Pittsburg State University
Faculty Senate

Date: Monday, October 26th
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Sunflower, Overman Student Center

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of September 28th, 2026, minutes

III. Announcements

a. Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs –Susan Bon

b. PSU/KNEA Remarks –Norm Philipp

c. Student Senate Remarks –Darrel McLeod

d. Unclassified Professional Senate Remarks & University Support Staff Remarks –Tom Smith

e. Graduate College Remarks

f. Faculty Senate President's Report –Kristen Livingston

IV. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs- Chair: Charlie Phillips

- Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee- Chair: Doug Younger
- Library Services Subcommittee- Tracy Barnes
- Joint Publications Subcommittee- Chair: Chris Childers
- Online and Distance Learning Subcommittee- Chair: Kevin Elliott
- Academic Honors Subcommittee- Chair: Laurent Pretot
- Honors College Subcommittee- Stephen Zornes

b. Student-Faculty Subcommittee- Chair: Anna Beth Gilmore

- Committee did not meet

c. All-University Subcommittee- Chair: Krissy Lewis

d. Faculty Affairs Subcommittee- Chair: Bridgette Fincher

e. Constitution Subcommittee- Chairs: Peter Chung/Chandler Davidson

f. General Education Subcommittee- Chair: Janet Lewis

g. Budget Subcommittee- Chair: Stephen Zornes

h. Academic Honesty Subcommittee- Chair: Angelina Boyd

i. Ad Hoc- A.I. Subcommittee- Chair: Jorge Leon

V. Unfinished Business:

a. Faculty Course Schedule Policy Proposal- Feedback Compilation **(see attachment)**

VI. New Business:

VII. Open Forum:

VIII. Adjournment

- Next Faculty Senate Meeting: November 16th in the Sunflower Room, OSC

Committee Reports for October 2026

1. Academic Affairs- Chair: Charlie Phillips; Recorder: Greg Belcher
    a. Pending
2. Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee-**see attachment**
3. Library Services Subcommittee- Chair: Tracy Barnes; Recorder: Rebeca Book
    a. We did not meet in person this month. NO Official in-person or Zoom Meeting in October 2026; instead, email conversations were used. Members in attendance through email conversation: Janet Lewis (CAS), Tracy Barnes (COE), Kristen Maceli (COB), Rebeca Book (SAET), Barbara Pope (Library), Sara DeCaro (Library), Beth Hendrickson (Library), and Tatum Carden (student rep.). Dean Eric Deatherage as ex officio. Dean Deatherage emailed updates for the library based on the following (his direct updates below): 1. Library services to faculty, staff, and students are similar to last year at this time. No loss of content or loss of access to content has been reported, other than a few minor username/password-related issues. 2. We have several computer equipment issues being processed through the ITS ticket system at slower response times, but that is consistent with Angela's communications last year regarding increased ITS workload. Equipment issues are currently affecting library areas, including Special Collections and the Dean's Office. 3. We are currently addressing accessibility issues with nearly all library databases. VPATs have been reviewed. Most databases must have accessibility exceptions documentation approved and filed by/in General Counsel's office. 4. We have fewer reported publications to the University Author Reception this year. Please remind faculty to submit their publications by October 23 at https://pittsburgstate.formstack.com/forms/uar.
4. Joint Publications Subcommittee- Chair: Chris Childers; Recorder: Malcolm Jason
    a. No report, no meeting
5. Online and Distance Learning Subcommittee- Chair: Kevin Elliott; Recorder: Gail Yarick
    a. No meeting. Chair Kevin Elliott sent out email asking the committee for any topics that needed to be discussed. No topics were identified.
6. Academic Honors Subcommittee- Chair: Laurent Pretot; Recorder: Kevin Elliott
    a. The University Academic Honors Committee did not meet again after our initial meeting, but continues to work on the following: 1. Developing a Statement of Purpose for the Committee; 2. Clarifying the roles of the committee; 3. Identifying chairs for college-level committees; a. College of Education: Dr. Donna Zerr; b. College of Business: Dr. Connie Shum; c. College of Technology: Dave Ferguson; d. College of Arts & Sciences: unknown (pending). The committee will reconvene in October to discuss items 1 and 2.
7. Honors College Subcommittee- Chair: Stephen Zornes; Recorder: Elyse Strickland

