looking for diversity among faculty from various colleges, standout, and engaging course ideas that involve experiential learning, creativity, and risk-taking. Courses should not have prerequisites and should be accessible to students from different majors.
2. **Number of honors seminars:** Jussaume discussed that currently, the Honors College offers approximately 7 to 8 seminars per semester. The number may vary based on student enrollment and interest. The seminars are typically at the 300 level and are interdisciplinary with an emphasis on creating a transformative learning experience.
3. **Funding for student experiences:** The Honors College allocates funds to support student experiences, particularly for travel courses. Jussaume emphasized the importance of equity in providing these opportunities and ensuring access to all students, regardless of financial constraints.
4. **Identification of potential honors students:** Identifying students who may not initially see themselves as candidates for the Honors program is a challenge. The approach includes messaging during the admissions process, interviews with prospective students, and outreach to local high schools. Additionally, word-of-mouth recommendations from faculty and staff play a crucial role in encouraging students to consider the Honors program.

Guest: Naomie Nyanungo: Associate Provost for Learning & Teaching Innovation

Nyanungo expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share the work of the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) over the past year and their plans for the future. She highlighted that the TLC sees itself as a resource for faculty and anyone else on campus involved in teaching-related activities. She outlined the key areas of focus for the TLC, starting with teaching with AI. She explained that they provided resources, hosted webinars, and created student resources to help the community adjust to the integration of AI into teaching and learning.

Nyanungo discussed the launch of the Program for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (PETAL) aimed at incoming faculty, as well as the Teaching Excellence Network, which involved representatives from all colleges and schools to discuss teaching excellence at Westchester University. She also emphasized efforts towards inclusive and equitable teaching, including a faculty learning community and workshops on proactive accessibility to address accommodation

requests from students. Other initiatives highlighted included a new RFD format and the pilot of the D2L homepage template, both aimed at enhancing teaching and learning experiences. Nyanungo also discussed event highlights such as Faculty Fusion, book clubs, and the upcoming Celebration of Teaching. She also mentioned new initiatives like faculty learning communities, teaching squares, and student-faculty teaching collaboration.

Additionally, Nyanungo touched upon the pathways to excellence program and special projects like increasing textbook affordability with Open Educational Resources (OER) and exploring classroom technology for active learning. Looking ahead, she outlined TLC's priorities for the upcoming year, including better cataloging of services and resources, expanding outreach to engage more faculty, and assessing the impact of their programs.

During the Q&A session, the following questions were addressed below questions:

1. Faculty reactions to AI integration: Nyanungo acknowledged that reactions varied across the spectrum. Some faculty members were enthusiastic and fully embraced AI, while others expressed unease and preferred to keep it at arm's length. However, she noted that the majority of faculty were somewhere in the middle, still grappling with understanding AI's implications for teaching and learning. A common concern among faculty was the need to adapt assessments to ensure they effectively evaluate students' skills considering AI's influence on traditional assessment methods.
2. Continuation of initiatives like teaching squares: Nyanungo provided insight into the positive feedback received informally from participants and indicated that a formal wrap-up meeting was scheduled. Based on initial feedback and participation levels, it was likely that initiatives such as teaching squares would continue into the next academic year. She highlighted that there were plans to expand such programs, with teaching triangles being mentioned as an evolution of the concept, indicating ongoing efforts to foster peer learning and reflection among faculty.
3. Availability of resources for faculty: Nyanungo discussed that resources such as the module on navigating digital learning with AI were accessible to faculty as well as students. She further extended an invitation for faculty interested in familiarizing themselves with AI tools to participate in upcoming summer sessions, emphasizing the center's commitment to providing support and guidance.
4. Clarification of acronyms used: Nyanungo expanded explanations of the acronyms used, such as PETAL (Program for Excellence in Teaching and Learning) and OSD (Online Faculty Development). She acknowledged the importance of clarity in communication and committed to providing more detailed explanations in future presentations to ensure accessibility and understanding.
5. Collaboration opportunities and special projects: Senators were invited to collaborate on special projects, and Nyanungo expressed interest in engaging more faculty members. She emphasized the center's openness to partnerships and highlighted ongoing initiatives like increasing textbook affordability with OER and exploring classroom technology for active learning.

Guest: Angela Howard: Associate Provost for Global Engagement

Howard provided an in-depth overview of the university's efforts in promoting global engagement and supporting international students and scholars. She highlighted the importance of her office's work in providing resources and opportunities for faculty to contribute to campus internationalization. Four main areas of responsibility were highlighted:

1. International programs and services that constitute a significant portion of their work and involve tasks such as processing immigration documents, assisting with employment authorizations, and helping international students obtain government documents like Social Security numbers and driver's licenses.
2. Compliance: Howard emphasized the importance of compliance, as her office is responsible for accurately recording international students' information in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). They also handle recertification and redesignation applications for the institution to continue admitting international students and scholars.
3. Education abroad: Howard discussed the various opportunities available for students to study abroad, including faculty-led programs, affiliate programs, and exchange programs. She highlighted the immersive nature of exchange programs and the administration of scholarships to support students.

