

WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: 3.29.2024

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

Representatives

❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Bill Sawyer	Present
❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Priya Selvarathinam	Present
❖ 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, proxy for Wei Du
❖ Kaulback, Michelle	Not present
❖ Mohajeri, Orkideh	Present, not proxying
❖ O'Brien, Lia	Not present
❖ Owens, Jackie	Not present
❖ Patriarca, Ashley	Not present
❖ Tully, Greg	Not present
❖ Van Liew, Maria	Not present
❖ Whidden, Melissa	Not present
❖ Matthew Kruger-Ross	Not present

Guests In Attendance

- (1) **Joan Woolfrey:** Professor of Philosophy, Chairperson of Women's & Gender Studies Department, WCU Faculty Ombuds
- (2) **Lindsey Bartlett Mosvick:** Director, Center for Women & Gender Equity
- (3) **Tracey Robinson :** Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion & Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer

1. 3:00 pm: Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

2. Guest presentations:

Guest #1: Joan Woolfrey: Professor of Philosophy, Chairperson of Women's & Gender Studies Department, WCU Faculty Ombuds

Joan Woolfrey provided an update on her office's work over the past year. She discussed the following:

- She served 57 visitors from July 1st last year to date, in addition to meetings with HR, deans, the provost, and others as needed. This is slightly lower than the previous year.
- New patterns include more adjunct faculty visiting the ombuds office, and faculty coming with challenges regarding neurodivergent students in their classrooms.
- She is participating in bringing the Constructive Dialogues Institute to campus to provide tools for healthy dialogue.
- There has been an increase in faculty asking how to navigate occasional unruly or disrespectful student behavior in the classroom, possibly due to students losing social skills over COVID.
- Her participation in a teaching event about the Israel-Palestine crisis was seen by some as inappropriate for an ombuds. She acknowledged this damaged perceptions of the office's neutrality and wants to rebuild bridges. She suggested the next ombuds job description ensure no front-facing administrative roles to avoid future conflicts.

- In Q&As, Woolfrey clarified that the ombuds should ideally be full-time and external to the institution according to best practices. Wearing multiple hats is tricky and discouraged. She works closely with the faculty union president to determine if issues are union or ombuds matters. The office serves as a first/last resort and directs people as needed.

Guest #2: Lindsey Bartlett Mosvick: Director, Center for Women & Gender Equity

Lindsay Bartlett provided an overview of the Center's work. She discussed the following:

- Staffing recently expanded to include a new associate director and graduate/undergraduate assistants.
- Work focuses on peer education, supporting parenting students, gender justice, harm prevention, and outreach through social media and newsletters.
- Recent grants are supporting work with parenting students, veterans, fraternities, and first-year students.
- Upcoming spring events include the Gender Justice Conference, Clothesline Project, Black Maternal Health Week events, and Take Back the Night.
- The Center partners with faculty on service-learning opportunities.
- Faculty can support the Center by offering extra credit for event attendance, inviting programs into classes, making referrals, and generally championing their work. Despite the national climate, Mosvick feels very supported by the WCU community currently.
- Questions from Senators addressed the center's functions and collaborations with other campus offices.

Guest #3: Tracey Robinson : Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion & Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer

Tracey Robinson provided updates on her division's work. She discussed the following:

- WCU has received the HEED (Higher Education Excellence in Diversity) award for diversity and inclusion for the past 4 years and was designated a military friendly school for 2024-25.
- External grants are supporting work with parenting students, interfaith engagement, neuro-inclusive spaces and more.
- Recent DEI events included dialogues on eugenics and affirmative action, an MLK commemoration featuring Nelson Mandela's grandson, banned books events, and heritage month programming.
- Lavender Graduation and the Kente Celebration are upcoming.
- Despite concerning anti-DEI legislation in some states, Robinson feels supported at WCU but is monitoring the situation closely and preparing to adapt if needed.
- Using facts to debunk myths and misinformation around DEI efforts is encouraged.
- Questions from Senators addressed the current national political climate and how WCU's is working to continue supporting DEI efforts, as well as new initiatives in the area

3. Senate Business and Announcements

3.1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on 2.09.2024

Minutes approved.

3.2. Meeting updates:

Meeting with Interim Provost Osgood and Interim Deputy Provost Bacon: Monday, March 4, 2:00-3:00 pm, in person.

Meeting with President Fiorentino: Monday, March 4, 9:30-10:30am, on Zoom.

