

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

December 8, 2025

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025, with David Weaver, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from November 17, 2025, meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Provost Bon shared the following KBOR news: 1) Tenure, Post-tenure and Workload Policy will be discussed at the December meeting (first reading), and 2) a reduced credit hour BA continues to be discussed. Provost Bon noted that she received feedback on the course schedule proposal from Faculty Senate, SGA, Athletics, Student Success and Dr. Stumo. The feedback received along with a few suggestions was provided to the Deans. Suggestions included: 1) Plan to roll out in spring 2027, 2) Consider 20-minute pass time, and 3) Provide training this summer. The IRB policy updates are expected in January/February. Revisions are being made to adhere to federal guidelines. Lastly, Provost Bon provided the Bon Possible handout (see attached) to reinforce a mission based and shared governance approach to addressing challenges.

PSU/KNEA – *Ananda Jayawardhana, President*

See attached for announcements. Discussion and actions can be found under Unfinished Business.

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 by a group of past presidents. Decisions need to be made on what can be archived. The CTLT is offering training to faculty. Information on at large elections and KBOR Faculty of the Year nominations will be available soon. Approximately one-half of the committees have submitted reviews. The others are expected soon. Faculty were thanked for feedback on the course schedule proposal. Lastly, the creation of a Faculty Senate procedures manual is being discussed.

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*

No report.

Online and Distance Learning – *Beth Hendrickson, Chair*

No report.

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*

No report.

All University Committee – *Tracy Stahl, Chair*

No report.

Faculty Affairs – *James Whitney, Chair*

No report.

Constitution Committee – *Karen Johnson, Chair*

The committee met on November 20, 2025. See agenda for report concerning the Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Committee (first reading). It was clarified that the committee's focus is to support infusing diverse ideas/learning in curriculum, not necessarily promoting diversity. The proposed new name is "Multicultural Affairs Sub-Committee."

General Education Committee – *Michele Barnaby, Chair*

No report.

Budget Committee – *Stephen Zornes, Chair*

No report.

Academic Honesty – *Kristen Livingston, Chair*

No report.

AI Committee – *Jorge Leon, Chair*

See attached for recommendations. The committee asked faculty to take recommendations back to schools/departments for feedback.

Unfinished Business

See Faculty Senate President's report for news on the Faculty Senate committee review, ADA compliance, Faculty of the Year nominations and course schedule comments. The vote that took place at the November 17, 2025, Faculty Senate meeting approving that the Student Faculty recommendations be sent to the Provost for any further action was discussed. The PSU KNEA President stated that the concern with the recommendations is focused on recommendation #3, "Timely submission of grades in Canvas," specifically the phrase, "in Canvas." It was noted that this contradicts the KNEA contract as use of Canvas is not required by faculty. It was motioned and approved to send recommendation #3 back to the Student Faculty committee for revision of the language. A first reading is expected at the February meeting with a second reading and vote expected at the March meeting.

New Business

None.

Open Forum

None.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned Monday, December 8, 2025, at 3:54 p.m.



Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP (2025-2026)

*Quote
p. 238

“Weaving changes the frame from *us against them* to *all of us together*.” [italics added for emphasis]

Constituency-based thinking:

- Who owns the decision
- Resistance to change
- Preserve status quo
- Short-term thinking

Institutional thinking:

- Institutional mission placed above individual interests
- Strategic thinking
- Teamwork
- Iterative decision-making

*Steven C. Bahls
(May/June 2023)
Transforming shared governance into an engine for agility. *Trusteeship*.

What if it was POSSIBLE to

1. Transform shared governance to be an engine that powers mission-driven outcomes and priorities.
2. Shift away from **constituency-based thinking** to **institutional thinking**. [E.G., transform KNEA bargaining into a genuinely collaborative process aligned to the MISSION]



3. PUT the PUBLIC GOOD FIRST

Academic Program Plan

Weave a tapestry. Collaborate by creating a mosaic that incorporates and assembles all the unique strengths of faculty, degree programs, and courses to reveal a complex and transformed academic program oriented to enhance students' educational experiences and promote future success.

Research Agenda

Start with the basic premise that the public and community members [Kansas taxpayers] are fundamental beneficiaries of our educational enterprise. Get really clear about promoting and funding research that matters to the greater community, especially those in our state whose financial sacrifices make our work possible. Assess institutional talent and capacity for alignment with state needs and priorities, such as economic opportunities, workforce development goals, environmental change responses, and other regional needs. Leverage our talented faculty, notably our intellectual capital, into political capital.