4. Visiting scholars: Hower explained the process for facilitating scholarly visits, including issuing the necessary documentation and assisting with housing arrangements. She emphasized the ease of the scholar program and provided resources for faculty interested in hosting visiting scholars.

Several new initiatives from GEO were included:

- Passport acceptance facility: The university was designated by the Department of State to accept passport applications, providing a valuable service to the university community.
- Global Engagement Center: The center, located on the fourth floor of Mitchell Hall, aims to enhance international students' sense of belonging by providing various resources.
- Sustainability efforts: Howard discussed efforts to offset carbon emissions generated by study abroad programs and partnerships with green campuses among affiliate programs.

During the Q&A session, the following questions were addressed:

1. Facilitating international scholar visits: Faculty typically reach out to GEO to initiate such visits. The main challenge often revolves around housing arrangements for visiting scholars, as they are usually sponsored by their institutions. Howard assured that the process is straightforward, with the GEO offering office space for international scholars.
2. Obstacles in study abroad programs: The GEO was tasked with restarting study abroad amid pressure from various stakeholders since 2021. Despite the turbulence, including limited vendors and an RFP process, GEO has emphasized progress with a policy framework, more vendors, and a forthcoming custom profile system for faculty-led programs, anticipating smoother operations.
3. Trends in international student enrollment: Addressing concerns about international student enrollment, Howard highlighted a decline attributed to embassy operations' limitations and students' multiple offers, leading to cautious decisions. While acknowledging the decline, she expressed optimism and efforts to enhance recruitment, citing 80 immigration documents issued for Fall as a positive sign.

Senate Business and Announcements

1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on 3.29.2024

Minutes approved.

2. Senate Executive Committee elections, 2024-2025: Candidate presentation and ballot distribution (Dan Forbes, Vice-President, and Membership & Elections committee chair)
3. Meeting updates:

Meeting with Interim Provost Osgood and Interim Deputy Provost Bacon: Tuesday, April 16, 9:00-10:00 am in person
Meeting with President Fiorentino: Wednesday, April 3, 2:00-2:30 pm, on Zoom.

1. Summer and fall enrollment update - figures and RamPortal-related experience

Prov/DepProv: A little behind for summer, but Fall looks great, ahead of projections. Registrar's Office has been applying a plan in connection to RamPortal contingencies. Senate: There are concerns from faculty about some measures, like the release of holds for some students bypassing advisors. DepProv: Advisor release is only on a case-by-case basis. There was a registration rally on April 15, admin received positive feedback from students, they feel like students feel supported. Also, re: future plans for enrollment, administration would like to increase grad enrollment and decrease first-year a little bit, the goal is to increase grad over 3,000 students (for context, PennWest has more grad students than we do). But we're not developing new programs.

Pres: Not asked.

2. FAFSA form delay update

Prov/DepProv: The form is ready, but the issue now is that the federal government is still calculating the "student aid index", basically who becomes eligible for grants. Provost's Office met with federal ed officials in DC, the government was still on a Cobol computer system which is now being updated. The university is also waiting on the ISIR reports about student's eligibility for grants provided by the federal government, a lot of the files that were received are incorrect. Merit-based scholarships have been pushed out, needs-based help has not been released. We're looking to release those need-based letters in second week of May. The Provost's Office is not worried about losing students, because every other university in the US is in the same situation. There might even be some positive effects for this year. For instance, some students that may have gone to PennState were getting in because they were not submitting SAT scores, but now that some of those universities are requiring these scores, that might benefit us (WCU is not planning on reinstating SAT scores). We are moving deadlines for first year commitments.

Pres: Not asked.

3. RamPortal transition - perspective by admin.

Prov/DepProv: Students feel mostly ok, faculty not so. The things that the Registrar's Office cannot change are about the functionality with Ellucian, but we are going to keep working on finding shortcuts or alternatives. But "it is true that we have lost some functionalities", and we want to figure out what we can salvage or find an alternative for. The Registrar's Office is planning on publishing a list of what's being worked on, so people don't have to request the same fixes again. This shift is putting stress on other parts of the University: for instance, a lot of help tickets going to ServiceNow/IT, like getting students into specific classes (but always with department permission), which used to be things that could be done on PeopleSoft.

Pres: Not asked.

4. Registration Contingency plan from Registrar's Office.

[Background: Senate shared feedback with Registrar's Office about Contingency Plan as requested by the Registrar's Office, but the feedback was not incorporated]. *Prov/DepProv:* They hear Senate's concerns, they have been working with the Registrar's Office to make sure communications are clear in terms of language and purpose.

Pres: Not asked.

5. Ombudsperson position revision.

Prov/DepProv: We want to engage Senate in a revision of the position now that it's been in place for three years. There will be a small stipend for somebody from Senate, preferably Senate Exec, to work on it during the summer, together with Joan, Vicky and possibly APSCUF. There will be a call for applications in early fall, with a Spring 2025 start for the new term. The current Ombudsperson and Alternate may apply. The Provost will be asking Joan to distribute a survey to collect faculty feedback about the position to use as preparatory data for the work group.

