

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

April 27, 2026

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2026, with David Weaver, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from March 30, 2026, meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Provost Bon expressed her thanks for the many events and activities, including student awards, conferences and prospective student events on campus that support recruitment and retention. She addressed concerns from some faculty who have been told in the past that they are responsible for recruitment. She noted that this was something she learned was an expectation of former leadership; however, the events happening on campus along with the high impact instruction in classrooms help support recruitment and retention. This is how faculty contribute. Provost Bon also discussed the work being done with graduate programs and the recent hiring of an Assistant Director for Graduate and Continuing Programs. In addition, Provost Bon shared KBOR has gathered the provosts to discuss definitions for the new DEI/CRT legislation. They hope to have definitions confirmed soon so that they can make informed decisions moving forward. Other new policies from KBOR, such as the workload policy, require reports from PSU to demonstrate we are meeting the mandates. The discussions on the course scheduling structure will continue into the fall and spring with any changes recommended for fall 2027. Classrooms and office spaces will be evaluated as Kelce moves downtown and plans for renovating Heckert-Wells and Yates continue. Provost Bon encouraged faculty to be flexible and good neighbors as challenges arise. Lastly, Provost Bon provided updates on several task forces including a report from the Professional Development Travel Fund Task Force. See agenda for details.

PSU/KNEA – *Ananda Jayawardhana, President*

President Jayawardhana reported that negotiations are in progress, focusing on salaries.

Student Senate – *Corey Humble, Representative*

President Humble introduced the next SGA President, Darrel McLeod.

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

No report.

Graduate College

No report.

Faculty Senate President – *David Weaver, President*

President Weaver thanked Rebeca Book for her work on the KBOR Faculty of the Year awards. He also thanked those who helped during Apple Day. In addition, President Weaver discussed the funding challenges and encouraged faculty to watch the recorded Town Hall if they couldn't attend in person. PSU is considering a 2.8 – 3.5% tuition increase. Lastly, he encouraged faculty to continue to watch news out of Topeka. A lot of legislation was discussed this year and although some legislation does not get approved, it can always be reintroduced in future sessions.

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.

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*

Dr. Jayawardhana wrote a resolution on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee expressing appreciation to the PSU Foundation for providing professional development travel funds over the years. It was motioned and approved to acknowledge the resolution and share it with Kathleen Flannery and the PSU Foundation.

Constitution Committee – *Karen Johnson, Chair*

No report.

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*

The AI Committee's recommendation that faculty should include one of three categories of AI Use designation in their syllabi was approved at second reading. See attachment for details. The language and designations will be added to the document, "Required Information for Course Syllabi."

Unfinished Business

The Constitution Committee presented the "Authority of the Executive Committee for Time-Sensitive Compliance" for first reading. This would be considered an addition to the Bylaws. This is being recommended due to the experience this year with the DEI/CRT legislation and the need to act quickly to ensure compliance. The following faculty were put forward for KBOR Faculty of the Year: 1) Laura Covert-Miller (tenured), 2) Alessandro Martins (tenure earning) and 3) Jamie Phelps (non-tenured). The process for selecting faculty continues to be discussed. The Constitution Committee presented a set of Bylaw changes for first reading. See attached for details. There was a question raised regarding the Honors College recommendation. It was noted that the Honors College Committee had little impact on the criteria for the Honors College or the program in general and that the Honors College is not necessarily under the purview

of the Faculty Senate but instead Academic Affairs. . The Faculty Senate Executive team is discussing and will submit soon an initiative for Access Pitt State.

New Business

None.

Open Forum

Provost Bon shared that she was recently made aware that the ROTC students and Veterans receiving benefits are not eligible for priority enrollment. She recommended that these students be considered for priority enrollment and has asked President Weaver to present the recommendation to the Student Faculty Committee for discussion.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned Monday, April 27, 2026, at 4:06 p.m.



Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary

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

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ad Hoc committee recommends:

- That faculty should include one of the three Categories of AI Use designation (Three Categories are: Allowed, Conditional, Prohibited) in their class syllabi.
- Faculty are strongly encouraged to add a rationale statement that provides context for the designation.

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)

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].

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].

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].

BYLAW VIII: Authority of the Executive Committee for Time-Sensitive Compliance

In order to ensure timely compliance with mandates issued by the Kansas Board of Regents and/or the Kansas State Legislature, the Faculty Senate hereby grants limited, conditional authority to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (see Bylaw II.F) as follows:

1. Emergency Convening Authority

When legislation, policy directives, or regulatory requirements from the Kansas Board of Regents or the Kansas State Legislature necessitate prompt action affecting the Faculty Senate bylaws, the Executive Committee is authorized to convene as soon as practicable, without adherence to standard notice periods, to review such requirements.

2. Provisional Amendment Authority

The Executive Committee may, by a majority vote of its members, approve provisional amendments to the Faculty Senate bylaws strictly for the purpose of ensuring compliance with such external mandates. Any changes approved under this authority must be limited in scope to what is necessary for compliance.

3. Reporting and Ratification Requirement

Any provisional amendment adopted by the Executive Committee must be communicated in writing to the full Faculty Senate within five (5) business days of approval. Such amendments shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular or specially called meeting of the Faculty Senate for review and ratification.

