FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
September 28, 2026

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2026, with Kristen Livingston, President, presiding.

Past Minutes

Minutes from August 31, 2026, meeting were approved.

Announcements

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

Provost Bon shared that for AY 27 Pittsburg State has already surpassed the total amount of research dollars awarded in AY26. The Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing was recently awarded a grant for $1.5m for the next four years. The Faculty Fellows have been established and are available to provide support to colleagues. Information on the DEI/CRT requirements have been shared with the provosts. A list of words has been provided. All curriculum and credentials are included. The provosts will meet with KBOR in late October for continued guidance. Lastly, Dr. Bon shared a course scheduling handout including drafts of potential schedules (see attached). She indicated that academic leadership and the Shared Governance task force have been discussing a new policy that focuses on student success. The policy will include increased passing time and standard start times. In addition, we may need to consider setting limits on the number of classes that can be scheduled during what would be considered prime time in an effort to provide additional options to students. Faculty were encouraged to share information with their department faculty. Feedback should be directed to President Livingston or the department chair. The goal is to have a policy approved for implementation for Fall 2027.

PSU/KNEA – *Norm Philipp, President*

President Philipp shared that the KNEA contract was approved by KBOR. KNEA continues to meet monthly with the Provost's Office to discuss items of interest. KNEA will be working with the Faculty Senate to develop a joint satisfaction survey. In addition, they have been discussing a more proactive approach to grievances. Lastly, KNEA will host information sessions in the Axe Library for interested faculty.

Student Senate – *Darrel McLeod, President*

President McLeod shared that they recently inducted new senators and are busy preparing for Homecoming.

Unclassified Support/Professional Senate – *Thomas Smith, President*

President Smith noted that the Senate will have a meeting at KBOR with other Senates in the system in December. The Senate continues to work on their annual initiatives.

Graduate College

No report.

Faculty Senate President – *Kristen Livingston, President*

President Livingston shared that the KBOR Faculty Senate Presidents will be reviewing English AP scores across the state. In addition, they will be reviewing the Faculty of the Year requirements. They have also started discussing the DEI/CRT requirements that will be under review. Lastly, President Livingston also shared that Faculty Senate will be working on a joint satisfaction survey with KNEA.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs – *Charlie Phillips, Chair*

See agenda.

Undergraduate Curriculum – *Doug Younger, Chair*

All submissions up for review were passed and recommended for approval by Faculty Senate. See the agenda for details. (The original legislation is available with each college.)

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

Library Services/Learning Resources – *Tracy Barnes, Chair*
See agenda.

Joint Publications – *Chris Childers, Chair*
See agenda.

Online and Distance Learning – *Kevin Elliott, Chair*
See agenda.

Academic Honors – *Laurent Pretot, Chair*
See agenda.

Honors College – *Stephen Zornes, Chair*
See agenda.

Student-Faculty – *Anna Beth Gilmore, Chair*
See agenda.

All University Committee – *Krissy Lewis, Chair*
See agenda.

Faculty Affairs – *Bridgette Fincher, Chair*
See agenda.

Constitution Committee – *Peter Chung/Chandler Davidson, Chair*
See agenda.

General Education Committee – *Janet Lewis, Chair*
See agenda.

Budget Committee – *Stephen Zornes, Chair*
No report.

Academic Honesty – *Angelina Boyd, Chair*
See agenda.

Ad Hoc AI – Jorge Leon, Chair
See agenda.

Unfinished Business

It was noted that Faculty Senate's Access Pitt State initiative will be centered around Generative AI Integration On Campus. See agenda for details.

New Business

None.

Open Forum

Provost Bon announced that with the help of Michelle Hudiburg and Jorge Leon Pittsburg State has submitted a grant proposal to the Gates Foundation to study our campus AI journey.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned Monday, September 28, 2026, at 3:40 p.m.

Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary

Course Schedule Recommendations for Shared Governance Feedback

Working Draft | September 28, 2026

Purpose and Context

The Shared Governance Task Force is asked to review possible revisions to the current course schedule which lacks standard start times and is a source of concern because it presents academic challenges for students, faculty, and staff. In response to the identified concerns and documented difficulties in scheduling courses, the task force is working to gather feedback on the effort to draft a course schedule policy and on the potential revisions to our current course schedule, including options that provide 15-minute passing periods between classes. The task force includes representatives from the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association, Graduate Council, and academic colleges. Representatives are asked to consult with their respective constituencies and bring forward feedback for consideration at the task force's October meeting.

The schedules below are working drafts rather than final recommendations. They reflect alternatives developed through conversations with faculty members, department chairs, and academic leaders. Feedback is requested on the advantages, limitations, and potential unintended effects of each option. Additional schedule proposals are also welcome. Related transportation considerations, including possible Gus Bus adjustments, remain part of the discussion.

Emerging Areas of Agreement

- A 15-minute passing period has received support in discussions to date and is presented here for broader review.
- Consistent class start times are essential and improve clarity and predictability for students, faculty, and staff.
- A reasonable degree of consistency across the week is desirable, while recognizing that programs and academic units have different instructional needs.

Questions Requiring Further Discussion

- How should 50-minute Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes be coordinated with 75-minute Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday classes?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using 75-minute periods for Monday/Wednesday/Friday courses beginning in the afternoon?
- How might each proposal affect student access, room utilization, laboratory and clinical courses, transportation, faculty and staff responsibilities, and the scheduling needs of individual academic units?
- Which elements of the proposed schedules require greater clarity or additional detail?
- Are there other schedule configurations the task force should evaluate?

Proposal A: Standard 50-Minute MWF Pattern

Maintains 50-minute MWF classes throughout the day.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday	Monday/Wednesday	Tuesday/Thursday	Once weekly: M, T, W, Th, or F	Monday-Friday
50-minute	**75-minute**	**75-minute**	**150-minute**	**50-minute**
8:00-8:50 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.	8:00-8:50 a.m.
9:05-9:55 a.m.	9:30-10:45 a.m.	9:30-10:45 a.m.		9:05-9:55 a.m.
10:10-11:00 a.m.				10:10-11:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
12:20-1:10 p.m.				12:20-1:10 p.m.
1:25-2:15 p.m.	12:30-1:45 p.m.	12:45-2:00 p.m.		1:25-2:15 p.m.
2:30-3:20 p.m.	2:00-3:15 p.m.	2:30-3:45 p.m.	2:30-5:00 p.m.	2:30-3:20 p.m.
3:35-4:25 p.m.	3:30-4:45 p.m.	4:00-5:15 p.m.		3:35-4:25 p.m.

Proposal B: Mixed MWF Pattern

Uses 50-minute periods in the morning and 75-minute periods beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday	Monday/Wednesday	Tuesday/Thursday	Once weekly: M, T, W, Th, or F	Monday-Friday
50-minute morning; 75-minute afternoon	**75-minute**	**75-minute**	**150-minute**	**50-minute morning; 75-minute afternoon**
8:00-8:50 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.	8:00-8:50 a.m.
9:05-9:55 a.m.	9:30-10:45 a.m.	9:30-10:45 a.m.		9:05-9:55 a.m.
10:10-11:00 a.m.				10:10-11:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
12:30-1:45 p.m.	12:30-1:45 p.m.	12:30-1:45 p.m.		12:30-1:45 p.m.
2:00-3:15 p.m.	2:00-3:15 p.m.	2:00-3:15 p.m.	2:00-4:30 p.m.	2:00-3:15 p.m.
3:30-4:45 p.m.	3:30-4:45 p.m.	3:30-4:45 p.m.		3:30-4:45 p.m.