Pres: Not asked.

6. Status on policies coming from negotiation with APSCUF (temporary records, research misconduct, academic integrity).

Prov/DepProv: Academic integrity will not come to m&d because CAPC is already working on it. Bill (Helzlsouer, from HR) is going to list all policies they are working on and get that list to shared governance. There is also interest on developing a policy on how faculty should use their voice but not present it externally in a way that may be interpreted as representing WCU faculty as a whole (to comply with the CBA), and admin want put a group together with shared governance representation, including Senate, to work on this policy.

Pres: Not asked.

7. Facilities masterplan process: Is the contracted company listening to the Steering Committee?

Pres: The process had a rocky start, there has been a change in the point of contact with the company, but the source of the issue has been identified and the company is now aware that they have to listen to and include the steering committee in the process. "They will do what we ask them to do."

Prov/DepProv: A lot of space is sitting empty with less faculty presence on campus. With the increase on online and hybrid course offering, and now that the new CBA is allowing for student consultation hours to happen all online, a legitimate question is whether all space currently allocated to faculty is still being used. When the new dorm room is built, it probably will be in the Lawrence site, and those offices need to go somewhere temporarily, so admin will be looking for options, including current faculty space. Provost's Office is also proposing a meeting between Senate representatives and Ewing Cole, and we're being asked to identify Senate representatives.

8. Philadelphia Campus update

Prov/DepProv: Grad social work has increased hybrid and distance ed options, and the nursing program we have there ended up being fully online, so we have more square footage that we need down there, but the lease goes until 2027. They have done commencement ceremonies with family participation and very positive feedback. Although Philly campus has not materialized the way we expected, we're not walking away from Philly, we have philosophical commitment to having a WCU presence in the city beyond 2027. They don't want to force any programs there (we can do dual enrollment for instance).

Pres: Not asked.

9. Reports of low student attendance after Spring Break

Prov/DepProv: Anecdotal information - maybe just the weather?

Pres: Not asked.

10. Lark tutor cancellations - reports that tutors are cancelling on students often.

Prov/DepProv: Not aware that this is an issue, they'll check with the OEA office.

11. Faculty/staff SECC lounge -reports that it is still often used by students often.

Prov/DepProv: They found out that if the door is pulled three times, it will unlock, so they have contacted the locksmith so it won't happen. APSCUF will be using the room for organizing events, so there is interest in keeping the room as faculty and staff only.

Pres: He's asked again - this floor is downstairs, so there can't be staff there all the time. If the issue is that the faculty/staff note is not clear enough, this can be easily remedied, and will ask about it.

12. VP of Student Affairs search update

[Outdated item, candidate has been selected: Dr. Jasmine H. Buxton, current Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Dean of Students at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh]. *Pres:* Candidates on campus now, one candidate was online because they're pregnant and close to term, they are bringing in three candidates. He's hearing the candidates are strong.

Senate: We thank Orkideh Mohajeri for her role as Senate representative on this search!

Prov/DepProv: Not asked

13. Open Records Officer change to Christine Siegl: Background for this change.

Pres: We get a lot of requests for cumbersome amounts of information, sometimes from people who are just trying to be disruptive. We approached them as conservatively as we can within the law. We decided that Christine Siegl's office (Academic Contract Administration & Compliance Operations) is a better home for this process than the Finance Office, since they work closer with our lawyer, and they have more bandwidth to handle these requests.

Prov/DepProv: Not asked

14. Borough relations and Carter Drive hotel update

Borough is celebrating 225 years, the university was invited to the celebration. The partnership with the university and our role has been mentioned as being an important partner to the borough at the celebration. Relationship with the major, the borough police, etc. is going well. No major controversial zoning conflicts recently. Re: the plans to turn Church St into a pedestrian street, it was the borough's original idea and we were excited about it, but after the pandemic they are prioritizing revenue and the idea cooled off. From time to time we hear that they may be interested in pursuing the discussion. We remain ready to do it, but it doesn't seem to be an active conversation. The light that we added on Church and Rosedale has improved traffic flow. For High and Rosedale, the borough has a grant out to fix traffic lights to improve safety, but they have not done that yet. West Goshen has approved our request to install student housing on MI lot. No new information on the hotel construction on Carter Drive.