The following notes from the meetings between Faculty Senate Exec and university administration were shared:

1. CAPC – We have been hearing from faculty across various programs that think that the process is becoming overly focused on minutiae, very taxing or requiring elements that are not accessible to students [examples available upon request]. We have expressed this feeling directly to Josh Auld and Sue Johnston, but the response did not completely validate our concerns. Faculty are increasingly frustrated.

Prov/DepProv: They are hearing it, and they are already in contact with APSCUF about this, there will be a survey coming from APSCUF in Fall 2024. It's important to keep in mind that CAPC is a faculty body, so administrators do not dictate how CAPC is supposed to work.

Pres: Not asked

2. Global Engagement Office – There have been questions about new policies and practices implemented by the office (allocation of funds to specific programs, study abroad program policies, etc.), some of which have also been channeled via APSCUF. Are these concerns being shared with upper administration too, and how are they being addressed?

Prov/DepProv: Third-party vendor has been a transition for faculty (to manage risk). Senate: we also have heard concerns about responsiveness from the office, not just in terms of new processes.

Pres: Not asked

3. New Strategic Plan:

3.1. No mention of **research or otherwise creative or scholarly activity**, unlike what we saw in other recent documents (e.g., the Presidential Search Prospectus). This was one of the feedback points shared with the committee. What is the vision for this area currently?

Prov/DepProv: This is still important; this is a transition document and it's really about what Laurie will do after this transition. New Strategic process will start next year (current document is just "keep doing what we are doing").

Pres: No intended meaning for the lack of this reference, this is a transitional document. We have contracted with a new company (McAlester and Quinn) that helped Kutztown get new grants and they were interested in working with WCU because it has more potential. We are committed to supporting the resources to faculty for their research and there is no plan to change that, we protect those resources. "I looked at that and thought "oops, how did that happen?"). R2 status also recognizes the importance of scholarship.

3.2 DEI: Given the current national conversation regarding DEI following last year's Supreme Court decision on college admissions, are there any pressures on WCU to shift gears and limit the reach and substance of current and future DEI-related initiatives in the academic area (curriculum, hiring of faculty, programs, etc.)?

Prov/DepProv: Not locally. At the state level there is talk about how we need to temper our focus on equity, but Jeff has no problem continuing to do what we are doing. We'll continue to make investments in DEI, hiring diverse faculty, equity in access for students, etc. We're actually measured in terms of the funding formula on how we are able to provide access to a diverse body of students.

President: Tricky situation now. DEI means different things to different people. To him, it means access, opportunity... for instance. MoonShot. Our focus around DEI is around student success as part of our university mission, not political or historical issues (which you see in other states or other universities). For us, this is an "achievement gap" not an "equity gap" as it is in other universities. It's not about lowering the bar, it's about giving everybody the same opportunities – a lot of our programs required accreditations/licensures, so there is an external measuring bar. We're not a political organization, but we are an access-focused institution, and we need to address impediments to student success.

4. FAFSA form delay: What does it mean for financial aid, registration, etc.?

Prov/DepProv: Won't mean anything for registration, we'll still ask students to register, but we can't package aid yet (no university can). Hopefully by mid-April we'll be able to offer those packages.

Pres: Not asked

5. Moonshot update: Where are we on the timeline (was there an initial 5-year commitment and then a pause for assessment before committing to more actions?).

Prov/DepProv: We're at the 2.5-year mark. We're not backing away from the commitment to close the achievement gaps in 10 years, we may back away from EAB (= the company that is running Moonshot now) after we assess how everything is going.

Pres: Not asked

6. Policies - Any upcoming policies that will be shared with shared governance after negotiation with APSCUF by the end of the AY?

Prov/DepProv: Temporary records policy; it states that text messages are meant to exist as temporary records and there is no obligation to keep them. Research misconduct policy also coming up. Probably also academic integrity policy (see #9).

Pres: Not asked

7. AI concerns: Are there thoughts about developing university policy on its use? Some universities are doing away with admissions essays and reinstating standardized testing requirements because of rampant A.I. use – is that being considered here?

Prov/DepProvost: Jen will check with Naomi, and a new version of the Academic Integrity Policy will be created.

Pres: Not asked

8. VP of Student Affairs search: What is the current status of the search? Priorities for the role?

Prov/DepProv: Not asked

Pres: Airport interview stage. Laurie and Tabetha are running that search. Announcement about athletics reporting directly to Vice President for University Affairs so candidates know what to expect. No impact from the fact that this is the third time the search is starting. First time was a fluke – there were good candidates in the pool, but the top

candidate took a different job (perhaps less intimidating). Second time was cancelled because of my decision to retire. We're competitive, we're going to get a good number of candidates.

