

# WCU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, October 18, 2024

Facilitator: Israel Sanz-Sánchez, President

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Location: Zoom teleconference

Type of Meeting: Scheduled meeting

## Attendees

### Senators

❖ Benedict, Kristopher	Present	❖ McInnis, Daris	Present
❖ Bolton, David	Present	❖ Mishra, Vipanchi	Present
❖ Campillo-Fenoll, Marcos	Present	❖ Mohajeri, Orkideh	Present
❖ Chen, Tianran	Present	❖ Mraz, Megan	Present
❖ Cherry, Dan	Present	❖ Panagiotidou, Eirini	Present
❖ Childs, Gary	Present	❖ Panichelli, Meg	Absent
❖ Daltrey, Rachel	Present	❖ Park, Innhwa	Proxy
❖ Du, Wei	Present	❖ Pierlott, Matt	Present
❖ Forbes, Dan	Present	❖ Razon, Selen	Present
❖ Garthwait, Clayton	Present	❖ Ruchti, Simon	Present
❖ Grasseti, Stevie	Present	❖ Sanz-Sánchez, Israel	Present
❖ Guerriero, Tara	Present	❖ Schugar, Heather	Proxy
❖ Hill, Erin	Present	❖ Smidt, Esther	Present
❖ Houser, Mary	Present	❖ Stokes, Jordan	Absent
❖ Junius, Premalatha	Present	❖ Tennille, Julie	Present
❖ Kaulback, Michelle	Present	❖ Wade, Michelle	Present
❖ Kolasinski, Kurt	Present	❖ Watkins, Karen	Present
❖ Lawton, Bessie	Present	❖ Waymouth, Heather	Present
❖ Lightner, Sarah	Present	❖ Wiest, Julie	Present

### Representatives

❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Bill Sawyer	Absent
❖ Adjunct Faculty Representative: Priya Selvarathinam	Present
❖ APSCUF Representative: Bessie Lawton; alternate Julie Wiest	Present
❖ Student Government Association Representative: Avery McKnight	Present
❖ Graduate Student Association Representative: Matheeha Majeeth	Present
❖ ROTC Representative: Cadet Augustus Fadden	Present

### Senate Proxies

❖ Asempapa, Bridget	Absent
❖ Brenner, Jim	Present
❖ Howard, Rick	Proxy Heather Schugar

❖ Jussaume, Timothy	Proxy Innhwa Park
❖ O'Brien, Lia	Proxy Stevie Grasseti [Grasseti departing early]
❖ Owens, Jackie	Present
❖ Patriarca, Ashley	Absent
❖ Tully, Greg	Absent
❖ Whidden, Melissa	Present
❖ Wolff, Dominik	Absent

### Guests In Attendance

Jasmine Buxton, Zachary Wooten, Emily Southerton (proxy David Bolton), Angela Guerriero, Megan Jerabek, Jackie Hodes, Nancy Barker, Keegan Maguigan, Cheryl Neale-McFall

## Agenda

Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests

### Senate Business and Announcements

1. Approval of minutes from Faculty Senate meeting on September 6, 2024.
  - a. Rachel moves to approve, Julie W. seconds. Approved by senators present.
2. Shared governance meetings with President Bernotsky and Interim Provost Osgood
  - a. Israel: There were some delays in changes in schedule of courses for this semester; departments had submitted tickets and did not hear back in time. The Provost's office found that these had been held up in the dean's offices, and they were able to address these issues.
  - b. Israel: They are considering adding 220 beds on South Campus as an additional floor to the existing buildings there; EwingCole are working on finalizing draft recommendations to be shared with the university community.
  - c. Israel: Presidential campaigns have sought to hold rallies on campus, but administration navigated these requests to ensure that there would be no campus disruptions, and no rallies were approved.
  - d. Israel: We asked about enrollments; we are 90 students up from last year, and retention was better than anticipated. The FAFSA form for financial aid—the delay at national level did not affect us as much as elsewhere. All students who qualified for financial aid received it, though after the start of the year. PHEAA uses FAFSA data, and so problems trickled down to state aid—but the university has not canceled any student schedules. Winter will probably be much like last year, but they do not know about spring yet.
  - e. Israel: We have an interim Chancellor and a search for a new Chancellor. There is a board overseeing this, but we don't know what they are doing. There is some PASSHE representation, including a faculty member from a PASSHE institution. Governor Shapiro wanted a central board for all the universities, but we will be keeping our Board of Governors. Osgood reports we are seeking additional funds for our special instance of Banner. Chris Fiorentino started as interim Chancellor as of Monday of this week. Osgood encouraged Senate to send a letter with recommendations for priorities to the search committee.
  - f. Israel: We asked about research and creative activities. There were a few notifications last semester, and more are forthcoming. We were able to share feedback from the

Senate Research and Creative Activities Committee. We asked about the temporary position, and the administration is monitoring it. The dual compensation system is cumbersome and will be converted to something easier to navigate.