Additional announcements and items:

1. Retirements and acknowledgments: Senate expressed congratulations and gratitude to Ronnie Wilbur, who is retiring after serving since 2015. Senate also thanked senators Jim Brenner, Jacqueline Hodes, Stacie Metz, and Laquana Cooke, who are ending their terms and have not sought re-election.
2. Library reorganization update: Gary Childs provided an update on the reorganization of the library catalog, transitioning from the Dewey Decimal System to the Library of Congress style subject headings. Gary mentioned the changes that will occur within the library, including physical item movements, and announced the start date for this transition in July 2024.
3. Appointment announcement: The appointment of Dr. Jasmine Buxton as the Vice President of Student Affairs is announced.
4. Senate election results: Election results for various positions within the Senate are announced. See the Membership and Election Committee report below and below screenshots for Senate Exec. election results.
5. Closing remarks: The meeting concluded with closing remarks from the President, expressing gratitude to everyone for their service during the academic year and wishing them well for the summer break. Farewells are extended to retiring members and those stepping away from the Senate. Israel announced plans for the next academic year, including the first meeting in September, which will be held in person.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership & Elections (*Dan Forbes*)

Elections for College and At-Large seats for Faculty Senate (three-year terms, 2024-2027) are complete. The results:

College, Wells School of Music (1 seat): Dan Cherry

College, Business & Public Management (1 seat): Michelle Wade

College, Health Sciences (1 seat): Selen Razon

College, Sciences & Mathematics (1 seat): Julie Wiest

College, Education & Social Work (2 seats): Orkideh Mohajeri, Heather Waymouth

College, Arts & Humanities (2 seats): Eirini Panagiotidou, Simon Ruchti

At-Large (6 seats): Julie Tennille, Michelle Kaulback, Marcos Campillo-Fenoll, David Bolton, Esther Smidt, Daris McInnis

At-Large Senator Veronica Wilbur is retiring at the end of this academic year, and pursuant to Article III Section 2 of the [Faculty Senate Constitution](#) the candidate with the next highest number of votes in the most recent At-Large election shall be offered that seat for the remainder of that seats' term. Premalatha Junius had the next highest number of votes in the At-Large election, and has accepted the offer of this seat, which has two years remaining on its term (ending Spring 2026).

Congratulations and welcome to our new and returning Senators!

Elections for membership on the Executive Committee for Faculty Senate will take place during the last Faculty Senate meeting for this academic year, held on April 26, 2024. Senators interested in taking on a more involved role in their university service are encouraged to consider nominating themselves for one of these positions. For more information on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, see the Faculty Senate Constitution (<https://www.wcupa.edu/FACSTAFF/facultySenate/constitution.aspx>).

Communications (*Julie Tennille*)

No report

Faculty Welfare (*Eirini Panagiotidou, Ronnie Wilbur*)

No report - will regroup in the fall with at least one new co-chair

Student Welfare (*Dan Cherry*)

No report

Research & Creative Activity (*Gary Childs, Sarah Lightner, Stevie Grassetti*)

No report

LIAISON REPORTS

ADA Committee – Sen. Matt Pierlott

1. David Thomas (Director of OEA) and Katie Manwiller (Education Librarian) are joining the APSCUF Membership Support Committee as dedicated ADA representatives. Both have successfully navigated accommodations process at WCU and have detailed knowledge of what the ADA requires. They plan to provide support to any APSCUF member looking to request accommodations but meeting prior to a request to discuss the process, serving as a note-taking representative during accommodations meetings, and assistant APSCUF members with working with HR decisions. Hopefully their expertise will lead to more APSCUF members getting their accommodations requests approved.
2. APSCUF members can reach out to David and Katie directly, or through Margaret and/or Meghan Ramick the Membership Support Committee chair.

Alumni Association – Sen. Bill Sawyer

No report

APSCUF Exec Representative – Sen. Bessie Lawton (alternate: Sen. Julie Wiest)

1. APSCUF is concerned about how some study abroad programs are being run. Specifically, a vendor (approved by PASSHE) seems to have some issues. Management is creating a Faculty Advisory Board to provide feedback to the Global Engagement Office.
2. Some colleges have used AWAs for parental leave. A policy agreement will be drafted as guidance to deans so there will be consistency across campus.
3. There are limited food/community options on South campus. Ewing-Cole, the facilities masterplan consultant, will be addressing this for the future.
4. There are many issues with RamPortal. APSCUF has requested management for more transparency in faculty issues/requests and which ones could be addressed given functionality limitations.
5. There is still some confusion/lack of understanding regarding some OEA accommodations. This is an ongoing conversation.

6. Management has asked APSCUF for feedback on some policies - Education Abroad Policy and Research Misconduct policy.

Budget Review Committee – Sen. Kurt Kolasinski

No report

Campus Climate Intervention Team – Sen. Simon Ruchti

No meetings scheduled

Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence – Sen. Ronnie Wilbur

The committee met for a second time on 4/11/24. Dr. Robinson reviewed the best practices from MoonShot. Many exciting activities are planned for AY24/25

External relations - Sen. Michelle Wade

No report

Faculty Mentoring Committee – Sen. Innhwa Park

A celebration of WCU’s commitment to Faculty Development is planned for 5/3 (Fri) 12-2pm at Philips Autograph Library - 15th anniversary of the Faculty Mentoring Program & Completion of the inaugural PETEL (Program for Excellence in Teaching & Learning) class

