

# FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 30, 2026

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026, with David Weaver, President, presiding.

## Past Minutes

Minutes from February 23, 2026, meeting were approved.

## Guests

President Newsom shared several positive indicators for Fall 2026. New Student Orientation registrations are up as well as housing applications. Freshmen retention was also up from fall to spring, finishing at 91%. He noted that the Administration is carefully watching actions in Topeka and in the region. In Oklahoma, they are currently considering a bill that would eliminate the ability to award tenure. The tone in Kansas has been how we can strengthen tenure by stressing the importance of accountability and review. President Newsom strongly expressed his support of tenure and its importance to recruiting and retaining faculty. President Newsom shared the latest budget news. The budget has been finalized and now sits with the Governor. As the budget stands currently, PSU could lose \$2.4 million total (includes a cut in regional stabilization funding and student success funding). In addition, the state will hold another \$2 million in an account until we certify that we comply with certain provisions in the DEI/CRT state law, for example approved email signatures for all staff/faculty. There was no budget recommendation restricting the increase of tuition. PSU also has been budgeted to receive \$2.5 million for the Blueprint for Literacy. In other budget news, the budget included 1% salary compensation, however, only .5% of the compensation will be provided by the state. Deferred maintenance made the budget which means \$12 million over a 6-year period. Lastly, President Newsom announced that there will be a townhall on April 15, 2026, and will focus on the budget.

## Announcements

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

No report.

PSU/KNEA – *Ananda Jayawardhana, President*

See attached report from President Jayawardhana.

Student Senate – *Corey Humble, Representative*

No report.

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

No report.

## Graduate College

Provost Bon reported that they are planning to have another Graduate Faculty meeting in April. She also requested agenda items.

Faculty Senate President – *David Weaver, President*

President Weaver reported that KBOR Faculty of the Year nominations have been submitted and recommendation will be sent to Provost Bon soon. In addition, Karen Johnson and Mark Johnson continue to review the constitution and bylaws. Lastly, President Weaver thanked Rebeca Book for managing the at large elections and Peter Chung for chairing the Undergraduate Curriculum Taskforce.

## 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*

See agenda for detailed report.

Academic Honors – *Laurent Pretot, Chair*

No report.

Honors College – *Rion Huffman, Chair*

No report.

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*

No report. Report on the agenda was submitted on February 18, 2026.

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 report attached. Report can also be found on the agenda.

Unfinished Business

It was determined that the AI committee recommendations are being presented for first reading. See attached for recommendations. (Recommendations can also be found in the FS March agenda.) A 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will take place at the April FS meeting. The Student Faculty committee's guiding principle #3 was approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Timely submission of grades to be posted online.

New Business

Apple Day is April 8, 2026. Thanks to all who have volunteered.

## Open Forum

It was announced that Jamie Dalton is meeting with groups regarding Access Pitt State. Units have been identified that are required to submit one initiative for the strategic plan. It was also mentioned that Faculty Senate has had no presence at the opening meeting in August for many years. The opening meeting used to be a general faculty meeting where the administration was invited to participate. There was interest expressed in having the governing groups involved in the opening meeting.

## Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned Monday, March 30, 2026, at 3:57 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melinda Roelfs', written over a horizontal line.

Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary



# FS Report from the PSU/KNEA President

– March 30

1. I requested that the provost provide a comprehensive list of task forces, including their charges, membership, report due dates, and the status of each report (completed or pending).
2. The PSU/KNEA President's term will conclude on April 30.
3. Election results for PSU/KNEA positions are currently being tallied.
4. We have recently begun negotiations regarding salary and other financial matters for the coming year.
5. Recent legislative documents also revived discussions around tenure and faculty remediation.
6. The challenges facing higher education, including national trends affecting tenure and faculty roles, will require continued collaboration, transparency, and unity.
7. I encourage you to stay informed and engaged with developments that affect our work.

Ananda Jayawardhana, PhD

President, PSU/KNEA

3/30/26



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

The F.S. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ad Hoc committee recommends:

- That faculty should include one of the three Categories of AI Use designation\* in their class syllabi statements. Faculty are strongly encouraged to add a rationale statement that provides students with context for the designation.

\*Three Categories of AI Use designations are: Allowed, Conditional, Prohibited.

It is recommended that the language is added to the “Required Information for Course Syllabi supplement”, [linked here](#) and also found here

([https://www.pittstate.edu/registrar/\\_files/documents/fs\\_requiredinfo\\_syllabus.pdf](https://www.pittstate.edu/registrar/_files/documents/fs_requiredinfo_syllabus.pdf) )

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As definitions or examples, the committee group shares the following language:

**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].



## FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP (2025-2026)

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	
David Weaver, (President)	X	X	X	X	**	X	X			
Kristen Livingston, (President Elect)	X	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	X			
Book, Rebeca (At-Large)	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Botello-Sampson, Darren (At-Large)		X	X	X		X	X			
Chung, Peter (BIOL)	X	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	X			
DeCaro, Sara (Library Svcs)	X	X		X			X			
Elliott, Kevin (At-Large)	X	X	X			X	X			
Ferguson, David (AUTO)	X	X	X							
Fincher, Bridgette (TCHL)	X	X	X			X	X			
Frisbee, Kristi (At-Large)	X	X		X		X	X			
Jason, Malcolm (WGS)										
Johnson, Mark (At-Large)	X	X	X	X			X			
Jordan, Erin (At-Large)		X	X	X		X	X			
Krepps, Myriam (ENGML)	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Lawson, Kris (HPASS)	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Leon, Jorge (At-Large)	X	X	X	X		X	X			
McClaskey, Barbara (At-Large)	X	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		*	X			
Sikola, David (KUSB)	X	X		X		X				
Spera, Chris (PSYCH)	X	X		X		X	X			
Spielbusch, Dan (ENG)	X	X		X						
Stahl, Tracy (NURS)	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Thuong, Scott (MATH)	X	X	X	X		X				
Timmons, Olivia (ART)	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Uran, Serif (PHYS)	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Younger, Doug (GC)	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Zegar, Irene (CHEM)							X			
Zepernick, Janet (ENGML)	X	X		X		X				
Zornes, Stephen (KUSB)	X	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; 3/30/26 Anna Beth Gilmore for Gena Coomes

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