- g. Israel: We asked about scholarship expectations, whether they are shifting for some academic units. Osgood said he does not have this perception.
  - h. Israel: We asked about transition to Banner. We noted that notifications tend to generate confusion—instructions do not work on RamPortal, and “holds” are now informational but don’t prevent students from registering. Holds are now sometimes referred to as “holds,” or “advising flags,” or “indicators.” Osgood notes that language has been an issue sometimes. We offered to review informational emails to provide feedback, and Osgood was open to this. Eirini: Faculty Welfare is collecting feedback on RamPortal  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kT4TCPqB11PhxMfsQgYfdL0dhd98iAEzitS7BFfa9VU/edit?usp=sharing>).
  - i. Israel: President Bernotsky said she had positive reactions to her address. She had mentioned WCU being a “national referent.” We asked what she meant, but she did not know yet. Some have suggested the R2 designation, or athletics. She suggested high acceptance and graduation rates and low tuition. She is interested in including Senate in the process of feedback.
  - j. Israel: We asked about relationships with the Borough; there has been friction recently. We were focused on climate issues relating to faculty and student experience. The president noted that the relationship has been at a low point recently; she is concerned about the perceptions of the value of the presence of a university in the Borough. The university is working on building bridges; she met with the mayor, and noted there were disagreements that the university could not do anything about (e.g. police enforcement beyond the university community). There were proposals that the university could become a “wet” campus so that disruption from student drinking would not spill over on the community—it was not an official proposal from the Borough, but the president did not believe this would solve any problems. Rachel: It would not likely affect drinking in the Borough. Students who are old enough to drink tend to live in the Borough. Simon: There was one house where students of color could have parties, and the landlord sold it. So there are lots of places for white students to hold parties, but nothing for students of color right now.
  - k. Israel: There was a pro-life organization in Sykes, and there were reports that they were aggressive toward students. Tracey Robinson investigated and found no violations of policy and nothing threatening. It is likely that the students got aggressive answers from organizations, but Robinson pointed out that students can choose whether or not they want to engage.
  - l. Israel: There was an issue that new faculty had not been added to email lists, and this has been rectified.
3. Announcements
- a. President’s Mutual Listening Tour: Senate Forum, late January or early February
    - i. Israel: President Bernotsky will be meeting with Senate Exec, but she also wants to meet with Senate as a whole. However, we don’t have a lot of meetings as

things are. We are suggesting that rather than dedicate time from our existing meetings, we will schedule a different time for a supplementary meeting. It will be difficult to find a time that meets everyone's schedule. If you will be able to attend, you can and share feedback. We are aiming from the very beginning of the Spring semester, perhaps the first week.

- b. Ombudsperson search update (Senate representatives: Rachel D, Julie T and Julie W)
  - i. [See Senate Liaison report below]
- c. Facilities steering committee (Senator Julie Wiest)
  - i. Julie W.: We met Oct. 2, and discussed the forty main projects considered and being prioritized. Housing is of the utmost importance, and there are a lot of deferred maintenance and updates. We are moving into phase four (of five) which is a cost analysis and a draft of recommendations. There are no more scheduled meetings, but there likely will be additional ones after the plan is drafted. There is a lot of information shared during these meetings; contact me if you have additional questions.
  - ii. [See Senate Liaison report below]
- d. Turnitin AI detection tool discussion
  - i. Israel: The Provost's office is considering turning off the Turnitin AI detection tool. It is separate from the plagiarism detection tool. The problem with the AI detection tool is that it is not very reliable (false positives) and tends to disproportionately flag students who are not native speakers of English. This means that using the tool's reports as the basis for academic integrity sanctions are not legally defensible. We would like some feedback on this issue.
  - ii. Michelle W.: My department knows there are limitations, but it is one of a variety of tools that are used. No one has based a violation on the tool's report, but instead use it as a basis for talking with the student. Our department does not want it turned off.
  - iii. Kurt: It would be helpful to know more about the university's thinking—and to have a discussion about what the appropriate use of the tool looks like. Israel: The situation is evolving so quickly that the administration looks to us for advice.
  - iv. David: If we are going to model for our students how to use AI, they will be facing these tools; it's important to have the discussion, and educate people on the limitations of the tools rather than getting rid of them. Simon: I'd hate to see them get rid of it without giving us something else—it could send the message to students that AI use for all academic work is okay.
  - v. Israel: Please continue to reflect on this; I'll send an email requesting feedback by Oct. 24. We will share this with administration.
  - vi. Israel: There is going to be a working group to revise the academic integrity policy in light of AI. They have asked for Senate representation.
- e. Questions for administration
  - i. Israel: Committees should collect questions and share them with Exec before the end of the month.
- f. Other announcements

