FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
October 26, 2026

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2026, with Kristen Livingston, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from September 28, 2026, meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Provost Bon shared that FWA numbers have been updated and if there are any questions contact Glenn Storey. Work on DEI/CRT continues. Syllabi will need to be reviewed. Exceptions can only be sought for programs, not individual courses. Provost Bon expressed that help is available for Faculty Success. Susan Dellasega can assist faculty with uploading their CVs. From there, faculty can begin to manipulate the data as needed. Provost Bon provided the newest revision to the course schedule and asked faculty to share and provide feedback. (See attached.) Lastly, Provost Bon shared that we have secured $9.3m in grants which is well above the previous year.

PSU/KNEA – *Norm Philipp, President*

President Philipp shared that the KNEA is reviewing the contract in preparation for future negotiations. KNEA teamed up with the USD 250 KNEA members to participate in the Homecoming Parade to hand out books. KNEA will host a social on November 2nd. In addition, the Higher Ed Symposium is scheduled for November 13-15th. Lastly, the joint satisfaction survey should be out by spring 2027.

Student Senate – *Darrel McLeod, President*

President McLeod shared that several projects are underway. These include installing feminine hygiene products in restrooms across campus, creating a FAFSA event for students, and developing a Student of the Semester award. In addition, SGA is hosting a candidate forum and a Trunk or Treat event at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

Unclassified Support/Professional Senate – *Thomas Smith, President*

No report.

Graduate College

No report.

Faculty Senate President – *Kristen Livingston, President*

President Livingston shared that there was no KBOR meeting this month, next meeting is in November. The Faculty Senate Presidents are facilitating a review of the AP English systemwide cut scores. In addition, KBOR recently approved a Reduced Credit Hour Degree (RCHD). A KBOR task force was established to outline the process to establish a RCHD. Jorge Leon has provided the Facutly Affairs committee a draft of AI guidelines for review. The guidelines tie into Faculty Senate's goal for Access Pitt State.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – *Charlie Phillips, Chair*

No report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – *Doug Younger, Chair*

All submissions up for review were passed and recommended for approval by Faculty Senate. See the agenda for details. (The original legislation is available with each college.)

All curriculum items recommended by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee were approved.

Library Services/Learning Resources – *Tracy Barnes, Chair*
See agenda.

Joint Publications – *Chris Childers, Chair*
No report.

Online and Distance Learning – *Kevin Elliott, Chair*
See agenda.

Academic Honors – *Laurent Pretot, Chair*
See agenda.

Honors College – *Stephen Zornes, Chair*
See agenda.

Student-Faculty – *Anna Beth Gilmore, Chair*
No report.

All University Committee – *Krissy Lewis, Chair*
No report.

Faculty Affairs – *Bridgette Fincher, Chair*
No report.

Constitution Committee – *Peter Chung/Chandler Davidson, Chair*
No report.

General Education Committee – *Janet Lewis, Chair*
See agenda.

Budget Committee – *Stephen Zornes, Chair*
No report.

Academic Honesty – *Angelina Boyd, Chair*
See agenda.

Ad Hoc AI – Jorge Leon, Chair
See agenda.

Unfinished Business

Feedback results from the course schedule handout provided at the September meeting are included in the agenda. Faculty were encouraged to shared the results and provide any additional feedback to President Livingston.

New Business

There was a question regarding recent policy updates and Faculty Senate involvement. Provost Bon shared that President Newsom requested that a policy library be created as many policies that already existed were not available from a central location. In some cases, policies have been stood up to address compliance issues.

Open Forum

None.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned Monday, October 26, 2026, at 3:32 p.m.

Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary

Course Schedule Recommendations for Review and Feedback

Working Draft | October 14, 2026

Purpose and Context

The Shared Governance Task Force has been asked to gather constituent feedback to inform revisions to the class & lab schedule procedures. The current schedule has been reviewed due to significant concerns about unpredictable/overlapping class start times, academic barriers to student success/completion, challenges to faculty and staff, and campuswide conflicts with parking and transportation due to the non-standard start time and over-scheduling of courses during the same primetime class periods. In response to the identified concerns and documented difficulties in scheduling courses, the task force is working to gather feedback on the effort to draft a course schedule policy and on the potential revisions to our current course schedule. The task force includes representatives from the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association, Graduate Council, and academic leadership across the colleges. Representatives are asked to consult with their respective constituencies and bring forward feedback for consideration at the task force's October meeting.

The proposed Tables below are drafts and warrant closer discussion among faculty, staff, academic affairs leadership, students. They reflect alternatives developed through survey feedback from faculty senate, conversations with faculty members, department chairs, and academic leaders. Feedback is requested on the advantages, limitations, and potential unintended effects of the proposed Tables. Related transportation considerations, including possible Gus Bus adjustments, remain part of the discussion.

Areas of Agreement

- **A 15-minute passing period** has received support in discussions and the survey to date.
- **Consistent class start times are essential** and improve clarity, flexibility, course selectivity, and predictability for students, faculty, and staff.
- **A reasonable degree of consistency across the week is desirable**, while recognizing that programs and academic units have different instructional needs.

