

# FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

## February 23, 2026

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, with David Weaver, President, presiding.

### Past Minutes

Minutes from December 8, 2025, meeting were approved. (The January meeting was cancelled due to weather.)

### Announcements

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

Provost Bon shared that KBOR tenure, post tenure, and workload policies have passed. Reporting processes will be put into place to demonstrate how we are adhering to the mandates. Several bills are being discussed in Topeka. Routine communication is being made with House and Senate members to convey the value of tenure and how it impacts property rights. Budgets are also being analyzed to prepare for possible cuts. It was also reported that the Research and Innovation department is now under the purview of Academic Affairs to ensure connection to faculty and student opportunities. A report should be submitted soon by the Travel task force. President Newsom is supportive of travel and feels it's important for faculty. The Gus Bus and campus transportation continue to be a topic at President's Cabinet. Tentatively, the plan is to have two buses available in the fall. Possible schedule changes for Spring 2027 will continue to be reviewed over the summer. See attached for additional information and a faculty position update.

PSU/KNEA – *Ananda Jayawardhana, President*

President Jayawardhana stated that negotiations are underway. Trent Lindbloom has replaced Laura Lee Washburn as chief negotiator. Holly Page Sagehorn has also joined the team. President Jayawardhana also requested feedback from those who attended last year's training on developing a dossier in order to determine plans for future training.

Student Senate – *Corey Humble, Representative*

President Humble reported that SGA participated in discussions in Topeka regarding possible budget cuts and student-based needs. In addition, SGA is working on the following: 1) nominations for outstanding faculty and staff, 2) student senate elections, and 3) student opportunity grants. Faculty were encouraged to reach out if there are questions.

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

No report.

### Graduate College

It was noted that EAB has been contracted to work with PSU on marketing graduate programs. Faculty are encouraged to share any challenges on graduate programs with Provost Bon. It was also announced that the Office of Graduate and Continuing programs has been centralized and is being led by Lisa Allen. Lastly, Risepoint was discussed as a possible option for some graduate programs.

Faculty Senate President – *David Weaver, President*

President Weaver reported that several bills are being discussed in Topeka. Many faculty have raised concerns about academic freedom. A 90-hour degree program is being discussed by KBOR. There is a large team, including Provost Bon, participating. The team is reviewing HLC guidelines. A new degree would likely need to be developed, probably in technology/workforce development.

### Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – *Mandi Alonzo, Chair*

No report.

Undergraduate Curriculum – *Byron McKay, Chair*

All submissions up for review, including the January legislation, 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*  
See report attached.

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*  
No report.

## Unfinished Business

See attached for the Constitution committee review. There was some discussion regarding the honors committees, specifically the purpose of each. It was noted that little to no minutes are available from the Academic Honors committee. Continued research is needed. The item for second reading and vote was approved. The former Diversity and Multicultural committee was renamed the Multicultural Affairs committee. At the December meeting the AI committee provided an overview of the committee's work, including recommendations for AI Use category language for syllabi. The intent was to have a second reading and vote, however, many Senators expressed concern that they had not had an opportunity to share out the recommendations with their faculty. To clarify, the language will be sent to all Senators. KBOR Faculty of the Year award nominations are open. See handout attached for nomination process. The

deadline for nominations is midnight, Friday, March 13, 2026. The ballots for At Large elections will be emailed soon. The Student Faculty committee's second reading and vote on guiding principle #3 will occur at the March meeting.

#### New Business

Apple Day is April 8, 2026. President Weaver will ask for volunteers to handout apples. See February agenda for details on locations.

#### Open Forum

President Newsom will be the guest speaker at the March meeting.

#### Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned Monday, February 23, 2026, at 4:10 p.m.



Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary



PROVOST UPDATES  
Faculty Senate 2.23.26  
OSC Sunflower 3:00 – 4:00 pm

- I. Spring Welcome
- II. Legislation and KBOR Policies –
  - a. Tenure, Post-tenure, Workload Policy, Reduced Credit Hour BA
  - b. Reports are required to provide data explaining how we meet the policy mandates and how we are aligned with the policies
- III. Research and Innovation Department – Academic Affairs
  - a. ORSP, IRB, Pre-, and Post-Award, Budget, Purchasing
  - b. All Grants must go through ORSP [Government] or Foundations [Private, Donor]
  - c. Research Park: Tyler Research Center, Prove-out, KBI, EaglePicher Technologies [Battery]
- IV. Faculty Updates:

Total faculty positions- 366 (*Oct 15<sup>th</sup> employee count*)  
Benefits eligible faculty positions - 299  
Non benefits eligible faculty positions- 67  
**KNEA Unit Members- 196 (2.11.26) [73 KNEA dues paying]**  
    Tenured-149  
    Tenure Earning- 47  
    Administrators with Tenure- 23 (*as of today*)  
**Total Tenure/Tenure Earning is 219 [as of today]**
- V. Travel Task Force progress -hope soon to have reports soon from this taskforce and from other faculty task force groups
- VI. Gus Bus and Campus Transportation Preliminary Planning
- VII. Questions



## Constitution Committee Report

Our recommended changes to committee structures:

### For 1<sup>st</sup> reading/discussion:

- 1. Committee on the Constitution:** No changes.
- 2. Academic Affairs:** No changes (request to eliminate sub-committees was discussed and it was determined that the functions of those sub-committees are too important)
- 3. Faculty Affairs:** We recommend acting on sabbatical requests as one of this committee's responsibilities.
- 4. Honors Committees:** Would like a discussion on this topic at Faculty Senate. Feedback received from the Honors College Subcommittee and the Academic Honors Subcommittee was to merge these committees.  
There does seem to be some confusion on the Academic Honors Subcommittee. It's our understanding that the work is done by the college and the departments, never at the University level, where the Honors College work is done at the University level, not at the college or department level.
- 5. AI Proposed Committee:** We recommend that the committee remain ad hoc with the goal being strategic intensity and not permanence. We recommended the creation of a permanent "Technology" Committee that could oversee all evolving technologies.
- 6. Student Faculty:** No changes (but we did discuss the possibility that the scheduling issue could be handled by this committee).

### For 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and vote:

- 1. Former Diversity and Multicultural Committee:** Proposed changes were accepted with two caveats: "an academic units requiring accreditation" be cut from part 2B and "Student Development and" be cut from the committee title, so that it's just Multicultural Affairs Subcommittee.



PSU Faculty Senators,

Nominations are open for the **Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) Faculty of the Year Awards** at Pittsburg State University. These awards recognize outstanding faculty contributions in teaching, scholarship, and service and provide an opportunity to celebrate the exceptional work taking place across our campus.

Nomination of submissions must be routed through your **Faculty Senators** ([current list here](#)). Each **Faculty Senator** may submit **one nomination per category** for the following:

- **Tenured Faculty**
- **Tenure-Earning Faculty**
- **Full-Time Non-Tenure-Track Faculty**

If you are a faculty senator, please coordinate with your department faculty as needed and submit your nominations using the form linked below:

**Nomination Form:**



 **Award Criteria:** See attached.

**Important Note:** Each nomination should include a summary of accomplishments highlighting the nominee's excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. This summary should not exceed 500 words.

**Deadline:** Nominations must be submitted by **FACULTY SENATORS** no later than midnight on Friday, March 13, 2026.

Thank you for helping us recognize and honor faculty excellence at PSU.



## **Criteria for the Annual Kansas Board of Regents Faculty of the Year Award**

### **Nominees**

Eligibility is restricted to faculty meeting the following requirements:

- Full-time, tenured or tenure-track faculty
- Demonstrate one's teaching, scholarship/research, and service over the preceding academic year\* have exemplified excellence and commitment to the mission of the institution. (*confirmed by the dean of their respective college*)
- Have not received the annual KBOR Faculty of the Year Award in the previous two (2) years.

### **Nominations**

Nominations must adhere to the following guidelines to be accepted:

- Nominations may only be submitted by a faculty senator employed at the same institution as the nominee during the preceding academic year. \*
- A faculty senator may submit two nominations per year, one for a tenured faculty and one for a tenure-track faculty.

### **Submission**

- Nominations must be submitted to the "Faculty Senate KBOR Faculty of the Year Awards Committee." See first bullet under **Selection**.
- Nominations are due by March 13<sup>th</sup> of the awarding year. #
- Nomination includes nominee's name, academic department, and distribution of their workload for the academic year in which they are being nominated.
- Nomination includes the nominator's name, academic department, and position held at their institution.
- A summary not to exceed 500 words of the nominee's accomplishments including evidence to support the nomination.

Suggested examples of supporting materials/evidence:

<b>Scholarship/ Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Papers, monographs or other publications</li><li>• Works in progress</li><li>• Juried or invited exhibitions.</li><li>• Reviews of creative work</li></ul>
<b>Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University Service (Conducting educational studies/investigations; Outreach; Board of Regents System; University-wide or College-wide; Departmental)</li><li>• Offices held in academic, professional, and scholarly societies</li><li>• Public and/or governmental service activities</li><li>• Consulting activities</li><li>• Community service</li></ul>
<b>Teaching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Course load data</li><li>• Master's degree committee memberships</li><li>• Theses directed or student advising</li><li>• Preparation of instructional media</li><li>• Institutes, workshops, and other programs attended</li></ul>

- It is at the discretion of each institution if additional materials may be required.