Proposal C: Alternative MW Sequences

Separates the previously overlapping MW periods into two distinct sequences for review. The two MW columns are alternatives and would not be used together.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday	MW Alternative 1	MW Alternative 2	Once weekly: M, W, or F	Tuesday/Thursday	Once weekly: T or Th	Monday-Friday
50-minute	**75-minute**	**75-minute**	**150-minute**	**75-minute**	**150-minute**	**50-minute**
8:00-8:50 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.	8:00-8:50 a.m.
9:05-9:55 a.m.	9:30-10:45 a.m.			9:30-10:45 a.m.		9:05-9:55 a.m.
10:10-11:00 a.m.		10:10-11:25 a.m.				10:10-11:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.		11:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
12:20-1:10 p.m.		12:20-1:35 p.m.		12:30-1:45 p.m.		12:20-1:10 p.m.
1:25-2:15 p.m.						1:25-2:15 p.m.
2:30-3:20 p.m.	2:30-3:45 p.m.	2:30-3:45 p.m.	2:30-5:00 p.m.	2:00-3:15 p.m.	2:00-4:30 p.m.	2:30-3:20 p.m.
3:35-4:25 p.m.	4:00-5:15 p.m.	4:00-5:15 p.m.		3:30-4:45 p.m.		3:35-4:25 p.m.

Proposal D: Nonoverlapping MW Sequence

Uses a single MW sequence and avoids overlapping MW periods.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday	Monday/Wednesday	Once weekly: M, W, or F	Tuesday/Thursday	Once weekly: T or Th	Monday-Friday
50-minute	**75-minute**	**150-minute**	**75-minute**	**150-minute**	**50-minute**
8:00-8:50 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.	8:00-9:15 a.m.	8:00-10:30 a.m.	8:00-8:50 a.m.
9:05-9:55 a.m.			9:30-10:45 a.m.		9:05-9:55 a.m.
10:10-11:00 a.m.	10:10-11:25 a.m.				10:10-11:00 a.m.
11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.		11:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
12:20-1:10 p.m.	12:20-1:35 p.m.		12:30-1:45 p.m.		12:20-1:10 p.m.
1:25-2:15 p.m.					1:25-2:15 p.m.
2:30-3:20 p.m.	2:30-3:45 p.m.	2:30-5:00 p.m.	2:00-3:15 p.m.	2:00-4:30 p.m.	2:30-3:20 p.m.
3:35-4:25 p.m.	4:00-5:15 p.m.		3:30-4:45 p.m.		3:35-4:25 p.m.

FACULTY SENATE MEMBERSHIP (2026-2027)

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
Kristen Livingston, (President)	X	X								
Erin Jordan, (President Elect)	X	X								
David Weaver, (Past President)	X	X								
Bakke, Chris (HPASS)	X									
Bird, Natalie (HHPR)	X	X								
Botello-Sampson, Darren (At-Large)	X									
Chung, Peter (BIOL)	X	X								
Cook, Sheila (FCS)										
Coomes, Gena (NURS)	X	X								
DeCaro, Sara (Library Svcs)	X	X								
Fincher, Bridgette (TCHL)	X	X								
Gilmore, Anna Beth (@Lrg)	X	X								
Heter, Ashleigh (@Lrg)	X	X								
Jason, Malcolm (WGS)										
Jayawardhana, Ananda (@Lrg)	X	X								
Lawson, Kris (HPASS)		X								
Miller, Laura (@Lrg)		X								
Miranda Rios, Ramiro (MUSIC)		X								
Moss, Grant (@Lrg)	X	X								
Page-Sagehorn, Holly (CMCET)	X	X								
Philipp, Norm (@Lrg)	X	X								
Philips, Charlie (TWL)	X	X								
Richardson, Jennifer (TCHL)										
Rojas, Eric (ML)	X	X								
Shaw, Ashley (@Lrg)	X	X								
Shay, Josh (MIL)										
Sikola, David (KUSB)	X									
Spera, Chris (PSYCH)	X	X								
Spielbusch, Dan (ENG)	X	X								
Stahl, Tracy (NURS)	X	X								
Tankersley, Amber (@Lrg)	X	X								
Thompson, John (AUTO)	X	X								
Timmons, Olivia (ART)	X	X								
Uran, Serif (PHYS)	X	X								
Ward, Ken (COMM)	X	X								
Winters, Bobby (MATH)	X	X								
Yarick, Gail (@Lrg)	X	X								
Younger, Doug (GC)	X	X								
Zepernick, Janet (ENGL)	X	X								
Zornes, Stephen (KUSB)	X	X								
Univ Staff Senate Rep	X	X								
Student Rep										
Student Government Rep										

*Substitutions