a. **Present:** Stephen Zornes, John Daley, Tracy Barnes, Chris Spera, Phillip Frank, Ellison Whitlow, and Brian Moots. **Absent:** Elyse Strickland. Provost Susan Bon was unable to attend. Stephen Zornes called the meeting to order, and the prior minutes were approved (motion by Phillip Frank, second by Brian Moots). Key updates and discussions below: **Honors College Application & Selection Cycle:** The application portal opens in late October, with applications due January 29, 2027, ahead of the February 28 interview day. Review materials are available on the Honors College Canvas site; a step-by-step walkthrough of the review process will occur at a future meeting. **Scholarship Funding & Cohort Size:** The target cohort is projected at 20 students (down from 25 last year and ~30 in prior years) due to budget pressures, though this figure requires administrative confirmation. The committee discussed prior budget cuts (~$150,000 / 30%), keeping individual award amounts intact rather than reducing them to admit more students, and restrictions on stacking Honors scholarships with other university awards. **Fundraising & Alumni Engagement:** Private scholarship fundraising is under way with University Advancement, including a new fundraising webpage, Homecoming presence, a spring banquet, and a long-term illustrative endowment target of $12–$14 million. **Academic Standards & Program Integrity:** The committee discussed strengthening course rigor, research guidance, and faculty supervision. A proposal to require a minimum number of Honors electives/projects remains unresolved. The student executive team will distribute a brief survey to gauge student experiences and suggestions for academic standards. **Committee Roles & Governance:** Members favored keeping separate responsibilities for the Faculty Senate Honors College Subcommittee, the Academic Honors Committee, and a potential faculty Honors council to ensure proper oversight of Honors standards. **Administrative Engagement & Next Steps:** The committee will invite Provost Susan Bon (and possibly President Newsom) to a future meeting to clarify scholarship budget, cohort size, and stacking policies. **Action Items: Director (Brian Moots):** Confirm authorized incoming recipient numbers with the provost; follow up on scholarship stacking/budget questions; grant Canvas selection access and schedule the scoring walkthrough. **Student Executive Team:** Coordinate distribution of the student expectations survey. **Committee:** Revisit review deadlines, selection criteria, and interview prep. **Next Meeting & Adjournment:** The proposed November 5, 2026 meeting date is being re-evaluated for alternate dates in November or early December. Meeting adjourned following a motion by Tracy Barnes and second by Phillip Frank.

8. Student-Faculty Subcommittee- Chair: Anna Beth Gilmore; Recorder: Gena Coomes
    a. The committee did not meet, no report.
9. All-University Subcommittee- Chair: Krissy Lewis; Recorder: Gena Coomes
    a. Pending
10. Faculty Affairs Subcommittee- Chair: Bridgette Fincher; Recorder: Janet Zepernick
    a. Pending
11. Constitution Subcommittee- Chairs: Peter Chung/Chandler Davidson; Recorder: Daniel Maxwell
    a. Pending
12. General Education Subcommittee- Chair: Janet Lewis; Recorder: Mark Johnson

a. No meeting was held, but the Committee is communicating via Teams/email as it prepares to gather and review syllabi for courses in KBOR General Education Discipline Areas 3: Mathematics & Statistics, 5: Social & Behavioral Sciences, and 7: Institutionally Designated. Chairs/Directors with oversight of General Education courses in these areas can expect an email from Committee Chair Janet Lewis requesting a copy of these course syllabi for the purposes of reviewing alignment between General Education Objectives, Student Learning Outcomes, and Course Assessments.

13. Budget Subcommittee- Chair: Stephen Zornes

    a. No meeting, no report.