IS&T and LMS Advisory Committees – Sen. Dan Forbes

The Committee met April 18, 2024. Associate Provost for Learning & Teaching Innovation Naomi Nyanungo shared information on events held by the Teaching & Learning Center, including a Celebration of Teaching event to be held May 7, 2024. More information on TLC events can be found at <https://www.wcupa.edu/tlc/events.aspx>. Proposals for Student-Faculty Teaching Collaborations are due May 17th; in this program students attend class meetings for a course in order to learn about the teaching process, and to provide faculty with feedback on their experience in the classroom, to help participating faculty to learn more about the student perspective on their classroom. PETAL, the new program for new faculty professional development in teaching effectiveness, may have space for existing full-time tenure-track faculty to participate in the Spring 2025 program. Information on application can be found at <https://www.wcupa.edu/tlc/petal.aspx>. The D2L Homepage pilot program held this Spring 2024 semester is wrapping up, and results from pre- and post-surveys from faculty and students will be reviewed in May. TLC and IS&T are collaborating on a project to gather data on faculty experiences using classroom technology, especially from faculty assigned to “active classrooms”; some faculty are not using the specialized technology in those classrooms and they would like to learn more about why so that these classrooms might be better utilized. TLC in collaboration with the University Libraries is also working on an initiative addressing textbook affordability by using open education resources; they are drafting a website to serve as the OER hub, and plan to assemble a task force of faculty, staff, and students.

Duo two-factor authentication–IS&T is seeking to upgrade to Duo Verified Push in order to improve security. The existing Duo Push allows users to “accept” or “deny,” which a user can accidentally accept because a bad actor makes multiple attempts to fraudulently log in, and the user experiences “fatigue” at receiving so many push notifications. Duo Verified Push asks users to enter a short verification code, which ensures that only verified users can log in and no user can accidentally accept a push they didn’t initiate. More information on Duo Verified Push can be found at <https://duo.com/blog/verified-duo-push-makes-mfa-more-secure>.

Gravic Remark test grading–In Fall 2023 IS&T piloted a web-based test-grading system that can integrate with D2L; it was implemented for CSM and CBPM in Spring 2024.

VitalSource Inclusive Access D2L integration–This summer an updated version of the Inclusive Access D2L integration will be made available. It will address delays with instructor access to materials (currently there can be a two-hour delay when the instructor first adds it to their courses), allow auto-redemptions for students who add or drop courses during drop/add, and there is also the possibility for the Inclusive Access link to be added to Content section of D2L courses automatically (currently faculty who opt in to Inclusive Access have to do this manually). IS&T would like feedback on faculty interest on the last option.

Tutor.com–a remote tutoring service that will be available soon in shared D2L navbars in the Resources tab. Initially students will be limited to 6 hours of the service per semester, but if they meet the limit D2L will automatically point the student to LARC to request additional tutoring hours.

LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Sen. Julie Tennille

Upcoming events:

Lavender Graduation – May 2 (12:30-2p)

Description: A special graduation ceremony for our 2024 LGBTQIA+ Graduates. The entire WCU Community is invited to celebrate our trans and queer graduates with us!

[RSVP to the Lavender Graduation here!](#)

FFR Presents: Rando Marathon Summer 2024 (A fundraiser in the form of a gaming streaming event)

June 14-16th

Description: This will be a three-day event, 10:00 AM to Midnight (EST), on the weekend of Jun 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2024. All randomizer communities are invited to join this charity event in support of [The Liam Foundation](#), an organization dedicated to encouraging, assisting, healing, and empowering the LGBTQIA+ community. We welcome all participants to this event.

[Get more information from the website here!](#)

Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – Megan Mraz

Meeting of military veteran coordinating committee April 2024.

1. Over spring break, we were evaluated for gold standard and achieved gold standard again! Way to go WCU!
2. On April 30 we had a compliance audit. All hands were on deck, and we did a great job. This was a huge collaborative lift. Registrar's office, Admissions, Bursars, among other departments stepped up and provided an amazing compliance report. Great job was achieved by all!
3. We have some important updates for the catalog as faculty are moving forward with making changes to their courses, programs, and policies, *it is important to notify the military veterans office for any program or course updates as this impacts their ability to effectively advise our military veterans.*
4. There was a barbecue on April 13 to celebrate our military veteran graduates. Congratulations to them!
5. In relation to resources, please continue to think of the military veteran coordinating committee and department as you help students in Navigate. Remember that our office of military and veteran affairs is an important resource for any students that you may find. If students qualify for the services, please let them know as the student may not be taking advantage or even know to take advantage. This department has dedicated space for counseling and resources. Then if a student needs help when you put these consults into navigate, they could be notified.
6. We also need to explore a little bit more about final grades for military veterans. NG's are a bit complicated for veterans as they will not get paid (reimbursed) for these grades. Sometimes it may be an instance where an "F" is better for the veteran than an NG, as they will get paid or reimbursed for this grade.
7. More to come on the exploration of grades and more to come on catalog updates.

