

WFU Faculty Senate Agenda – November 19, 2025
Farrell Hall, Room 111

Call to Order – 4:00p

1. Approval of October 22, 2025 meeting minutes - Approved

2. Announcements

- a. President Wente's Annual Address tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. (11/20) in Brendle Recital Hall
- b. Policy on Policies
 - i. Provides a process for engaging with policy development
 - ii. Will be revisited
- c. Updates to Senate Webpage
 - i. Meeting summaries/updates
 - ii. Feedback link for comments and questions for both general purposes and following presentations
- d. December Meeting
 - i. Meeting canceled
 - ii. Written process for updating bylaws
 - iii. Email will come to senators with action items before scheduled meeting date

3. Old business

- a. Follow up on Athletics presentation during October meeting
- b. Provost Office FAQ and Statement on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech
 - i. Senate has received a range of comments from faculty on the FAQ
 - ii. Issue raised at College Faculty meeting re: non-tenured faculty
 - iii. Two new questions today added to FAQ/statements about extension of academic freedom protections to non-tenured faculty
 - iv. Articulation of Grievance Policy w/r/t non-tenured faculty in various categories
 - v. Handbook adjustments to explicitly reference Grievance process concerning academic freedom violations
 - vi. Ongoing conversation about all this and the formality of the official Grievance process
- c. Faculty Handbook Updates
 - i. Last year update procedure and timeline were formalized
 - ii. There are updates pending and some delayed by process: multiple issues to resolve before final updated handbook
 - iii. There may not be an official handbook update in 2025 as a consequence
 - iv. Are there implications for new hires regarding the delay of the handbook? No—the changes don't apply to hiring, promotion and tenure, etc. Mostly clarifying language and removing defunct committees, etc.
- d. Demonstrations Policy
 - i. Continued work on this policy
 - ii. Expect updates
 - iii. Floor comment: clear expectations for training and understanding of support roles, including security and janitorial staff
- e. Listening Session on Presidential Search

- i. Expectations expressed by faculty senators about desired qualities
- ii. Focus on prior academic experience and academic excellence
- iii. If you have an opportunity to participate in listening sessions, please do and encourage others to as well
- iv. Further listening sessions with different units to get faculty perspectives

4. Current business

- a. Senate President Report
 - i. Two areas of focus: 1) academic freedom issues, and 2) suggesting principles for the pending Provost search
- b. Amendments to Senate Bylaws
 - i. Email with a bundle of suggested changes
 - ii. Discussion will follow in January
- c. Presentation on Facilities, Real Estate and Planning (Led by Rodrigo Castro)
 - i. Chris Kiwus – VP of Real Estate, Facilities, and Planning
 - 1. Four questions:
 - a. Impact of changes in university leadership on ongoing projects
 - b. Impact of increasing enrollment on ongoing projects and plans
 - c. Representation of faculty in these areas
 - d. What are the challenges for the next 10 years?
 - 2. Bicentennial Comprehensive Campus Space Plan
 - a. Update to the 2009 Campus Master Plan
 - b. 2019 review and partial update to the plan
 - c. Much change since then, so this plan was necessary
 - d. We continue to work with Ayers Saint Gross, who worked on the previous plan and updates as well
 - 3. Planning foundation:
 - a. Rich and consistent history extending back to the 1956 Larson plan
 - i. History is important and great foundation
 - ii. Age of campus makes ADA compliance a challenge, but we have identified priorities and budgeting around this
 - b. Strategic Framework to guide planning:
 - i. Community of Learning
 - ii. Community of Inquiry
 - iii. Community of Partnerships
 - 4. Timeline
 - a. Phase 1: Discovery and Analysis (Jan-Sep 2025)
 - b. Phase 2: Vision and Refinement (Sep-June 2026)
 - c. Phase 3: Plan Development (July 2026-July 2027)
 - 5. Engagement Process
 - a. Multiple session types with different constituencies
 - i. 2201 total engagement touchpoints
 - ii. 817 with students
 - iii. 76 meetings/listening sessions
 - iv. 33 SWOT Analysis
 - v. 8 tabling/pop up sessions
 - b. December workshop around Edge Redevelopment Opportunities
 - i. spaceplanning.wfu.edu

6. Questions:
 - a. How might changes in University administration impact planning?
 - i. We have a good foundation and we have a good trajectory
 - ii. The timing of the planning effort will bridge across changes
 - iii. Pres. Wente: difference between the Near-Term Space Plan and BCCSP: Consistency among leadership and Trustees w/r/t NTSP
 - iv. Even without enrollment growth, certain changes to things like Residence Halls would be necessary
 - b. What would be impact of enrollment growth?
 - i. A lot of collaboration with academic unites (e.g. ODOC) to plan for this
 - ii. Opportunities for redevelopment
 - c. Faculty representation in space planning considerations: Are there steps in place to make sure that faculty are represented on the committees doing this work?
 - i. Yes, there are faculty represented on all of the groups working on space and other planning
 - d. What challenges do you foresee for the next 10 years?
 - i. Traffic, roads, parking, building updates, science facilities
 - ii. Protect the green space and beauty of the campus
- d. Standing Committee reports.
 - i. Athletics (Parsley)
 1. Women's Soccer won their playoff game and into the second round
 2. Faculty Athletics Committee met last week to discuss transfers: 43% of incoming student-athletes are transfer students
 3. How do we best serve them academically? NCAA rules about credit hours by senior year, for example.
 4. Discussed online course credits and conflicts with existing policy around 15 hour limit
 - ii. Capital Planning (Castro)
 1. Exploring the possibility of a site visit to Alumni Hall and the Grounds by the committee
 - iii. College Senators (Tarte/Breckenridge)
 1. Collegiate Senators regular meeting was given over to a listening session with the search firm for the Presidential Search
 2. December 3rd is the next meeting
 - iv. Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (Morath)
 1. No report
 - v. Fringe Benefits (Kirkman)
 1. Gearing up for January—if there are things you want considered for the next year, bring them forward now.
 - vi. Medical School (Cartwright)
 1. No update
 - vii. Salaries (Evans)
 1. See slide deck in the compiled committee reports from October 22, 2025 meeting

2. Discussions with Dean Krasas and upcoming meeting with the committee
3. Goal is to learn more and updates coming in January

viii. University Integration (Kaufman)

1. Thanks to Business School who have allowed building access during Senate meeting times
2. Dean Iocovou will be here for January meeting, look for a form for questions.

5. New Business

Adjourn – 5:13 p.m.

End notes

Executive Committee Membership:

- Steve Virgil (Law) - President
- Katherine Shaner (Divinity) - Vice President
- Ryan Shirey (College/English/Writing Program) - Secretary and Chair
- Bret Nicks (Medicine) - Member-at-large
- Saylor Breckenridge (College/Sociology) – Past President, Co-chair, College Senators
- Amanda Kaufman (Library) – Chair, University Integration
- Ellen Kirkman (College/Mathematics) – Chair, Fringe Benefits
- Kendall Tarte (College/French Studies) - Co-Chair, College Senators
- Rodrigo Castro (Library) - Chair, Capital Planning
- Mark Evans (Business) - Chair, Salaries
- Jason Parsley (College/Mathematics)- Chair, Athletics
- Michael Cartwright (Medicine) Chair, Medical School
- Sarah Morath (Law) - Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

Future Fall Meeting (Farrell Hall Room 111 @ 4:00

November 19, 2025

December TBD