

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 17, 2025

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025, with David Weaver, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from October 27, 2025, meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Provost Bon started by expressing the importance of debate and stressed that she welcomes the hard questions as new proposals are being discussed. Provost Bon reported details on faculty hiring. From AY25 to AY26, a total of 51 positions has been approved. Fourteen searches are currently in progress. Of the 37 completed hires, 28 have been tenure track and 9 have been instructional. Of the positions in progress, there is a blend of tenure track and instructional and the ratio could change depending on applicant pools and other factors. Provost Bon shared that she recently addressed the Graduate Faculty and discussed RisePoint. She apologized that her comments may have implied that RisePoint is not a good partner when in fact they have been an important factor in the success of the professional MBA. The partnership has allowed for additional funding for the Kelce College of Business. In addition, the graduate enrollment charts shared are being updated to reflect accurate data. President's Cabinet recently discussed parking concerns and will continue conversations. After football season, the plan is to move the state motor vehicles to the small lot near the Jungletron. President's Cabinet also approved the new drop policy (see attached). Lastly, Provost Bon shared that the Deans have been working collaboratively by discussing the use of faculty across colleges and that she is gathering student feedback on the proposed course schedule. She met with SGA recently and they had great questions.

PSU/KNEA – *Ananda Jayawardhana, President*

See attached for announcements.

Student Senate – *Corey Humble, Representative*

No report.

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

No report.

Graduate College

No report.

Faculty Senate President – *David Weaver, President*

President Weaver reported that the Faculty Senate website will be reviewed for the upcoming digital accessibility regulations. Regulations include any pdfs that can be found on the website. Archived documents may not need to be compliant. The website must be in compliance by April 2026. The questions for the Faculty Senate Committee Review have been discussed, and a couple have been added to the list. Committees were asked to continue their review. Parking issues, specifically at the CCOT, are being discussed. Feedback on the course schedule proposal that was shared at the October meeting is requested by Friday, November 21, 2025. Discussions with the city on transportation continue, but that alone will not likely resolve challenges. SGA is also pulling together feedback regarding the proposed course schedule. Lastly, KBOR will be discussing Tenure, Post Tenure Review and Faculty Workload on November 19, 2025. There is a link available for viewing.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – *Mandi Alonzo, Chair*

No report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – *Byron McKay, Chair*

All submissions up for review were passed and recommended for approval by Faculty Senate. See the agenda for details.

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

Library Services/Learning Resources – *Philip Frank, Chair*

The committee met on October 29, 2025. See agenda for report.

Online and Distance Learning – *Beth Hendrickson, Chair*

The committee met on November 17, 2025. The Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology will host digital accessibility training for faculty. See the CTLT calendar for details.

Academic Honors – *Laurent Pretot, Chair*

No report.

Honors College – *Rion Huffman, Chair*

No report.

Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – *Joanne Britz, Chair*

No report.

Student-Faculty – *Serif Uran, Chair*

The committee met on October 31, 2025, to discuss the Athletics Student Success Request. See agenda for details. A similar request was also submitted by SGA a couple of years ago. The committee recommended the following guiding principles be forwarded to the Provost for any action:

- Every course to have a syllabus that is available to students
- How grades are determined listed in syllabus
- Timely submission of grades in Canvas
- Tentative semester calendar included in syllabus

After discussion, Faculty Senate acknowledged their authority was limited to forwarding a recommendation to the provost for any action and suggested the PSU-KNEA might also be involved in any binding action. Also, after discussion, due to this being a non-binding action, it was decided to move to first and second reading and the Student-Faculty Committee recommendation passed with a vote of 26 yes votes, 1 no vote and 1 abstention.

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*

The committee met on November 4, 2025. See agenda for report.

Budget Committee – *Stephen Zornes, Chair*

No report.

Academic Honesty – *Kristen Livingston, Chair*

No report.

AI Committee – *Jorge Leon, Chair*

The committee met on October 15, 2025. See agenda for report.

Unfinished Business

See Faculty Senate President's report for news on the Faculty Senate committee review. In addition, information regarding the Athletics Student Success Request can be found under the Student Faculty committee report.

New Business

The Faculty PD Travel Funds Task Force is in the process of meeting.

Open Forum

The language for the new drop policy approved by President's Cabinet was discussed to clarify the difference between Academic Advising and Student Success. It was determined that Academic Advising and Student Success represent the same unit. The language will be adjusted to reflect this.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned Monday, November 17, 2025, at 3:52 p.m.

Melinda Roelfs

Melinda Roelfs (Dec 1, 2025 12:11:13 CST)

Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary

Faculty Withdrawal of Students from Courses

DRAFT POLICY 11.17.25

Proposed Syllabus Supplement – Spring 2026

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students at Pittsburg State University are expected to attend class regularly and participate fully in class activities. It is the responsibility of the course instructor to set the attendance policy for his or her courses and communicate that policy to students in the course syllabus. The syllabus should address whether and how attendance affects the course grade, the issue of excused absences, and unexcused absences.

Students who have not attended or who have been excessively absent will be recorded via the Navigate system and referred to Academic Advising and the Student Success Center. In limited circumstances, an instructor may recommend an administrative withdraw of students who fail to attend any scheduled classes or who are excessively absent. After instructors record student absences through Navigate, Academic Advising, and Student Success, they may recommend a student course withdrawal to their Academic Unit leader who will then determine in consultation with the Dean if an Administrative Withdraw request to the Registrar's Office is appropriate.

Regardless of the faculty prerogative to establish expectations for attendance or to determine grade consequences for excessive absences, the ultimate responsibility for monitoring and maintaining up-to-date course enrollment rests with the student.

Proposed Catalog Class Attendance Policy

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This is for the 11/17/25 meeting. During my announcement time, on behalf of PSU/KNEA, I would like to present the following statement regarding the memorandum proposing new course scheduling times:

“In the spirit of shared governance and sound management practices, the deans should have asked department chairs to consult their faculty before the provost brought this memorandum to the Faculty Senate floor.”

Supporting Rationale:

According to the memorandum, the deans have reported to the provost that their informed opinions are based on their collective work with both students and faculty. However, to my knowledge, our chair did not consult with us regarding this issue. Did your chair speak with you about it before the provost brought it to the Faculty Senate floor?

In 2012, the university president, the Faculty Senate president, and the PSU/KNEA president received the Sound Governance Award from the American Association of University Professors. We once had a strong culture of shared governance, but it appears that this culture is shifting—potentially to the disadvantage of the faculty.

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP (2025-2026)

[illegible]





Binder1

Final Audit Report

2025-12-01

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