

Faculty Senate Minutes

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 02, 2026 at 3:10 p.m., Blue Gray Room

Attendance:

Rob Anthony (CAHSS at large), Joshua Beck (CBRE at large), Denis Berenschot (EHML), Courtney Company (NAPS), Tara Carlisle (Library), Craig Cline (SABS), Larry Z. Daily (CAHSS at large), David Gordon (CAHSS at large), Jeff Groff (STEMN at large), Max Guirguis (ACF), Osman Guzide (CSME), Melissa Hall (RSES), Brenda Johnston (NURS), Stacey Kendig (CBRE at large), Matthew Kushin (CAHSS at large), Amanda Mandzik (BAEF), Sytil Murphy (STEMN at large), Tracy Nichols (EDUC), Laura Robertson (STEMN at large), Austin Showen (MUSC), Cindy Vance (CBRE at large), Jennifer Yablonsky (CACT)

Officers: Larry Daily (President), Brenda Johnston (Secretary), Craig Cline (Parliamentarian)

I. Approval of Minutes from December 01, 2025; Approved

II. Committee Reports

Assembly Committees and Representatives

- A. Admissions & Credits (Senator Nichols), progression of reports slowed due to weather
- B. Curriculum & Instruction (Senator Cline), 3/9 is the due date for all C&I proposal.
- C. Core Curriculum (Sam Greene):

The Core Curriculum Committee reviewed a draft report from the C&I Committee regarding potential efficiencies, including a proposal to combine the Core Curriculum and C&I Committees. While supportive of efforts to improve efficiency, the Committee opposed combining the two committees and emphasized that any consideration of adopting Value Rubrics requires careful faculty study and broad representation across programs. The Committee also noted that a prior review of peer institutions found Shepherd's general education model to be largely aligned with peer practices, with no major changes anticipated. A full report was shared with Senate members in an earlier email.

- D. Interdisciplinary Curricular Committee (Senator Groff), No report, Senator Groff is on sabbatical,
- E. Advisory Council of Faculty (Senator Guirguis), Larger summary submitted via email to the Senate.

The Advisory Council of Faculty met with representatives from the WV Higher Education Policy Commission to discuss the current legislative session, including proposed bills related to accreditation, workforce development, student support, and higher education governance. The Council also received updates on upcoming faculty professional development opportunities, including an HEPC-sponsored OER workshop featuring AI applications in teaching and plans to expand access to the Great Teachers Seminar.

Faculty Senate Committees and Representatives

F. Library Liaison (Senator Carlisle), Senator Carlisle discussed library resources and she encouraged Senators to remind their faculty to reach out to her if they'd like a librarian to come to their classes.

G. Professional Development, Faculty Salary, and Welfare (Senator Anthony) Will meet this week to discuss mini grant applications (four applications to review)

H. Scholarship & Awards (Senators Vance and Murphy)

I. Senate Bylaws (Senator Cline)

The proposed bylaw amendments primarily revise Article VI (Faculty Senate Committees) to update committee structure, reporting lines, and chair selection procedures to better reflect current governance practices. Key changes include clarification of which committees elect their own chairs versus those elected by the Faculty Senate, refinement of committee jurisdictions and approval pathways (including voting thresholds for forwarding curricular proposals), and updates to committee descriptions to improve consistency with the University Constitution. The amendments also clarify the role and oversight of permanent, special, and ad hoc committees under Faculty Senate authority. These changes require a two-thirds vote of the Faculty Senate for adoption, in accordance with Article VII.

Senator Daily reminded Senators about the status of Washington Gateway.
Motion to approve changes, motion carried.

J. Honors Advisory Board (Director Brasher) written reports submitted

K. Faculty Research Forum Steering Committee (Senator Yablonsky) The committee is still in an organizational phase.

External Committee Representatives

L. Calendar Committee (Senator Groff) No report

M. Success, Engagement, Accessibility, and Transparency (Senator Hall) No report

N. Enrollment Management Committee (Senator Campany) Have not met this semester

O. Graduate Council (Discussion later on this agenda)

P. Student Success Committee; No report

Q. Technology Oversight Committee (Senator Guzide)

Other Committees

R. Budget Advisory Council (Senator Beck) Met on January 26, all deans have access to the master document and faculty are asked to discuss ideas and fees with their dean. The committee will be meeting mid-February to review.

S. Great Colleges to Work For Committee (Senator Daily) Meeting 02/03/2026

III. Updates/Progress on Senate Actions/Discussions

A. Graduate Council Amendment (Senator Daily)

The proposed amendments relocate the Graduate Council from the Administrative Council to the Faculty Senate by removing it from Article V and establishing it as a permanent Senate committee under Article IV. The changes revise Graduate Council membership to an elected, faculty-representative model with the Coordinator of Graduate Studies and the Provost serving as non-voting ex officio members. Responsibilities are

clarified to emphasize faculty oversight of graduate education, including graduate curricula, policies, fees, program approval and termination, and review of graduate-level strategic planning. The proposal also specifies review and voting procedures for graduate curricular changes prior to submission to the Provost.