- i. Gary: [from Zoom chat] Something for faculty to be aware of in terms of AI:  
<https://elicit.com/welcome>

Guest 1: Dr. Jasmine Buxton, Vice-President for Student Affairs

1. Jasmine: We do a lot of things at Student Affairs, but we focus on developing a great experience for our students. Our strategic priorities are to be collaborative partners across campus to support student experience and the academic mission. We want to have strong participation from all of our students in a variety of programs. We want to be outcomes-based and develop a culture of assessment. Students may not know what we offer, and we want to reach out to students and help them to understand these things.
2. Jasmine: Change happens slowly in higher education, and we want to prioritize the why of the things we do for our students. We meet regularly, and our directors are reading books for professional development. However we can be helpful in what we do, we want to do.
3. Israel: You refer to challenges, which may be local or general to higher education in the US. As the demographics of the country change, we perceive increased competition for students. What are you seeing in terms of pressure to maintain strong enrollment in your office? How do you see your office contributing to this? Jasmine: Our programs outside of academics, like Greek life and affinity groups, can draw students here. Housing is where students make their first friends on campus. On retention side we work to keep these programs robust so that they can connect, belong, and engage. We want to help students navigate student life. We have a lot of students, but our program is supposed to be “high-touch.” We look for new ways to help students build relationships, and we need to support the programs that help with that.
4. Bessie: What do you have in terms of programs for commuter students? Jasmine: We have the Office of Commuter Services that run some programs like “Welcome to the Borough.” We base activities on time of day. We try to host events later in the evening and during the day. There are students who serve as sort of RAs for commuter students. We recognize we have a large population and we try to create programs to support them.
5. Julie W.: How does your office engage with faculty? Jasmine: Dr. Daltrey helps with this; I will be working with academic folks on well-being initiatives. I’ve only been here a few months and I’m still learning about what we are doing. There are many things I’m not able to speak to right now. I was previously a dean of students at other institutions and know that faculty are important to supporting students. I’ve encouraged students to interact with their professors. More to come! We could use some volunteers for homecoming!

Guest 2: Megan Jerabek, Senior Associate Vice President for Enrollment Systems & Services

1. Megan: Very little remains in myWCU at this point—just change of grade and change of major and applying for graduation; all of those will be out of myWCU within the next month. Everything else is now in RamPortal. We were also working on Navigate, and it has some functions like emailing students (it was in myWCU but is not in RamPortal).
2. Megan: The Degree Audit replaces the DPR in myWCU. There are GPA calculators and places for advising notes. You can provide feedback in two ways. There’s a form and you can also reach out to us; we want to meet with you. We have a complicated curriculum and we want to make sure the audit is showing it accurately.