9. Philadelphia Campus update: Programs, concerns, safety issues reported in previous months?

Prov/DepProv: Not asked

Pres: Ask Jeff – not a lot that is bubbling up to him, he thinks the programs that are being offered are pretty stable, sounds like things are pretty stable.

10. Snow removal: Certain floors on parking structures were not plowed during recent snow events, which limits parking availability once campus re-opens. Was this a staffing issue or where there other factors involved?

Prov/DepProv: Not asked

Pres: He talked to Todd about it, it may have been only the top floors, he has not gotten back to him.

11. SECC: The dining hall is resorting to disposable plates and utensils, and faculty report that the tables are not always being cleaned. Any feedback re: Aramark, staffing issues?

Prov/DepProv: Not asked

Pres: Not heard anything about staffing, hearing good things about them and being more sensitive to student preferences (e.g., getting an outside vendor for halal food). He has not heard any complaints; he will check with Tabetha. There is a consultant (retained by the system, not Aramark, to check on contract performance) that we can also reach out too.

12. Borough relations, are students behaving?

Prov/DepProv: Not asked

Pres: We're in touch with the surrounding boroughs, Julie Dietrich and Zeb Davenport are representing us externally with legislators and local boroughs. Student issues have been steady, they don't seem to be ramping up (he's not hearing about anything too bad).

13. New hotel on 205 Carter Drive, behind Payroll office?

Prov/DepProv: Not asked

Pres: There are plans to build a new hotel, they can't build apartments because of zoning but they can build a hotel.

3.3. Additional announcements and items:

- College representative election results are finalized, and at-large nominations are open until April 8.
- Faculty should share any evidence of students not following COVID protocols.
- Senate standing committees should identify 1-2 priorities to work on.
- Senate Executive Committee elections will be held April 26; position descriptions are in the constitution. Please contact Israel (President) or Dan (Vice-President) if interested in running for a seat on the Committee.

- The faculty contract ratification vote is April 2-4; all members should participate.
- Limited input is occurring on the facilities master plan steering committee so far.
- Three candidates for VP of Student Affairs are visiting campus in early April.

3.4. Committee reports

Shared via Google Doc ahead of the meeting - see below

3.5. Liaison reports

Shared via Google Doc ahead of the meeting – see below

4. 5:00 pm: Meeting adjourned

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership & Elections (*Dan Forbes*)

The election for open college seats for Faculty Senate has been completed, and election results for those seats will be officially announced soon. Those who ran for these seats have already been notified of the election results.

Nominations for the open At-Large Senate seats (six total) close on April 8. Senators and Senate proxies who ran for college seats but were not elected are encouraged to self-nominate again to run in the At-Large election. The At-Large election will run from April 11 through April 18; keep an eye on your email for the ballot for this election and encourage your colleagues to vote.

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. 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 new information

Faculty Welfare (*Eirini Panagiotidou, Ronnie Wilbur*)

No report

Student Welfare (*Dan Cherry*)

Here is a synopsis from our last meeting:

- Both students and faculty have concerns that many of the offices on campus that impact Student Welfare remain understaffed.
 - Can anything be done to offer higher pay for these positions?
 - Are there other plans in place to fill open positions?
- From a student perspective, there is better awareness now for various services being offered. Social Media still seems to be the preferred method of communication to students.
- One of the biggest concerns and stressors for students is the ongoing housing crisis.
 - There is a concern from both students and faculty that this is having negative impacts on retention.
 - Students expressed aggravation with the application process, including students being left with time slots scheduled after all housing was filled.

- Safety is an ongoing concern, both in reaction to national events (school shootings) and campus events (the escaped prisoner and the incident with the emotional support dog)
 - Faculty expressed concerns about what feels like a lack of improvements/updates after the failed lockdown with the escaped prisoner
 - Students expressed appreciation for the safety training within the residence halls
- There is still some confusion about accommodations through the Office of Educational Accessibility
 - It is helpful when representatives from that office meet with faculty to answer questions – departments should be encouraged to set up meetings
 - Faculty feel that students don't seem to fully understand their rights and responsibilities with accommodations – can more be done to provide support and training?
 - That office also seems to be understaffed
- Faculty expressed an awareness/concern that more students seem to be balancing non-school responsibilities and family/work life with their studies, causing stress and hardship
 - What can we do to offer more support, and/or better promote the resources available to students?