4. Sunset Provision/Unlawful Provisions

Any provisional amendment temporarily approved and enacted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee via Provisional Amendment Authority ~~under this section~~ shall remain in effect only until ratified, modified, or rejected by the full Faculty Senate. If the Faculty Senate does not ratify the amendment at its next meeting, the amendment shall expire immediately following that meeting unless continued compliance with external mandates requires temporary continuation to remove any unlawful provisions.

5. Consistency with Governing Authority

All actions taken under this section must be consistent with the governing documents of Pittsburg State University and applicable state law.

Effective Date:

This amendment shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Faculty Senate.

Suggested By-Law Changes in The Constitution

BYLAW IV. A. Academic Affairs Committee.

8. Honors College Subcommittee (***Removed Date***)
9. Writing Across the Curriculum Subcommittee (***Removed Date***)
10. Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Subcommittee (***Removed Date***)

BYLAW IV. D. Faculty Affairs Committee.

This committee shall be concerned with all educational matters which may affect the welfare of the faculty and the general development of the University as an institution of higher education. The faculty affairs committee upon request of the Senate shall serve in a liaison capacity, from and to the faculty, with respect to those matters which by law, contract, or other agreement have become the primary responsibility of some other group, agency, or organization on the campus. The committee shall accept primary responsibility to function on behalf of the Senate as to all other matters within its jurisdiction. The Committee shall investigate and make policy recommendations to the Senate concerning means of facilitating the professional development of the members of the faculty. If a committee member (or their spouse/significant other) chooses to apply for sabbatical leave, leave without pay or a summer teaching grant, that member must not participate in the relevant reviewing/voting process for anyone applying for the same award, but should continue to participate in the committee for determining other awards. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will appoint another faculty of the same College to temporarily fill the vacancy. (Amended 11/18/85, 05/12/86, 08/20/09). ***Additionally, the committee shall explore the influences of multiculturalism in instruction, in the curriculum, and in the academic content of various disciplines, including developing curriculum resources which deal with such issues. This committee will now serve as liaison among the organized multicultural groups on campus, including such as the Tilford Group, and/or International Student Programs. the Campus and Community Resource Center, etc.***

Justification of Changes

A.8. Honors College subcommittee. Proposal to eliminate this subcommittee as new Honors College directives will now be managed independently by the creation of the Honors Council (see below).

Excerpt from email from Brian Moots to select faculty involved with the Honors College

From: Brian Moots <bmoosts@pittstate.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:23:03 PM

Dear Honors Faculty,

Thank you for your continued service to the Honors College and our pursuit for excellence in academics and leadership. Next academic year, I'm excited to announce that we're going to launch an "Honors Council" that is composed of current Honors Faculty, the Director of the Honors College, and the Provost. The primary mission of the Honors Council will be to describe the fundamental elements of honors courses and then construct a set of standards...

A.9. Writing Across the Curriculum subcommittee. Proposal to make the sunseting of the Writing Across the Curriculum subcommittee official. Discussions to remove the subcommittee were listed on the agenda 2/24/25, 3/24/25, 4/28/25, and 5/12/25 as "will be sunset." 3/24/25 the constitution committee proposed dissolving. Writing Across the Curriculum was not on the September 2025 Agenda.

A.10. Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. Proposal to eliminate this subcommittee and move its modified charges to the Faculty Affairs Committee. This is to ensure alignment with current government regulatory bodies and legal provisos, while preserving the spirit of the original charges to this committee.

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP (2025-2026)

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
David Weaver, (President)	X	X	X	X	**	X	X	X	
Kristen Livingston, (President Elect)	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Bakke, Chris (HPASS)	X			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	X	
Book, Rebeca (At-Large)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Botello-Sampson, Darren (At-Large)		X	X	X		X	X		
Chung, Peter (BIOL)	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Cook, Sheila (FCS)		X	X						
Coomes, Gena (NURS)	X	X	X	X		X	*	X	
Crain, Chad (CMCET)	X	X	X	X		X			
Daley, John (At-Large)	X	X				X	X	X	
DeCaro, Sara (Library Svcs)	X	X		X			X	X	
Elliott, Kevin (At-Large)	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Ferguson, David (AUTO)	X	X	X					X	
Fincher, Bridgette (TCHL)	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Frisbee, Kristi (At-Large)	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Jason, Malcolm (WGS)									
Johnson, Mark (At-Large)	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Jordan, Erin (At-Large)		X	X	X		X	X		
Krepps, Myriam (ENGML)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Lawson, Kris (HPASS)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Leon, Jorge (At-Large)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
McClaskey, Barbara (At-Large)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Phillips, Charlie (TWL)	X			X				X	
Richardson, Jennifer (TCHL)									
Ross, John (MUSIC)		X	X	X		X			
Shay, Josh (MIL)	X		X	X		*	X	X	
Sikola, David (KUSB)	X	X		X		X			
Spera, Chris (PSYCH)	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Spielbusch, Dan (ENG)	X	X		X				X	
Stahl, Tracy (NURS)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Thuong, Scott (MATH)	X	X	X	X		X			
Timmons, Olivia (ART)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Uran, Serif (PHYS)	X	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		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.