3. Megan: By Thanksgiving we plan to have locked all students out of myWCU as a security matter. At end of Fall term faculty and staff will start to lose access to myWCU. We have an archiving project underway; regularly accessed data has been migrated to RamPortal, and audit data will be going to SharePoint sites for cold storage.
4. Megan: FAST trainings are ongoing. We have streamlined them, and they are organized by role (advising, chair, instructor, etc.). We'll be doing grade rosters in RamPortal and we'll have training sessions on that.
5. Megan: In order to hit our project milestones we had to roll out functionality gradually. We're still at Version One capability. We haven't started working with the lost functionality yet. We're working with costs and tracking the known losses. We know some timelines for addressing that, and some timelines we have not worked out yet.
6. Megan: It has been a difficult implementation, and we want to thank you for working with this! We would not have been able to get to this point without your support!
7. Kurt: When RamPortal started out I had no problems; but sometime this semester I could not see my advisees anymore. I went to IT, and they told me I had to allow cookies and was required to be tracked. What happened? Megan: Clearing cookies and cache is something Banner requires regularly. Banner asks you to track clicks for data purposes when you first log in. We don't have any institutional recommendation on that. Let me look into that.
8. Simon: I've been trying to be a good sport with this switch, but the more I learn about the system the less I see the advantages of it. I have to click through a lot of screens to find things and I can't figure out how to help students enroll in classes. Why are we switching when I can't see the advantages? Megan: We don't have a lot of control in this case. The biggest benefit is system security: myWCU is on our campus servers, and Banner has more secure cloud-based technology. And there's less likelihood of downtime. Also, PASSHE wanted to move all schools to the same system so that cross-registration could be handled more easily. As to why, this is a harder question to answer. It was the Chancellor's decision. This system is not necessarily meant to make our day-to-day work easier but was more about those concerns about security and cross-registration.
9. Gary: This is a hard process to go through. I have a unusual circumstance because I was a student as well as a faculty member here, and this shows up in RamPortal. When will this duplicated record problem be resolved? Megan: Are you talking about logging in and seeing some things as student and as faculty in one place? Gary: Yes, and also email communications from the university. I know what to ignore, but could this be leading to other data issues, such as an inflated enrollment count? Megan: In our systems each person has one ID number, so that there are not duplicate records—this would make software licensing more difficult because it would look like there are more users than there are! So you'll see all the information commingled. We want to have a better management system for that. Enrollment is more complicated; we need to have a conversation with IS&T for a plan for what people in your situation should look like in RamPortal. Gary: If I want to order a transcript right now that's confusing; I'm worried about students trying to access these. Megan: The shift wasn't perfect; some student records are flagged so that they go straight to a records team that handles their situation. Feel free to send us any information about specifics that you have.
10. Bessie: Looking ahead, we're working with three systems right now; do you see us continuing to work with both RamPortal and Navigate, or will these be merged? Megan: Neither roadmap

shows that we could work with just one system; Navigate is not intending to be a student information system, and Banner is not intending to be a student communication system. There is some overlap in functionality, but we'll need both systems to support students moving forward.

11. Simon: The new attributes in general education courses—why are there numbers following some of those designations? Megan: The number values existed in myWCU but you didn't see them there. This is a way of tracking revalidation of courses. Right now students can choose either "1"s or "2"s; later the ones that will not be revalidated will be hidden from students. It wasn't an issue in myWCU, but Banner doesn't have a way to do this. It's more complicated than we want it to be, but we're trying.
12. Israel: Are the slides you shared available? Megan: I can send them to you to distribute.

Guest 3: Dr. Cheryl Neale-McFall, Associate Provost for Research & Creative Activities

1. Cheryl: We're striving to make data-based decisions; in 2023 we collaborated with Senate on a survey of faculty. We found 75% of faculty are involving students in their research and scholarship. 90% agreed they incorporated research into class materials, but 88% felt there were barriers: administrative responsibilities relating to grant management, 4/4 load, etc.
2. Cheryl: What can we do? More staff in our office, more programs, and less restrictions on AWA use.
3. Cheryl: We also surveyed undergraduate students; we offered a gift card and got a lot of response.
4. Cheryl: What we've been doing—working with provost's office we got rid of the cap on AWAs funded through external grants. We created resources for faculty, including a grants management platform (Cayuse; before this we had been doing it all by hand). We've hosted outside experts for workshops on grant writing. We have a fund through the WCU Foundation for student research. We updated our policies. We have a research and creative activities directory (<https://www.wcupa.edu/admin/research/forms/ram-research-directory/>). We hired a grants management specialist (though the position is currently temporary). We met with deans to learn about the different needs of the colleges. We continue to work to streamline the legal process with PASSHE. And we published a Sponsored Programs research report.
5. Cheryl: As outcomes, we've seen more diverse research opportunities submissions. We are being more intentional about marketing, so that it is not just emails—we work with the identity centers and coaches. We've seen an increase in external submission dollars, 94% of which support students.
6. Cheryl: We are transparent about how we've spent funds.
7. Cheryl: Our priorities for this academic year: we want to increase office visibility (students often don't know where our office is). We want to increase visibility of the Ram Research Directory so that students can find which faculty are researching, and faculty can find other faculty. There needs to be a discussion about an advisory board for technology transfer and intellectual property.
8. Cheryl: We want to continue to hear feedback from faculty and students, and to help make the post-award position become permanent. We'd like additional funding for internal seed grants and an increase in interdisciplinary research and grant submissions. And we'd like to celebrate our faculty research not just through our office's activities.