Multicultural Faculty Commission – Sen. Innhwa Park

No report

Philadelphia Campus – Sen. Meg Panichelli

No report

President's Commission on the Status of Women – Sen. Michelle Wade

The Women's Commission is having its last meeting for the academic year on April 29. On April 10, the Engagement & Visibility Committee hosted a Lunch & Learn with Dr. Robinson about the Campus Climate Survey results. On April 22, the Recruitment for Retention of Women of Color Committee hosted an awards ceremony for women of color on campus. The Commission is holding off on revising bylaws of the committee until next year when Dr. Bernotsky returns.

SIS Advisory Board – *Sens. Sarah Lightner and Simon Ruchti*

Simon unable to attend do to classes.

Sarah has not been able to attend. Normally, after meetings I receive an email with the presentation slides. I have not received any slides.

Sustainability Advisory Council – Sen. Kurt Kolasinski

No report

Student liaisons:

Student Government Association – Caleb Winters

SGA Senate Elections are next week Tuesday April 30th.

If anyone knows any students who would be interested in running please let them know to submit the Senate Election form on RamConnect.

Graduate Student Association: Amah (Ensume) Dunor

No report

ROTC: Salamatu Dumbuya

No report

Ad-hoc liaisons:

Vice President for Student Affairs search – Sen. Proxy Orkideh Mohajeri

Three finalists were brought to campus the week of April 1st, 2024. They had a chance to tour campus, meet students, and incoming President Bernotsky, among others. The Search Committee made a final recommendation to President Bernotsky, and an offer was made and accepted by Dr. Jasmine H. Buxton. Dr. Buxton will join the WCU community in July 2024. An email was sent to all WCU employees and students on April 16th with further details about Dr. Buxton’s background and qualifications.

Facilities Master Plan Steering Committee - Sen. Julie Wiest

The committee met on April 17, 2024, with Conrad Talley (of EwingCole) and David McNamara (Senior AVP for WCU Facilities) facilitating. The plan is still in the information-gathering phase and should be finished by May. They completed a student survey (mostly focused on dining), which they said received about 1,000 responses, and they plan to share the results at the next meeting. The “stakeholder groups” that they’ve met with so far represent about 300 people (including about 100 students), and they are also considering holding at least one town hall or open forum so that everyone has an opportunity to be involved (no details yet). We also discussed plans to better connect North and South campuses, possibilities for Lawrence (to determine “highest and best use of that space”) and updating infrastructure for better efficiency and sustainability (e.g., powering food trucks without using generators). The next step is to work with administrative leaders to establish evaluation criteria for assessing the 120-130 possible projects identified so far that will determine the “must-do” and other priority projects. They also noted that deferred maintenance in many buildings is a large issue and priority. The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, with monthly meetings planned through the summer.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

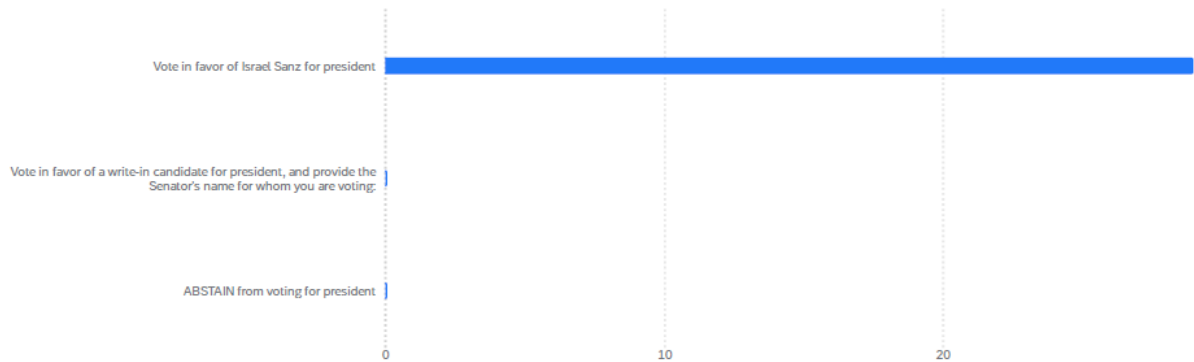
- ❖ President – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
- ❖ Vice President – Senator Dan Forbes
- ❖ Recording Secretary – Senator Selen Razon
- ❖ Corresponding Secretary – Senator Julie Tenille
- ❖ At-Large Members – Senators Rachel Daltry and Vipanchi Mishra
- ❖ Immediate Past President – Senator Julie Wiest
- ❖ Past Presidents – Senators Bessie Lawton, Jim Brenner, and Heather Schugar

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Elections – results
Anonymous vote conducted via Qualtrics

2024 Faculty Senate Executive Committee election (secret ballot) / Page 1

Responses: 29

PRESIDENT 29 ⓘ



PRESIDENT 29 ⓘ

Q2 - PRESIDENT - Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Vote in favor of Israel Sanz for president	100%	29
Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for president, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:	0%	0
ABSTAIN from voting for president	0%	0