PSU/KNEA Statement to the Faculty Senate

12/08/25

Thank you to the Senate for its thoughtful work on this proposal. I support most of it; however, I must raise one important contractual concern.

The inclusion of the phrase “*in Canvas*” introduces a mandate that does not exist in our current contract. Faculty retain the right to choose their instructional tools.

This proposal originated in the athletic department, as Dr. Uran confirmed during our departmental meeting last Friday. The provost, however, has expressed the view that the committee devoted considerable time developing this language.

I understand that mistakes happen. I missed the review window and had to leave the November meeting early. But we now could correct this oversight together.

I respectfully ask the Senate to rescind last month’s vote and approve the proposal again, with the simple adjustment of removing the words “*in Canvas*.” This revision preserves the spirit and intent of the proposal while ensuring compliance with the contract between PSU/KNEA and KBOR.

We all make inadvertent mistakes. Correcting them collaboratively demonstrates our shared commitment to fairness, respect, and the integrity of shared governance.

The Faculty Senate President and I have worked diligently to resolve this matter since November 18th, and I am grateful for his partnership.

Ananda Jayawardhana, PhD

President, PSU/KNEA

From Faculty Senate Minutes November 17, 2025

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.

Pittsburg State University
Faculty Senate Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ad Hoc Committee

Background

The Faculty Senate established the Artificial Intelligence Ad Hoc Committee in Spring 2025 to examine the evolving role of AI in teaching, research, and service at Pittsburg State University. The committee conducted campus-wide surveys, reviewed practices at peer and other institutions, and gathered faculty perspectives to identify emerging needs and opportunities. The goal is to ensure that PSU approaches AI-related decisions with meaningful faculty input and provides clear and consistent guidance that safeguards academic integrity and autonomy.

Key Findings from Survey Data

- **Faculty are using AI, but unevenly.** Most faculty have experimented with AI tools, in some capacity, without consistent institutional guidance.
- **Policy ambiguity creates confusion.** Many faculty are unsure whether departmental or university policies exist regarding AI use.
- **Ethical and integrity concerns remain.** Faculty seek tools to help students use AI responsibly without compromising learning outcomes and preserving integrity.
- **Training and support are strongly desired.** Faculty across disciplines expressed the need for professional development, model assignments, and secure AI resources.
- **Shared governance is essential.** Faculty expressed guidance on AI should emerge from a collaborative decision-making process, rather than top-down directives.

Why Senate Action Matters

Without clear institutional policy language and shared understanding, both students and faculty face uncertainty about expectations and ethical use. Faculty Senate involvement ensures that PSU remains at the forefront of responsible innovation while preserving instructor autonomy and academic freedom.

Summary of Recommendations

The AI Ad Hoc Committee recommends that Faculty Senate:

1. **Provide AI Use designations statements** that allow instructors to designate their preferred level of AI use within their courses.
2. **Adopt unified institutional definitions of AI** that include generative, predictive, and assistive technologies.
3. Support professional development and AI literacy initiatives for faculty and students, with a strong emphasis on ethics, privacy, and responsible use.
4. Transition the Ad Hoc Committee into a standing interdisciplinary committee to monitor developments, advising on policy, and provide annual updates.

Next Steps

The committee developed standardized AI Use category language for Syllabus Statements. These will be submitted to Senate for review and a vote. The group will continue working on language for the other recommendations.

Other Institutions reviewed: Boise State University, Southern Utah University, Auburn University, Ferris State University, Kansas State University, University of Minnesota, & Western Michigan University.

*Draft of survey report, [accessible here](#).

Three Categories of AI Use designation: Allowed, Conditional, Prohibited.

Faculty should include one of the three categories in their class syllabus. Faculty are strongly encouraged to add a rationale statement that provides context for the students.

Categories

Use is Allowed: Use of Generative AI tools is permitted in this course (examples may include ChatGPT, Gemini, and/or Co-pilot). Students are responsible for the accuracy and originality of their work and must clearly disclose and cite any AI-generated content. Assignments using AI should include an acknowledgment statement specifying the tool, provider, and purpose of use.

[Insert rationale as to why here].

Use is Conditional

You may be permitted to use AI tools such as ChatGPT, CLAIR, and Gemini to assist on some assignments in this course (e.g., brainstorm ideas, outline documents, or write drafts). The course instructor will provide clear instructions in each assignment as to whether generative-AI is allowed for that assignment.

[Insert rationale as to why here].

Use is Prohibited

Students are expected to produce original work in all assignments. The use of Generative AI is prohibited in this class. Submitting AI-generated or AI-assisted work will be treated as academic misconduct.

[Insert rationale as to why here].