9. Erin: I love the idea of the research directory. I'm noticing that it depends on the semester whether I'm taking on graduate or undergraduate research; who keeps this up to date? Cheryl: All information was directly pulled from the website, but faculty need to update it to indicate changes and opportunities. When new faculty come on they are automatically added, and when they leave the university they are removed. Erin: If we have something we want to showcase, where do we go beyond posting on our own social media? Who is the point of contact for this? Cheryl: Last month's newsletter features Kurt Kolasinski. I'd like to see this happening across the university. I'm looking into collaborating with other partners.
10. Avery: As SGA representative we'd like to reach out to you. Can we contact you? Cheryl: Absolutely. We have a graduate assistant who can help in addition to myself.
11. David: What can we do to help you? Cheryl: One thing is making sure that research is seen as part of the university and not just as something sprinkled on top—looking at the teacher-scholar model and seeing research is incorporated into the classroom. We have funds to specifically support research for faculty and students. I'd like to see more excitement and celebration of research and creative activities—PR, our alumni association, etc.
12. David: The 4/4 teaching load and AWAs are the biggest barriers to research—is there any movement on that front? Cheryl: It is outside my purview, but there are discussions based on the data and we're moving in the right direction. I'll continue to advocate.

#### Liaison Reports

1. ADA Committee – Senator Heather Waymouth
  - a. No report.
2. Alumni Association – Adjunct Faculty Representative Bill Sawyer
  - a. No report.
3. APSCUF Exec Representative – Senators Bessie Lawton & Julie Wiest
  - a. Bessie: APSCUF raised issues with RamPortal, including how WRT duplicates a prefix already in use (WRT 120, etc.). Megan Jerabek responded that they are creating a timeline to respond to all the functionality issues. Administration has received a one-time permission to use 2.4M from reserves to hire consultants.
  - b. Bessie: The scholarship Office is hoping to standardize the timeline for scholarships (February applications come out, Awards made in April/May, funding posted before bills are due in July). Exception—super senior awards, which will be based on Fall grades so the money can be disbursed before graduation.
  - c. Bessie: APSCUF will work with CAPC to address teaching modalities in CIM, because these are not consistent with the new contract.
  - d. Bessie: APSCUF is still looking for a faculty member who can participate in data analysis regarding equity gaps in faculty.
  - e. Bessie: Air purifiers in classrooms—these will continue to be serviced, but as they break down the institution will consider whether they can replace them. Some are missing; if faculty have taken them into their offices they should return them. Julie: Some of these air purifiers have red lights on; we were told that they do have new filters but the purifiers themselves were not electronically reset.
  - f. Bessie: There are some climate issues in Main, Mitchell, and Swope.
  - g. Bessie: Administration shared that they are getting ready to implement the Temporary Electronic Communication Records Retention Policy, which shared governance groups

provided feedback on some time ago—you are encouraged to clear out the cache in your phones and computers, which protects you if you are subjected to a Right To Know investigation.

4. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
  - a. No report.
5. Campus Climate Intervention Team – Senator Simon Ruchti
  - a. No report; team has not met yet.
6. Council for Diversity, Inclusion, and Academic Excellence – Senator Daris McInnis
  - a. The first meeting for the council will be held on Monday, Nov. 4 at 9am.
7. External Relations – Senator Michelle Wade
  - a. No report.
8. Faculty Mentoring Committee – Senator Innhwa Park
  - a. FMC held an onboarding event (9/17/24; 9/18/24) and is currently planning for future events as well as updating its website.
9. IS&T Faculty Advisory Committee – Senator Simon Ruchti
  - a. Will be working to create guidance for use of AI. Committee formed and work has begun.
10. LGBTQIA+ University Caucus – Senator Julie Tennille
  - a. This report was supplied by faculty member, Pier Cicerelle and staff member, Jules Walls co-chairs of the Caucus.
  - b. The LGBTQIA+ Faculty and Staff Caucus continues to be an integral part of fostering a supportive, inclusive, and vibrant campus community. We would like to update you on some of our recent accomplishments and ongoing initiatives that enhance the lives of LGBTQIA+ faculty, staff, and students at the university.
  - c. In September, we successfully hosted a healthcare event titled *Navigating LGBTQIA+ Healthcare & Atmosphere on a College Campus*, where we discussed critical issues surrounding LGBTQIA+ health access and inclusivity in higher education. Additionally, we have been proud to sponsor engaging campus events, such as the *Rocky Horror Picture Benefit Show* benefiting HIV/AIDS research, furthering our commitment to community care.
  - d. We continue to work closely with other campus groups, such as CQTA (Center on Queer and Trans Advocacy) and SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance), in ongoing efforts to strengthen LGBTQIA+ representation and allyship across the university. Our caucus has several active subcommittees focused on issues like policy, education, and health care, all working to build a stronger and more inclusive campus environment.
  - e. We remain deeply grateful for the solidarity and support we've received from the Faculty Senate, especially during these politically turbulent times, when anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation continues to pose serious threats to our community. Your continued advocacy and partnership are crucial to ensuring that our university remains a safe and welcoming space for all.
11. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – Senator Megan Mraz
  - a. No report.
12. Multicultural Faculty Commission – Senator Orkideh Mohajeri
  - a. The MFC held its Fall reception on 10/1/24, and is starting a book club this semester.

13. Philadelphia Campus – Senator Meg Panichelli
  - a. No report.
14. President’s Commission on the Status of Women – Senator Michelle Wade
  - a. No report.
15. SIS Advisory Board – Senator Sarah Lightner
  - a. I have not heard anything from this committee—I will reach out to see if I’ve been missing something.
16. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
  - a. No report.
17. Search committees:
  - a. Ombudsperson search – Senators Rachel Daltry, Julie Tennille, and Julie Wiest
    - i. Julie W.: The search is well under way, as the next Ombudsperson is expected to be selected in early November. The committee received five applications for the position, and we met Oct. 9 to discuss the process/timeline and position priorities. Today (Oct. 18) we discussed the candidates, narrowed the pool for interviews, and finalized interview questions. We will hold interviews on Oct. 30, and will have a recommendation for the Provost’s office by that Friday.
    - ii. Israel: There were two calls for applications; there was a second with increased support from AWAs. This may have been attributable to Senate advocacy.
18. Student Liaisons:
  - a. Student Government Association – Avery McKnight
    - i. There have been RamPortal Issues: Pre-recs, co-recs, labs not appearing (etc.); most issues, however, are fixed in a timely, helpful manner.
  - b. Graduate Student Association – Matheeha Majeeth
    - i. No report.
  - c. ROTC – Cadet Augustus Fadden
    - i. Mark Pires and Danny Nguyen were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants on 21 Sep 2024.
    - ii. David Farrell will be commissioning at the end of this semester - late December 2024.
    - iii. Sam Shatoff and Augustus Fadden will commission at Widener University on May 24, 2025. Time TBD.
19. Ad Hoc Liaisons:
  - a. Facilities Master Plan Steering Committee – Senator Julie Wiest
    - i. The committee most recently met with EwingCole consultants Oct. 2, 2024, with a focus on discussing and prioritizing 40 identified projects. Those **40 possible projects** were organized into six categories:
      1. **7 relate to student housing** (Lawrence raze & rebuild, Tyson & Goshen renovations, Killinger replacement, Schmidt renovation & addition, College Arms renovation & possible expansion, new South Campus suite-style housing, and South Campus apartments addition);
      2. **5 relate to academics** (Merion Science Center renovation, Old Library renovation, FHG Library renovation, EO Bull Center expansion, and improved classroom utilization);

3. **4 relate to student services** (Sykes expansion, Old Library conversion to a welcome center or a cultural center, College Arms possibilities, and a new South Campus amenity/community building);
  4. **14 relate to campus improvements** (including land acquisitions, Ram Park relocation, Tanglewood residence & grounds, Farrell Stadium, and multiple projects related to roadways, walkways & parking);
  5. **6 relate to campus support** (including use of space at 210 & 220 East Rosedale, maintenance garage, 201 & 204 Carter, Alumni & Foundation Center, and 887 Matlack – where Public Safety is likely to be relocated);
  6. **4 relate to campus sustainability improvements** (geothermal expansion, multimodal plans for New Street, Gordon Preserve connections, and a bike-share program).
- ii. Note that some buildings are listed for multiple projects (and in multiple categories); that is because these projects are all still speculative at this point, and further changes and/or mixed-use solutions are likely. For example, Old Library might continue to be used for academic programs (which appears unlikely), or it might be converted into a welcome center or cultural center (or some mix of these uses), so the building’s possibilities span multiple projects and project categories.
  - iii. As the plan now moves into the fourth stage (“recommendations and draft publication”), which is the last step before completing and presenting the final master plan report, the next steps are: (1) deferred maintenance prioritization and budget capacity alignment, (2) cost estimate, and (3) refine preferred/prioritized strategies. There are no additional meetings scheduled at this time.