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

Research and Creative Activity Day is coming up on Wednesday, April 17. In addition to traditional posters and talks, this year, there are four faculty panels where faculty will talk about their projects.

ORSP is working up to a launch of a new tool by which students can find research opportunities and faculty can find collaborators. This will be shared with students next month. Before it is shared with students, faculty are encouraged to update their research directory profiles:

<https://www.wcupa.edu/admin/research/forms/ram-research-directory/>

Gary created useful tutorials on how to use Grant forward to find grants:

1. Editing Research Profiles
<https://wcupa.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=964b56f6-c6d6-4682-a7c3-b0bb0113b582>
2. Basic Searching
<https://wcupa.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=685851d4-a263-4159-a4a4-b103011f7b58>
3. Advanced Searching
<https://wcupa.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6f003e24-e066-4b79-be9c-b12b0111e5cf>
4. Applying Filters
<https://wcupa.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=96fdeff4-1df5-4b25-af6a-b12b013dc5e9>
5. Examining Results
<https://wcupa.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=a6b2fbf8-370b-4cd2-ba1c-b12b0156d00c>
6. Saving Searches
<https://wcupa.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=4b2978d6-2563-41a3-8cc5-b12b015b9137>

LIAISON REPORTS

ADA Committee – Sen. Matt Pierlott

No new meeting since November. Nothing new to report.

Alumni Association – Sen. Bill Sawyer
No report

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

(Julie reporting on M&D:) Several issues were discussed at the recent Meet & Discuss. First, APSCUF asked about the process that management uses in deciding whether to issue official statements; management responded that there is no process, only the president and executive vice president/provost are authorized to speak for the university, and they tend to only comment on issues that directly affect WCU. Second, the current tenure and promotion policy needs to be periodically reviewed, and a subgroup of the APSCUF M&D team plans to do so over the coming summer. Third, the CAPC bylaws need to be reviewed (it's been eight years since the last time), and both sides said they want to begin that process soon, starting with APSCUF asking for CAPC input and then likely working on it over the summer. Relatedly, there was discussion about the lack of CAPC representation for Honors College faculty and how to remedy that. Fourth, the different ways of handling parental leave by college (this came up during our February meeting during the deans panel) was discussed, with management saying that they will talk to all the deans and support efforts for flexibility in these circumstances wherever possible. Fifth, we discussed the lack of food options on South Campus, and management said they would talk to Aramark to see what can be done. Sixth, APSCUF asked for an update about the ASA Center after the report that was submitted by Susan Gans and Courtney Lloyd (Committee for Advising Excellence), and management said that they had a productive meeting, plan to accept all of the report's suggestions, and just need to finalize the communication before distributing it. Other issues that were discussed include ongoing difficulties that faculty have reported in submitting/receiving reimbursements; the increased communication and workload related to Navigate, RamPortal, etc.; and the loss of the M1 employee parking lot for temporary student housing (planned for this summer).

Budget Review Committee – Sen. Kurt Kolasinski

The BRC met and it has been established that there will be no critical needs process this year because of continuing budgetary issues related to re-establishing reserves drawn down by COVID stressors. WCU continues to have “green” financial health overall (PASSHE rates all campuses in the system regarding their financial strength with green being the highest level).

A revised Facilities Master Plan continues to wind through the development process. Incoming President Bernotsky intends to prioritize maintenance of current building stock over the construction of new buildings. The one exception to this is provision of student housing as opportunities to expand student housing are being actively pursued. Current expenses (capital and interest expense) on capital projects is roughly \$4.5 M annually. Whether this level is appropriate going forward will be reviewed after the consultants, who have been brought in for the Facilities Master Plan process, make their report.

More information about the BRC can be found at their website <https://www.wcupa.edu/president/adminBudget/>

Campus Climate Intervention Team – Sen. Simon Ruchti

No meetings have been scheduled.

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

The meeting was held on March 8th. Another meeting is being scheduled towards the end of the semester - April 11th.