14. Academic Honesty Subcommittee- Chair: Angelina Boyd; Recorder: Mary Larsen

    a. No Maxient reports flagged for further action

15. Ad Hoc- A.I. Subcommittee- Chair: Jorge Leon

    a. Members present: Jorge Leon (chair), Angelina Boyd, Kristi Frisbee, Michelle Hudiburg (ex-off), Ananda Jayawardhana, Kristen Maceli, Jason Reid, Jane Talkington. The PSU Faculty AI Ad Hoc group met to discuss an 'AI Misuse Guidelines and Faculty Decision Rubric' document. This document worked its way up from the PSU AI Initiative group and the Ad Hoc group has been revising it. The goal of this document is to serve as a guidance for faculty around the topics of AI Use and Academic integrity. It is not meant as policy. The AI Ad Hoc group is submitting the document to Faculty Senate for additional feedback before a testing phase. Please share with departments and ask them to provide feedback through Senate reps or through a M.S. form. At upcoming meetings, after any adjustments due to feedback, the Ad Hoc group will ask for any faculty volunteers willing to use the document in the Spring and provide feedback. Links to 'AI Misuse Guidelines and Faculty Decision Rubric' and feedback form will be distributed.

Faculty Course Schedule Policy Proposal: Question-by-Question Breakdown

Overview of Participation

- Total Respondents: 77 faculty and staff members
- Response Completion Rates: High engagement across all qualitative and quantitative feedback fields (ranging from 62% to 87% completion per question).

Question 1: Coordination of 50-Minute MWF & 75-Minute MW/TR Classes

How should 50-minute Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes be coordinated with 75-minute Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday classes?

Response Count: 67/77 (87.0% response rate)

Key Synthesis & Themes:

- Consistent Start Times & Passing Periods: Strong support for standardized block start times and a uniform 15-minute passing period across all days to simplify student transit across campus.
- Preserve Flexibility: Respondents emphasized that standard grids should act as default guidelines rather than rigid mandates. Program-level autonomy is required for courses with specific pedagogical needs.
- FR Friday Optimization: Proponents noted that non-traditional MW sequences free up Friday afternoons for research, office hours, laboratory prep, and student events.
- Resistance to Change: A noticeable subset of respondents favored maintaining the current standard schedule (mirroring KBOR and peer institutions), arguing that 50-minute MWF patterns are time-tested.

Question 2: Advantages & Disadvantages of 75-Minute MWF Afternoon Courses

What are the advantages and disadvantages of using 75-minute periods for Monday/Wednesday/Friday courses beginning in the afternoon?

Response Count: 62/77 (80.5% response rate)

Key Synthesis & Themes:

- Advantages:
    - Room & Space Optimization: Maximizes classroom utilization during traditionally underused afternoon time slots.
    - Pedagogical Balance: Aligns afternoon MW/MWF offerings directly with standard Tuesday/Thursday 75-minute formats.
    - Efficiency for Selected Programs: Particularly beneficial for upper-division seminars and professional/business programs.

- Disadvantages:
    - Student Attention & Fatigue: Significant concerns that 75-minute lecture blocks in late afternoons lead to reduced student focus and retention.
    - Erosion of Campus Life & Friday Culture: Potential to disrupt late-afternoon extracurriculars, student club meetings, and campus events.
    - Schedule Overlaps: Conflicts with evening courses, clinical shifts, and off-campus employment commitments for non-traditional students.

Question 3: Impacts on Access, Rooms, Labs, Clinicals, & Transportation

How might each proposal affect student access, room utilization, laboratory and clinical courses, transportation, faculty and staff responsibilities, and the scheduling needs of individual academic units?

Response Count: 61/77 (79.2% response rate)

Key Synthesis & Themes:

- Lab & Clinical Constraints: Multi-hour lab blocks (Sciences, Technology, Construction) and clinical shifts (Nursing) struggle to fit into standardized 75-minute grids without causing multi-hour scheduling conflicts for students.
- Degree Progress & Minors: Staggered or overlapping schedules risk creating time collisions between major requirements and general education/minor electives, potentially delaying graduation.
- Downtown Transit & Parking: Highlighted transit and parking bottlenecks, particularly regarding student and faculty movement between main campus and downtown facility locations (e.g., Kelce Building).