### **Selection**

- The Faculty Senate at each institution shall have a committee consisting of current full-time faculty (including the Faculty Senate President as ex-officio member) to collect and review the applications for the KBOR Faculty of the Year Awards (KBOR Award Committee). This committee will verify with the dean of the respective college that the nominee is in good standing with the university and their academic department, that the nominee's teaching, scholarship/research, and service over the preceding academic year have exemplified excellence and commitment to the mission of the institution, and verify the nomination is valid and complete. Incomplete nominations or lack of a dean's validation will not be considered. It will be at the discretion of each university KBOR Award Committee on how the final selection will be made.
- Any acting KBOR Award Committee members will recuse themselves (excluding the Faculty Senate President) from the review and selection process if they have been nominated for the award. The Faculty Senate President will appoint a replacement to serve on the KBOR Award Committee.

### **Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR)**

- The names of the two award recipients determined by each university's KBOR Award Committee (*one tenured faculty and one tenure-track faculty*) will be provided to the Chair of the Counsel of Faculty Senate Presidents (COFSP). The Chair of the COFSP will submit the names of all award recipients to the Kansas Board of Regents by May 15<sup>th</sup> of the awarding year.
- The Kansas Board of Regents will review and approve/reject the award recipients provided by the Chair of the COFSP during the annual KBOR August retreat.
- Faculty receiving awards will be notified prior to the September KBOR meeting (typically Wednesday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September)
- Awardees are highly recommended to attend the September KBOR meeting to be recognized for their achievement.

\* (e.g., 2024 award - August 2022 through August 2023)

# (The date may be adjusted per institution so long as selection and Faculty Senate approval are completed before May 15<sup>th</sup> of the awarding year.)

## FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP (2025-2026)

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
David Weaver, (President)	X	X	X	X	**	X			
Kristen Livingston, (President Elect)	X	X		X		X			
Bakke, Chris (HPASS)	X			X		X			
Barnaby, Michele (At-Large)	X	X	X			X			
Benson, Christel (At-Large)									
Bertoncino, Denise (At-Large)									
Bird, Natalie (HHPR)	X	X	X	X		X			
Book, Rebeca (At-Large)	X	X	X	X		X			
Botello-Sampson, Darren (At-Large)		X	X	X		X			
Chung, Peter (BIOL)	X	X		X		X			
Cook, Sheila (FCS)		X	X						
Coomes, Gena (NURS)	X	X	X	X		X			
Crain, Chad (CMCET)	X	X	X	X		X			
Daley, John (At-Large)	X	X				X			
DeCaro, Sara (Library Svcs)	X	X		X					
Elliott, Kevin (At-Large)	X	X	X			X			
Ferguson, David (AUTO)	X	X	X						
Fincher, Bridgette (TCHL)	X	X	X			X			
Frisbee, Kristi (At-Large)	X	X		X		X			
Jason, Malcolm (WGS)									
Johnson, Mark (At-Large)	X	X	X	X					
Jordan, Erin (At-Large)		X	X	X		X			
Krepps, Myriam (ENGL)	X	X	X	X		X			
Lawson, Kris (HPASS)	X	X	X	X		X			
Leon, Jorge (At-Large)	X	X	X	X		X			
McClaskey, Barbara (At-Large)	X	X	X	X		X			
Phillips, Charlie (TWL)	X			X					
Richardson, Jennifer (TCHL)									
Ross, John (MUSIC)		X	X	X		X			
Shay, Josh (MIL)	X		X	X		*			
Sikola, David (KUSB)	X	X		X		X			
Spera, Chris (PSYCH)	X	X		X		X			
Spielbusch, Dan (ENG)	X	X		X					
Stahl, Tracy (NURS)	X	X	X	X		X			
Thuong, Scott (MATH)	X	X	X	X		X			
Timmons, Olivia (ART)	X	X	X	X		X			
Uran, Serif (PHYS)	X	X	X	X		X			
Younger, Doug (GC)	X	X	X	X		X			
Zegar, Irene (CHEM)									
Zepernick, Janet (ENGL)	X	X		X		X			
Zornes, Stephen (KUSB)	X	X		X		X			
Univ Staff Senate Rep	X	X							
Student Rep									
Student Government Rep						X			

\*Substitutions: 2/23/26 Callie Becraft for Josh Shay;

\*\*January meeting canceled due to inclement weather.