- **DEI Events:** The committee uses a shared calendar to plan DEI events for Fall 2024-Spring 2025. Placing items on the calendar does not replace submitting events through proper channels.
- **Enough Report:** The report by Senator Haywood (PA) was discussed. There are some problematic issues, but cannot be placed on any one campus—additional discussion about the status of DEI PA state issues and initiatives. Currently, Governor Shapiro is shielding the initiatives, but a group is strategically going state-by-state, introducing legislation to dismantle DEI. There is a free J.E.D.I (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) at the University of Maryland Baltimore [Spring 2024 J.E.D.I Summit](#) in April. Dr. Robinson is looking to support travel and limited other expenses. Finally, there was a discussion about generating knowledge about the DEI initiatives and barriers at WCU.
- **Moon Shot** - Best Practices for recruiting, retaining, and graduating students
 - Dr. Robinson reviewed the 15 best practices and incorporation of DEI. It is positive that DEI is in our strategic plan, but most universities do not have it in their plan.
- **2024 HEED (Higher Education Excellence in Diversity) Award - Best Practices**

- This year's application for the award has been released. The reward is a way to look at best practices. WCU always has a rich application due to its many contributions and has been awarded for the last four years.

External relations - Sen. Michelle Wade

In collaboration with Zeb and Helen Hammerschmidt, the Office of External Affairs has completed two key initiatives: the development and approval of a Public Official Engagement Policy, to include a new notification form, and the launch of a new Advocacy Resource Center.

The [Public Official Engagement Policy](#) was drafted with input from key faculty and staff members with extensive knowledge and experience engaging with public officials.

Regarding advocacy resources and offering training, the OEA created the [Advocacy Resource Center](#), within the Office of External Relations website, specifically the [Government Affairs webpage](#) that also may be helpful, as a one-stop-shop of resources and best practices for engaging in effective advocacy.

Faculty Mentoring Committee – Sen. Innhwa Park

No report

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

IS&T Faculty Advisory Committee—no report; committee last met Feb. 12. LMS Advisory Committee—no report; this committee has not met in several years (probably because some of this work is now handled by the IS&T Faculty Advisory Committee) and may be defunct.

LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Sen. Julie Tennille

Last met: 3/20/2024

Upcoming meetings in spring: 4/19, 5/2

LGBTQIA+ Caucus Leadership - announced that Jules Walls (they/them) stepped into staff co-chair role. Jules is assistant to CAH Dean. Welcome, Jules! Thank you to Beth Shearn for your excellent service for the last few years.

A reminder to FACULTY SENATE: The Caucus is seeking to grow its visibility on campus and seeks to do this in many ways including sponsoring events where our name/logo is visible on event advertising/materials. If your department or program is planning/hosting events related to LGBTQIA+ topics/issues, please have them reach out to Leigh Robinson at lrobinson2@wcupa.edu with information about the event/program and sponsorship level costs.

Please, FACULTY SENATE members and your students, share your *published research to be highlighted /linked to the Caucus' website*. Additionally, faculty, please share courses with LGBTQIA+ themes to be on the website as a resource for WCUPA. Contact Leigh Robinson at lrobinson2@wcupa.edu

Kristin English advocating for an OUT Directory to be highlighted on the CTQA website. Please help us to build this out since representation is *critically important* to students, staff, and faculty. (<https://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/997/out>)

· CTQA Update:

- Scholarships are offered to students K English looking into whether this offering is applicable to graduate students
- Lavender graduation will be on 5/2/2024 at 12:30.
- K. English met w/ President of the LGBTQ Equity Alliance for Chester County (<https://lgbtteachesco.org/>) and currently developing partnership with WCU.

- o Queens & Beans – April 18 (fundraiser for Food Pantry and drag show in the evening)

Active Subcommittees on LGBTQIA+ Caucus (Budget, Event Planning combined with Affinity Spaces Planning, Inclusive Language, Health Care, Training/Faculty Staff Resources, Vendor Non-Discrimination, Gender Affirming Services, Curriculum/Syllabi Committee, Division of University Advancement)

Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – Megan Mraz

No meeting to date - hopeful to meet before the end of the semester.

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 Recruitment and Retention of Women of Color Committee hosted Chat 'n Chews on Oct. 26 and March 7. The Facilities Committee continues to work with the Facilities Division to facilitate positive conversations and outcomes such as gender inclusive locker room facilities with the Sturzebecker renovation for student athletes and community members. They also continue to support the work of the Period Project.

The 150 Most Influential Women at WCU plaque has toured campus and is now in Lawrence.

The Engagement & Visibility Committee placed & funded two interns with local nonprofits for the spring semester. One internship is with the Chester County Single Mother's Conference, and the other is with the Community Warehouse Project.