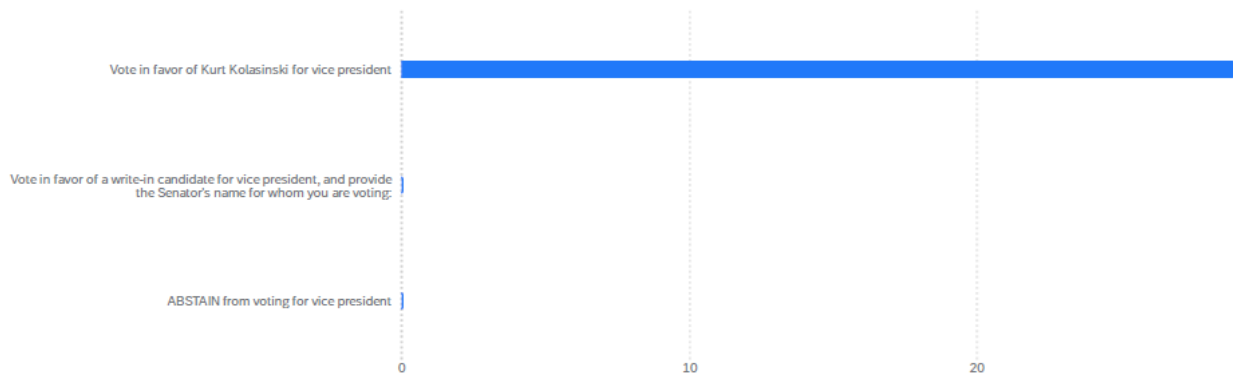
PRESIDENT 29 ⓘ

PRESIDENT	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Vote in favor of Israel Sanz for president	1.00	1.00	1.00	29
Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for president, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:	-	-	-	0
ABSTAIN from voting for president	-	-	-	0

PRESIDENT: Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for president, and provide the Senato... ⓘ

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!

VICE PRESIDENT 29 ⓘ



VICE PRESIDENT 29 ⓘ

Q5 - VICE PRESIDENT - Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Vote in favor of Kurt Kolasinski for vice president	100%	29
Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for vice president, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:	0%	0
ABSTAIN from voting for vice president	0%	0

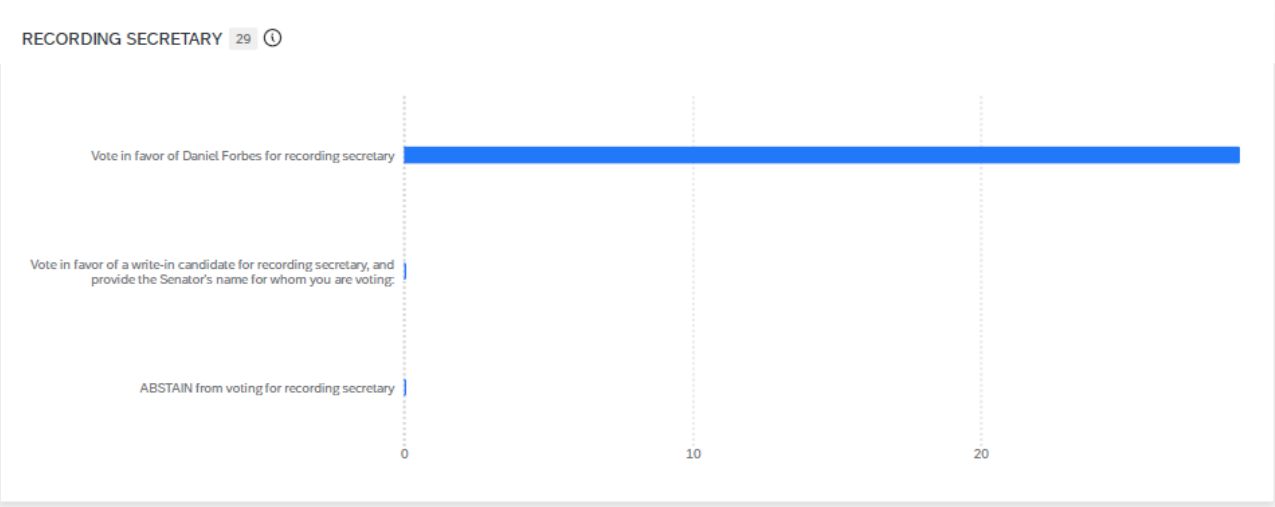
VICE PRESIDENT 29 ⓘ

VICE PRESIDENT	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Vote in favor of Kurt Kolasinski for vice president	1.00	1.00	1.00	29
Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for vice president, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:	-	-	-	0

VICE PRESIDENT	Count
ABSTAIN from voting for vice president	0

VICE PRESIDENT: Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for vice president, and provide the S... ⓘ

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!



