

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

October 27, 2025

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2025, with David Weaver, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the September 29, 2025, meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Provost Bon shared information on faculty hiring from AY 2025 and into AY 2026. (See attached.) She indicated that there were concerns that faculty positions were not being replaced. When a position is requested, data is collected by the chairs/directors and provided to the deans who then visit Provost Bon. Data is reviewed and discussed to determine the path forward. Fifty-seven positions were approved over AY 2025 and AY 2026. A new testing center coordinator has been hired, Stephen Graham. He was a graduate student at PSU many years ago. He will be looking at ways to better utilize our resources and possibly increase our offerings. Dr. Bon reported that the current policy allowing faculty to withdraw students will likely be rescinded. This would still allow faculty to include attendance policies in syllabi. In answer to the questions posed (see attached), the number of student complaints has increased to the level that could impact HLC accreditation and could result in legal issues. After many conversations, there is a better understanding of faculty's concerns. The intent is to remove the burden from faculty while still providing an avenue for faculty to manage their courses. There will be a process put in place for faculty to work with their chair/director and if appropriate a request made to the Registrar for an administrative withdraw. Special considerations can be reviewed, such as labs or other courses with waiting lists. Faculty will still have the option to assign an earned F or walk away F, documenting the last date of attendance. In terms of DFW rates, the concern is not an occasional course but more a trend over time. A new statement will replace the attendance policy in the syllabus supplement noting administrative withdrawal and other exceptions. The revised statement may be an ongoing process as more feedback is received. In KBOR news, a post tenure review policy is being discussed. The intent is to be prepared to answer any questions that may come up from the state legislature. In addition, a workload policy is being discussed. A vote is expected at KBOR on November 17, 2025. Several states, including Arkansas, have already passed anti-tenure legislation. These policies will hopefully help to demonstrate the true nature of tenure.

PSU/KNEA –Ananda Jayawardhana, President

No report.

Student Senate – Corey Humble, Representative

No report.

Unclassified Support/Professional Senate – Eva Sager & Michelle Hensley, Co-Presidents

Co-President Hensley reported that Dr. Newsom will be attending the senate meeting in November.

Graduate College

No report.

Faculty Senate President – David Weaver, President

President Weaver shared that Peter Chung will chair a committee to review the current legislative process to identify ways to gain efficiencies while maintaining the quality and integrity of the process. In addition, all committees have been asked to perform a self-audit around a set of questions to assist in determining if there is the right make up of Faculty Senate committees. (See attached.) To make any changes effective for Fall 2026, the general faculty would need to approve updates in April. Lastly, the Diversity and Multicultural Affairs committee has recommended a name change to comply with the budget provision. Considering the thoughts on the committee charge and the committee audit happening with all Faculty Senate committees, it was motioned and passed to send this to the Constitution committee for review.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – Mandi Alonzo, Chair

No report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – Byron McKay, Chair

No report.

Library Services/Learning Resources – Philip Frank, Chair

No report.

Online and Distance Learning – Beth Hendrickson, Chair

No report.

Academic Honors – Laurent Pretot, Chair

See agenda for report.

Honors College – TBD, Chair

No report.

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Joanne Britz, Chair

It was reported that the committee met on September 30, 2025. See agenda for report.

Student-Faculty – Serif Uran, Chair

No report.

All University Committee – Tracy Stahl, Chair

No report.

Faculty Affairs – James Whitney, Chair

No report.

Constitution Committee – Karen Johnson, Chair

No report.

General Education Committee – Michele Barnaby, Chair

It was reported that the committee met on October 7, 2025. See agenda for details.

Budget Committee – Stephen Zornes, Chair

No report.

Academic Honesty – Kristen Livingston, Chair

No report.

AI Committee – TBD, Chair

It was reported that the committee is reviewing survey results from 80+ faculty members and hope to have a report at the November meeting.

Unfinished Business

As noted in the Faculty Senate President report, the renaming of the Diversity and Multicultural Affairs committee has been put on hold and moved to the Constitution committee; Peter Chung is chairing a group to review the legislative process; and committees are being reviewed with the possible addition of Technology and AI. The Student Faculty committee has been charged with addressing the Athletic Student Success request.