The Engagement & Visibility Committee is hosting a Lunch and Learn where Dr. Tracey Robinson will share the results of the PASSHE Climate Survey. All faculty and staff are welcome to attend. To register, see the QR code on the flyer that was emailed to Faculty Senate.

When: 12 – 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10

Where: Philips Memorial Hall, Lower-Level Conference Room

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

Simon hasn't been able to attend recent meetings as they have been during my classes.

Sarah was able to attend the most recent meeting. Most of what was communicated during the meeting has also been communicated via email to the faculty and students. Here are some quick notes:

- They've received positive student feedback with a few usability concerns.
- Changes need to be scheduled with the Ellucian team and have a minimum of a 24 hour requirement
- Soliciting training feedback - https://wcupa.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3kD63pCzNIMfjCe
- If you have events, meetings, etc. where you'd like to have a trainer present or be present reach out- sis@wcupa.edu

Sustainability Advisory Council – Sen. Kurt Kolasinski

Kick off Earth Month with some Bingo! Join the SPEs for a night of fun, food, and Bingo on **April 1st from 6-7pm in Sykes Ballroom A**. There will be sustainable **prizes**, as well as **Insomnia Cookies** and **pizza**. You won't want to miss what's in store! Register on Ram Connect https://ramconnect.wcupa.edu/spe/rsvp_boot?id=2260406

Does living a Zero Waste lifestyle feel daunting? Does it feel like there's nothing you can do as just one person? Come out to the Zero Waste Summit on **April 10th, 2024, from 11am-2pm in Sykes Ballrooms** to learn more about how you can feasibly create less waste.

There will be interactive tables with giveaways, DIYs, chances to register to vote, a thrift pop-up, and more! At **noon**, members of the Post Landfill Action Network will be giving a keynote talk in conjunction with our **Sustainability**

Research and Practice Seminar. Register on Ram Connect
https://ramconnect.wcupa.edu/sustainability/rsvp_boot?id=2260459

Recycle your personal electronics at Sykes Student Union and Francis Harvey Green Library! [More information about the process and a full list of acceptable items can be found on our website.](#)

Student liaisons:

Student Government Association – Caleb Winters

Executive Board Elections are complete. SGA is looking forward to continuing work with offices all over campus.

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

The VPSA search is progressing with speed. From the initial 38 applications that were reviewed by the Search Committee, 12 individuals were invited for first round Zoom interviews in early March. From these, 8 were referenced by the consulting search firm. This data was reviewed in detail by the Search Committee, and 3 individuals have been identified as finalists. These 3 will come to campus on April 2nd, 4th, and 5th. Open forums will be held in the Sykes Theater on each of these dates at 2 pm. All are welcome. For more information, please see [this webpage](#).

Facilities Master Plan Steering Committee - Sen. Julie Wiest

The committee met via Zoom on March 20, 2024, with Conrad Talley (of EwingCole) and David McNamara (Senior AVP for WCU Facilities) facilitating. McNamara said that he will now be the committee's point of contact, emphasized that the plan is still in the information-gathering phase, and announced monthly meetings scheduled for April 17, May 22, July 10, Aug. 28, and Oct. 2. Next, Talley presented a lengthy slideshow that included an overview of the 2012 facilities master plan (and what was and was not subsequently accomplished); the assessments/studies that have recently been completed (including all building assessments, traffic & parking, dining, housing, and site & landscape); and the various "stakeholder groups" that they have met with so far and still need to meet with. At this point, they have identified several "overarching themes" in the assessed needs/priorities and 100+ possible facilities-related projects. Next steps include meeting with the remaining "stakeholder groups," conducting a student survey (mostly tied to dining) and looking for ways to bundle smaller potential projects together to increase efficiency.

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

Senate Meetings 2023-2024

Fall 2023

Senate meeting: 3-5 pm. Friday, Sept. 8 (in person, SECC101A)

Senate meeting: 3-5 pm. Friday, Oct. 13 (on Zoom)

Open Forum with administrators: 2-3 pm. Tuesday, Oct. 31 (Zoom webinar, link will be shared) Senate meeting: 3-5 pm. Friday, Dec. 8 (on Zoom)

Spring 2024:

Senate meeting: 3-5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9 (in person, SECC101A)

Open Forum with administrators: 3-4 pm. Monday, Feb. 26 (Zoom webinar, link will be shared)

Senate meeting: 3-5 p.m. Friday, March 29 (on Zoom)

Senate meeting: 3-5 p.m. Friday, April 26 (on Zoom)