Continued Discussion Requested

- Made minor adjustments for increased consistency across the preferred Standard 50-Minute MWF Pattern 50-minute Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes be to coordinate as best as possible with 75-minute Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday classes.
- Provide feedback on the modified version of a faculty recommended course schedule for lab and multiple-hour class periods.
- How should exceptions be determined, propose a committee structure similar to the model adopted by Kansas State [https://www.k-state.edu/registrar/faculty-staff/acadclassschedule/course_scheduling/].
- How to define and clarify the meaning of a Cohort which would likely require an exception to standard start times.
- Which elements of the proposed Tables 1 & 2 [class and lab schedules] require greater clarity, additional detail, or revision?
- Work to develop policy for prime time course scheduling, e.g. https://www.stmarytx.edu/policies/academic-affairs/class-scheduling-policy/.
- Work with University Architect to determine/update classroom designations: labs, studios, designated, general use.

Table 1: STANDARD STARTING TIMES for TRADITIONAL CLASS PERIODS with 50-Minute MWF Pattern [Incorporates Faculty Senate Survey Feedback and Shared Governance Feedback] ***Maintains 50-minute MWF classes throughout the day.***

Monday/Wednesday/Friday	Monday/Wednesday	Tuesday/Thursday	Once weekly: M, T, W, Th, or F	Monday-Friday
50-minute	**75-minute**	**75-minute**	**150-minute**	**50-minute**
8:00-8:50 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.	8:00-8:50 a.m.
9:05-9:55 a.m.	9:30-10:45 a.m.	9:30-10:45 a.m.		9:05-9:55 a.m.
10:10-11:00 a.m.				10:10-11:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
12:20-1:10 p.m.				12:20-1:10 p.m.
1:25-2:15 p.m.	12:45-2:00 p.m.	12:45-2:00 p.m.		1:25-2:15 p.m.
2:30-3:20 p.m.	2:30-3:45 p.m.	2:30-3:45 p.m.	2:30-5:00 p.m.	2:30-3:20 p.m.
3:35-4:25 p.m.	4:00-5:15 p.m.	4:00-5:15 p.m.		3:35-4:25 p.m.

Table 2: STANDARD STARTING TIMES for LABS and MULTIPLE-HOUR CLASS PERIODS

Mon/Wed (Labs)	Tues/Thurs (Labs)
100-110 minute	**100-110 minute**
8:00-9:50 a.m.	8:00-9:50 a.m.
10:10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	10:10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
12:20-2:10 p.m.	12:20-2:10 p.m.
2:30-3:20 p.m.	2:30-3:20 p.m.
4:40-6:30 p.m.	4:40-6:30 p.m.
*6:45-8:35 p.m.	*6:45-8:35 p.m.

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP (2026-2027)

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
Kristen Livingston, (President)	X	X	X							
Erin Jordan, (President Elect)	X	X								
David Weaver, (Past President)	X	X	X							
Bakke, Chris (HPASS)	X									
Bird, Natalie (HHPR)	X	X	X							
Botello-Sampson, Darren (At-Large)	X		X							
Chung, Peter (BIOL)	X	X	X							
Cook, Sheila (FCS)										
Coomes, Gena (NURS)	X	X	X							
DeCaro, Sara (Library Svcs)	X	X	X							
Fincher, Bridgette (TCHL)	X	X	X							
Gilmore, Anna Beth (@Lrg)	X	X	X							
Heter, Ashleigh (@Lrg)	X	X	X							
Jason, Malcolm (WGS)										
Jayawardhana, Ananda (@Lrg)	X	X	X							
Lawson, Kris (HPASS)		X	X							
Miller, Laura (@Lrg)		X	X							
Miranda Rios, Ramiro (MUSIC)		X	X							
Moss, Grant (@Lrg)	X	X	X							
Page-Sagehorn, Holly (CMCET)	X	X								
Philipp, Norm (@Lrg)	X	X	X							
Philips, Charlie (TWL)	X	X	X							
Richardson, Jennifer (TCHL)										
Rojas, Eric (ML)	X	X	X							
Shaw, Ashley (@Lrg)	X	X								
Shay, Josh (MIL)			X							
Sikola, David (KUSB)	X		X							
Spera, Chris (PSYCH)	X	X	X							
Spielbusch, Dan (ENG)	X	X	X							
Stahl, Tracy (NURS)	X	X								
Tankersley, Amber (@Lrg)	X	X	X							
Thompson, John (AUTO)	X	X	X							
Timmons, Olivia (ART)	X	X	X							
Uran, Serif (PHYS)	X	X	X							
Ward, Ken (COMM)	X	X	X							
Winters, Bobby (MATH)	X	X	X							
Yarick, Gail (@Lrg)	X	X	X							
Younger, Doug (GC)	X	X	X							
Zepernick, Janet (ENGL)	X	X	X							
Zornes, Stephen (KUSB)	X	X	X							
Univ Staff Senate Rep	X	X								
Student Rep										
Student Government Rep										

*Substitutions