Question 4: Areas Requiring Greater Clarity & Additional Detail

Which elements of the proposed schedules require greater clarity or additional detail?

Response Count: 51/77 (66.2% response rate)

Key Synthesis & Themes:

- Exception & Governance Policies: Clearer documentation on how program-level exception requests will be evaluated and who holds approval authority (Faculty Senate/Departments vs. Central Administration).
- Data Justification: Faculty requested baseline room-utilization data and problem statements demonstrating why a schedule overhaul is required.
- Student Impact Modeling: Requests for sample student degree plans (e.g., dual majors, STEM majors with minors) tested against each proposed schedule grid to evaluate real-world feasibility.

Alternative Schedule Configurations to Evaluate

Are there other schedule configurations the task force should evaluate?

Response Count: 53/77 (68.8% response rate)

Key Synthesis & Themes:

- Maintain Current Status Quo: A significant group recommended retaining the current system, matching peer Regent universities.
- Extended Evening / Weekend Blocks: Evaluation of 3-hour once-a-week evening blocks or late-afternoon seminar slots for graduate and upper-division courses.
- Workload Equity Considerations: Analysis of how early 8:00 AM slots and Friday duties are distributed fairly among full-time faculty, adjuncts, and faculty with caregiving duties.

Question 6: Proposal Preference Distribution

Which of the proposals do you prefer? (Select all that apply)

Response Count: 61/77 answered (16 respondents made no selection)

Selection Summary Table:

Percentages represent the proportion out of all 77 total respondents. Respondents were allowed to select multiple options.

Proposal Option	Respondent Selections	Preference Share (% of N=77)	Primary Rationale Cited
Proposal A: Standard 50-Minute MWF Pattern	33	42.9%	Predictable, standard across peer institutions, optimal for introductory courses.
Proposal B: Mixed MWF Pattern	18	23.4%	Offers middle-ground flexibility between 50-min and 75-min formats.
Proposal C: Alternative MW Sequences	9	11.7%	Provides alternative scheduling sequences, though flagged for room complexity.

Proposal D: Nonoverlapping MW Sequence	18	23.4%	Eliminates time-block overlaps, aligns start times, and cleans up room scheduling.
No Selection / Blank	16	20.8%	Did not select a proposal option; provided qualitative feedback only.

Question 7: Additional Comments & Shared Governance Input

Please provide additional comments regarding the Course Schedule Recommendations document and proposals.

Response Count: 48/77 (62.3% response rate)

Key Synthesis & Themes:

- Shared Governance & Voting: Appreciation for seeking feedback, coupled with requests that the final policy be submitted to the Faculty Senate for a formal vote rather than consultation alone.
- Pilot Program Recommendation: High interest in running a 1–2 semester pilot program with an explicit review period before permanent adoption.
- Appreciation for Task Force: Acknowledgment of the Task Force's time and efforts in addressing complex university scheduling dynamics.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Meeting Information

Meeting Date	10/8/20206
Chair	Doug Younger
Recorder	Erin Jordan
Absent Voting Members	Jennifer Pursley

Approval & Comments of Proposed Changes

Item	Department/College	Type	Stuck -COE	Jordan FS Pres Elect	Younger -COT	Gilmore -CAS	Pursley -COB	Decision	Comments
EET-343_Notification	SAET/COT	Notification							
ENGML_BA ML Span Lang Cult_Rev	EML/CAS	Emphasis Revision		x	x	x	X	Approve	
ENGML_Span Cert_Rev	EML/CAS	Certificate Revision		x	x	x	X	Approve	
ENGML_SpanFrench Cert_Notification	EML/CAS	Notification							
ENGLML_Spanish Minor_Rev	EML/CAS	Minor Revision		x	x	x	X	Approve	Need a note answering Jennifer's questions listed in email
HHPR_Gerontology Minor_Rev	HHPR/COE	Minor Revision		x	x	x	X	Approve	