Senators are asked to review the amendment with their constituents. Discussed who would serve as chair of the Graduate Committee and whether it should be a faculty member and or member of the Senate.

B. LEAP, ELO's, and Value Rubrics (C&I)

Dr. Jason Best addressed the upcoming HLC visit and outlined the continued transition from LEAP goals to Essential Learning Outcomes and Value Rubrics. He emphasized that any Core Curriculum changes associated with LEAP goals should be communicated clearly and framed positively. Dr. Best also assured the Senate that all actions in this process are being conducted in compliance with applicable legal requirements.

This report presented to the Senate in a prior email is summarized below.

The C&I Committee discussed the AAC&U LEAP framework, including Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs) and Value Rubrics, as part of a broader exploration of assessment alignment and potential efficiencies across committees. C&I framed the Value Rubrics as a possible assessment tool, not a mandated instrument, and raised them in the context of university-wide conversations about learning outcomes and coherence, rather than immediate implementation. The committee acknowledged that any movement toward adopting LEAP-aligned rubrics or ELO-based assessment would require significant faculty involvement, shared governance, and coordination with Core Curriculum oversight, given Core's responsibility for general education learning outcomes. C&I's discussion emphasized exploration and alignment, rather than endorsement or adoption, and recognized that decisions regarding Value Rubrics and assessment structures would need to be faculty-driven and broadly representative.

IV. New Business

Revisions to the annual report process (Senator Daily)

Overview; The Faculty Senate reviewed the current Annual Evaluation policy and a draft proposal revising the Annual Report and Performance Review process. Faculty feedback was also reviewed. **Key Differences;** Major differences include expanded scope of evaluation, increased classroom observation frequency, expanded annual report requirements, and introduction of a formal rubric. **Faculty Feedback Summary;** Faculty expressed concerns regarding evaluation creep, metric-driven assessment, feasibility of rubric criteria, impact on promotion and tenure standards, use of non-faculty reviewers, and misalignment with the academic year.

Discussion included concerns that no clear rationale was provided for the proposed change to the current policy. Senators reported that they had not received any feedback in support of the Annual Evaluation policy draft, and only one Senator indicated that their department had been visited by the draft's author. Senators expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed changes to the evaluation process. Senator Daily will invite the Provost to attend the February 16 meeting to provide clarification regarding the rationale and development of the proposal.

B. Modern Campus Curriculum (formerly Curriculog) implementation (Senator Daily)

In relation to Curriculog/Curriculum, discussion focused on potential implementation challenges related to alignment with the University catalog, with solutions currently under development. Members reviewed the existing curriculum approval workflow, particularly the use of first and second reads, noting that the new system has some built in time constraints that could complicate the process. Questions were raised regarding the role of meeting minutes in the proposal review process and how chair sign-offs acknowledge that minutes are maintained by the various departments.

C. Oversight of online course quality (Senator Cline)

Discussion addressed the development of standards for online courses. An ad hoc committee with broad faculty representation is currently working on this issue. This is not as much about content of courses but more about course structure, navigation, and faculty preparation for online instruction. Senators were asked to consult with their constituents regarding this topic.

VI. Announcements

A. Board of Governors Meeting Schedule (Storer Ballroom of the Student Center) All faculty are encouraged to attend.

~~September 11, 2025 at 4:15 p.m.~~

~~November 6, 2025 at 4:15 p.m.~~

~~December 18, 2025 at 4:15 p.m.~~

February 19, 2026 at 4:15 p.m.

April 16, 2026 at 4:15 p.m.

June 11, 2026 at 4:15 p.m.

Presidential Search Committee; Senators are encouraged to participate in the on-campus interviews and presentations scheduled this month. 02/04, 02/06, 02/10 and 02/11.

Senate Elections; All seats are up for re-election. The ongoing restructuring, along with the upcoming presidential transition, adds complexity to this process. Senator Daily will communicate the Senate's concerns regarding the proposed structure. Several Senators expressed frustration with the information presented.

Meeting Adjourned 17:00

Next Meeting 02/16/2026

Meeting Schedule (2025-2026): The regular meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be held every first and third Monday at 3:10 p.m. during the academic year when classes are in session. Dates (bold is current meeting, italics are special meetings): 08/25, 09/15, 10/06, 10/20, 11/03, 11/17, 12/01, **02/02**, 02/16, 03/02, 04/06, 04/20