RECORDING SECRETARY 29 ⓘ

Q6 - RECORDING SECRETARY - Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Vote in favor of Daniel Forbes for recording secretary	100%	29
Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for recording secretary, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:	0%	0
ABSTAIN from voting for recording secretary	0%	0

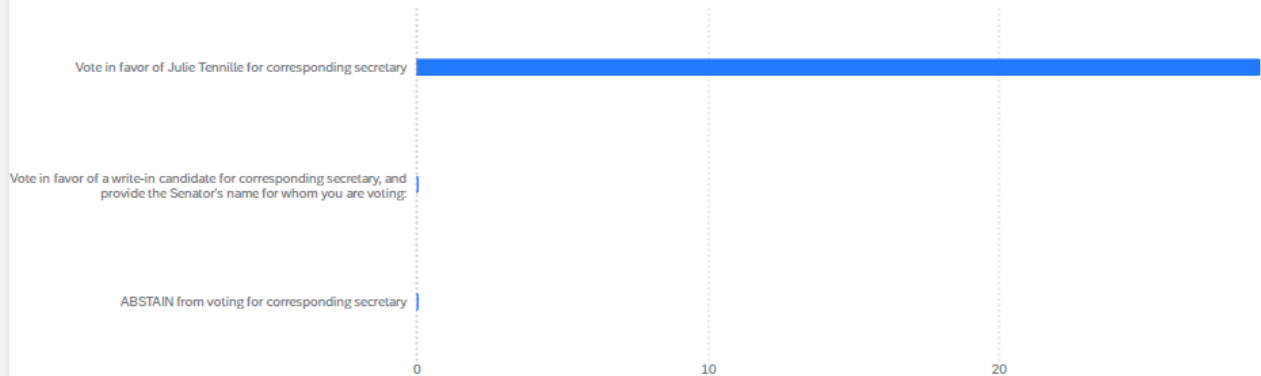
RECORDING SECRETARY 29 ⓘ

RECORDING SECRETARY	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Vote in favor of Daniel Forbes for recording secretary	1.00	1.00	1.00	29
Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for recording secretary, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:	-	-	-	0
ABSTAIN from voting for recording secretary	-	-	-	0

RECORDING SECRETARY: Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for recording secretary, and provide... ⓘ

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY 29 ⓘ



CORRESPONDING SECRETARY 29 ⓘ

Q7 - CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Vote in favor of Julie Tennille for corresponding secretary	100%	29
Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for corresponding secretary, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:	0%	0

Q7 - CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Selected Choice

Percentage

Count

ABSTAIN from voting for corresponding secretary

0%

0

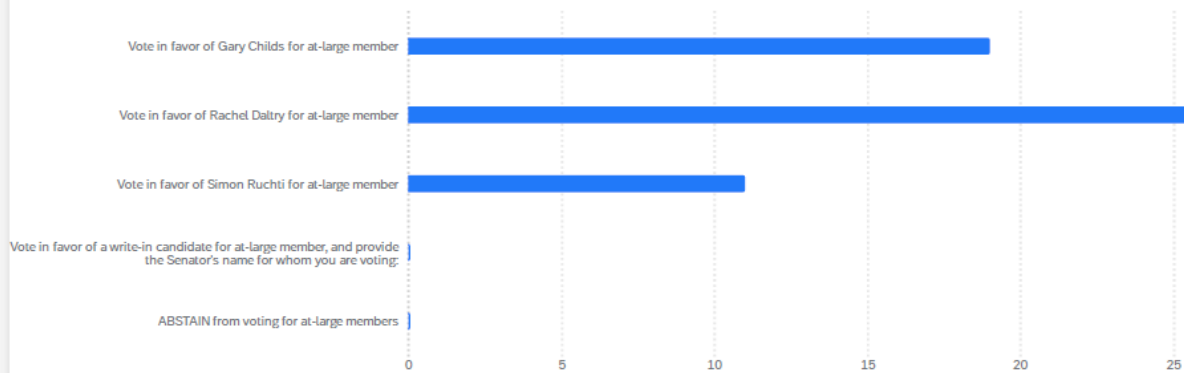
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY 29 ⓘ

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Vote in favor of Julie Tennille for corresponding secretary	1.00	1.00	1.00	29
Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for corresponding secretary, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:	-	-	-	0
ABSTAIN from voting for corresponding secretary	-	-	-	0

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for corresponding secretary, and prov... ⓘ

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!

AT-LARGE MEMBERS: Select up to TWO of the following candidates OR abstain from voting. 29 ⓘ



AT-LARGE MEMBERS: Select up to TWO of the following candidates OR abstain from voting. 29 ⓘ

Q8 - AT-LARGE MEMBERS: Select up to TWO of the following candidates OR abstain from voting. - Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Vote in favor of Gary Childs for at-large member	66%	19
Vote in favor of Rachel Daltry for at-large member	93%	27

Q8 - AT-LARGE MEMBERS: Select up to TWO of the following candidates OR abstain from voting. - Selected Choice

Percentage

Count

Vote in favor of Simon Ruchti for at-large member

38%

11

Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for at-large member, and provide the Senator's name for whom you are voting:

0%

0

ABSTAIN from voting for at-large members

0%

0

AT-LARGE MEMBERS: Select up to TWO of the following candidates OR abstain from voting.: Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for at-large member, and provide the... ⓘ

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!

AT-LARGE MEMBERS: Select up to TWO of the following candidates OR abstain from voting.: Vote in favor of a write-in candidate for at-large member, and provide the... ⓘ

No data found - your filters may be too exclusive!