## Committee Reports

1. Faculty Welfare/Ethics – Senators Eirini Panagiotidou (chair), Marcos Campillo-Fenoll, Tara Guerriero, Erin Hill, Mary Houser, Michelle Kaulback, Simon Ruchti, Michelle Wade
  - a. Eirini: We are gathering faculty experiences related to the Global Engagement Office (GEO) and their vendors. If you have any insights or experiences you'd like to share (anonymously or otherwise), please use the following link to contribute:<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10pJErF8Bj2CBiEB6UlwqrnsFSOTZQrM847edVscdQ8A/edit>
  - b. Eirini: RamPortal concerns are collected here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kT4TCPqB11PhxMfsQgYfdL0dhd98iAEzitS7BFfA9VU/edit>
2. Student Welfare – Senators Dan Cherry (co-chair), Daris McInnis (co-chair), Rachel Daltry, Heather Waymouth
  - a. No report.
3. Membership & Elections – Senator Kurt Kolasinski (chair)
4. Communications – Senators Julie Tennille (chair), Daniel Forbes, Bessie Lawton, Matthew Pierlott, Julie Wiest
  - a. In the spirit of enhanced communication channels between Senate and campus community, members (Dan Forbes, Bessie Lawton, Matthew Pierlott, and Julie Wiest)

shared ideas about making the work more visible. Julie T will meet with Israel to discuss and consider a way forward

5. Research and Creative Activities – Senators David Bolton (co-chair), Stevie Grassetti (co-chair), Kris Benedict, Tienran Chen, Gary Childs, Wei Du, Prema Junius, Kurt Kolasinski, Sarah Lightner, Vipanchi Mishra, Orkideh Mohajeri, Innhwa Park, Selen Razon, Bill Sawyer, Heather Schugar, Esther Smidt
  - a. Reminding all faculty to please spread the news this advising season about the RAM research directory (a tool to help students find faculty mentors for their research and creative activities). Faculty can update their profiles themselves:  
<https://www.wcupa.edu/admin/research/forms/ram-research-directory/>
  - b. Call for SURF applications is out. This is a way that undergraduate students can receive funding for pursuing foundational research experience with faculty mentors (contributing to faculty research). See this site for more information:  
<https://www.wcupa.edu/admin/research/student-resources.aspx>. Applications are due 5pm on November 7.
  - c. Informal faculty work group is developing to help advise TGS about how to best support graduate student researchers. We plan to survey graduate coordinators and hold a focus group with GSA. Any faculty who are interested in contributing should contact Stevie Grassetti ([SGrassetti@wcupa.edu](mailto:SGrassetti@wcupa.edu)).

## Faculty Senate Executive Committee

- ❖ President – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez
- ❖ Vice President – Senator Kurt Kolasinski
- ❖ Recording Secretary – Senator Dan Forbes
- ❖ Corresponding Secretary – Senator Julie Tennille
- ❖ At-Large Members – Senators Rachel Daltry and Gary Childs
- ❖ Immediate Past President – Senator Julie Wiest
- ❖ Past Presidents – Senators Bessie Lawton and Heather Schugar

## Senate Meetings 2024-25

### Fall 2024

(First meeting of semester in-person; all other meetings via Zoom)

- ❖ Friday, September 6, 3-5pm
- ❖ Friday, October 18, 3-5pm
- ❖ (Open Forum) Wednesday, November 6, 2-3pm
- ❖ Friday, December 6, 3-5pm

### Spring 2025

(First meeting of semester in-person; all other meetings via Zoom)

- ❖ Friday, January 31, 3-5pm
- ❖ (Open Forum) Tuesday, February 25, 11am-12pm
- ❖ Friday, March 28, 3-5pm
- ❖ Friday, April 25, 3-5pm