New Business

It was reported that faculty have been appointed to serve on the Faculty PD Travel Funds Task Force. As a reminder, the PSU Foundation could not provide funding, so the Provost and Deans pooled resources to provide \$65,000. Faculty perspective is needed to better inform the process. Also in new business, Provost Bon shared a proposed course schedule pilot to address the future move of the KCOB and to provide more efficient/uniform scheduling for students. The deans worked with chairs/directors to develop the proposal. Faculty are encouraged to share out to their departments and funnel feedback through the chair/director.

Open Forum

Parking concerns due to current construction on campus were raised. This has been discussed at President's Cabinet. There is a plan to move the state vehicles to free up the student parking spaces they are currently occupying. Any additional concerns will be sent to Stu Hite.

Meeting Adjourned Meeting adjourned Monday, October 27, 2025, at 3:56 p.m.


Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary

Searches and Appointments				
AY2024-2025 Searches		AY2025-2026 Searches		
New Hires	15	New Hires	2	17
Other Faculty Appt	14	Other Faculty Appt	6	20
Failed Searches	6	Failed Searches		6
In Progress	1	In Progress	13	14
Total Approvals for AY25	30	Total Approvals for AY26 (to date)	21	51

Approval Process				
AY2024-2025 Searches		AY2025-2026 Searches		
Academic Year Staffing Plan	13	Academic Year Staffing Plan	12	25
Conversions or Return to Faculty	15	Conversions or Return to Faculty	6	21
Off-Cycle Approvals	8	Off-Cycle	3	11
Total Approvals for AY25	36	Total Approvals for AY26 (to date)	21	57

Date: October 27, 2025

Subject: Proposed Policy on Faculty Ability to Drop Students

1. Where did this policy originate — from KBOR or an internal university directive?
2. Can faculty review the new syllabus supplement language in advance? Most faculty will be working on their spring syllabi soon.
3. If a student returns to class near the end of the semester after an extended absence, are instructors required to assign an earned “F” grade? The last recorded day of attendance does not accurately reflect the extent of the student’s absenteeism.
 - This could negatively affect faculty performance, particularly regarding D/F grade percentage.
 - Students would still have access to complete course evaluations despite limited attendance.
4. In courses or labs with limited enrollment capacity, may an instructor include the following statement in the syllabus?

“If you do not attend the lab/class on the first day of class, you may be dropped if another student is on the waiting list.”

To: Susan Bon, Executive Vice President and Provost

From: Chris Childers, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Jason Clemensen, Associate Dean, College of Education
Eric Deatherage, Dean of Libraries
Paul W. Grimes, Dean, Gladys A. Kelce College of Business
Lisa Riedle, Dean, Crossland College of Technology

Re: Proposal to establish new course scheduling times and days

Date: September 15, 2025

Last week, the academic deans met to discuss the planned student survey concerning course scheduling and pass times between classes. After lengthy discussion, we concluded that the primary results of the survey would be self-evident – students prefer classes during “prime time” and students often need more time between classes due to the growing physical distances between class locations. Our informed opinion is based on our collective work with both students and faculty. We are also aware of the campus-wide issue of low-utilization rates for our classrooms and academic spaces. This long-term issue has only been exasperated due to the decline in student enrollment levels we’ve experienced in recent years.

To simultaneously address these two concerns, the deans propose that the university community give serious consideration to a new model of scheduling courses. With the Kelce College of Business opening their new building next fall, the current 10-minute and 15-minute pass times between classes are inadequate to meet the needs of students with back-to-back courses that could be scheduled up to 2 miles apart next fall (the distance between the CCOT and the new KCOB buildings). The current pass times already place great pressure on students with courses sequentially scheduled on the far east side of campus and the Oval. We believe it is possible to construct a course schedule model that provides 30-minute pass times and increases our measured capacity utilization rates by spreading courses over more times and days. The 30-minute pass time will not only allow students greater opportunity for travel between classes, it will also provide more opportunities for students to engage with instructors and their classmates between classes. This we believe is a positive cultural side benefit of expanding pass times.

We propose the following model:

1. Maintain our normal 16-week semesters.
2. All three-credit hour classes to be normally scheduled for 75-minute periods.
3. All three-credit hour classes to be normally scheduled for two days each week of the semester.
4. Three-credit hour classes to be normally scheduled for M-W or W-F or T-TH.
5. All academic units which schedule M-W courses **must** also schedule an equivalent number of W-F courses.

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP (2025-2026)

[illegible]