

WFU Faculty Senate Agenda – January 21, 2026
Farrell Hall, Room A17

Call to Order – 4:00p

1. Approval of November 19 2025 meeting minutes - APPROVED

2. Announcements

- a. Policy Processes - update following meeting with Ken Liddle
 - i. Senate has been involved with various policy processes (e.g. Chalking and Demonstrations)
 - ii. New process being developed with Ken Liddle re: how to involve Senate in appropriate policy processes
 - iii. On a regular basis Faculty Senate President will receive a brief summary of policies in process and Senate can request participation
- b. Academic Freedom and Grievance Committee - update following meeting with Stacie Petter and Dina Marty
 - i. Met in November: grievance policy and committee are seen by administration as sufficient to task currently
 - ii. No likely change on this until leadership searches have concluded
- c. Report from Grievance Committee
 - i. Grievance committee feels stretched and additional responsibilities (e.g., academic freedom issues) would stretch them beyond capacity
- d. Faculty Handbook Updates
 - i. Delayed; no updated version this semester
- e. Elections
 - i. Jason and Saylor are nominations committee
 - ii. See email for self- and other nominations
 - iii. Elections at the March meeting

3. Old business

- a. Presidential Search Update from Committee Chairs
 - i. Over 200 nominations from a range of backgrounds
 - ii. Search is complicated by WFU's unique position
 - iii. Complexity of the position requires strengths in key areas but not necessarily all (but the capacity to develop those new competencies)
 - iv. On track for scheduled appointment in July 2026

4. Current business

- a. Senate President Report
 - i. Stacie Petter's relocation to new role means we will have a new point of contact in the Provost's Office. Kim McAllister will be the new primary point of contact and communication

- ii. Senate will have a strong voice in retaining and amplifying the culture of Wake Forest and forwarding faculty perspectives on important issues we face
 - iii. Document for principles in a new provost draft for senator input
- b. Amendments to Senate Bylaws (Breckenridge, see January 7, 2026 email)
- i. Minor grammatical changes
 - ii. Clarification that Faculty Senate Past President serves as an ex officio member of the Senate and on the Executive Committee
 - iii. Change of Salaries Committee title to “Compensation Committee”
 - iv. Adjust the Senate year to correspond to the academic year
 - 1. Change was made about six years ago as an experiment to produce better continuity in the summertime
 - 2. The change has caused other problems that outweigh the theoretical benefit
 - v. Process to appoint senators to replace senators who have to leave office within six months of their term expiring: any previously elected senator can be named as a temporary replacement
 - 1. If the appointment is not agreed upon by the Executive Committee, election is the default
 - 2. If a senator has to leave office more than 12 months before term expires, election must happen
 - vi. Question about permanent ex officio status for past presidents – goal is to preserve institutional knowledge
 - vii. Question about whether an ex officio past president could be disruptive – because all faculty are welcome to Senate meetings, this is already a potential situation
 - viii. President and ExCom control agenda of the Senate, so little concern about undue influence
 - ix. Amendments are passed
- c. Senate Statement regarding the next Provost (see draft [here](#))
- i. Talk about statement for a vote in February
 - ii. Use comment privileges to add thoughts
 - iii. Final, reviewed document on agenda for February
- d. Presentation on the [School of Professional Studies](#). with Dean Iacovou (Led by Amanda Kaufman)
- i. Presentation will focus on SPS and not comprehensively on other elements of Charlotte expansion
 - ii. Thanks the colleagues, especially past Senate presidents who have been involved in program development
 - iii. SPS is a different school than the other schools that are part of WFU; it has an “extension” mission that is different from the research and teaching mission of the other schools
 - iv. Focuses are to extend the WFU education into the community and to be a revenue source for the university
 - v. SPS Mission: “To accelerate the professional growth of adult learners across their careers and support the talent development needs of organizations through accessible, flexible, and cutting-edge educational experiences.”
 - vi. Focus on adult learners
 - vii. Extension Schools
 - 1. Extend the university’s mission
 - 2. Translate institutional strengths into practice

3. Expand access
 4. Provide an agile platform for innovation
 5. Strengthen institutional relevance and impact
- viii. Where institutional overlaps occur, importance is the focus in targeted learners
 1. Communication and Education are examples where SPS is supporting specific career pathways different from Reynolda campus departments
 2. MPA program emerged through conversation about a gap in university programming and in dialog with Politics and International Affairs
 3. FinTech similarly filling a void
 - ix. Work across disciplines to move nimbly
 - x. Leverage expertise of industry experts as faculty
 - xi. Intention to make margin for the university
 - xii. Extension schools have a long history, over 130 years
 - xiii. Successful programs at many elite universities
 - xiv. Overview of graduate programs with path forward (see slide deck)
 - xv. Non-credit programs often in partnership with corporate clients
 - xvi. Graduate student enrollment has gone from 21 in spring '22 to 717 in fall '25
 - xvii. Enrollment disaggregated by program (see slide deck): project management, digital marketing, and health administration are current top enrollments
 - xviii. Graduate student profile: 60% female, 48% in their 20s (late 20s), 57% URM, 11% with grad degrees, 52% NC residents
 - xix. Faculty profile, sp '26: 4 FT faculty, 8 PT faculty, 3 affiliated faculty, 73 adjunct faculty; 70% with doctorate, 75% with 15+ years of relevant professional experience (and prior teaching experience) | avg. 4.8/5 instructor rating by students
 - xx. Net Promoter Score (NPS) for quality of student and colleague experience – strong ratings
 - xxi. Cross-school collaborations with Business, Law, Medicine, and Divinity
 - xxii. Overview of how program ideas are evaluated: Market Visibility and Demand, Strategic Alignment and Positioning, Operational Health and Scalability
 - xxiii. Program Development: Market and Strategy → Design and Curriculum → Review and Launch
 - xxiv. Invitation to engage: contributing program ideas, collaborate on pathways, champion program development, and cultivate learning experiences
 - xxv. Question: faculty hand in curriculum development and design? Equity concern
 1. Majority of curriculum review by faculty comes from full-time faculty in other schools; ~95% of faculty
 - xxvi. Question: What kind of profitability are we seeing?
 1. The University defines the financial model for SPS
 2. The model has not been finalized
 3. SPS is breaking even this year for the first time (according to plan) – range of programs at different levels of maturity and profitability
 4. Exists as an investment
 - xxvii. Question: If we have questions about differentiation/brand confusion, what about the bigger market? Students? How does this work with accreditation, too, for instance? Graduate professional school residential enrollments are challenging and does this contribute? Particularly a challenge for the Business School.
 1. Challenges in graduate and business education overall
 - xxviii. Question: Is there a mechanism to step back if another school wants to take over a program?
 1. Yes, there is a process with provost and administration

- e. Standing Committee reports.
 - i. Athletics (Parsley) – See PDF in Compiled Committee Reports
 - ii. Capital Planning (Castro)
 - 1. **Tour of Alumni Hall:** Members of the Capital planning Committee attended a tour of Alumni Hall Renovations on Monday, January 12, 2026. During the tour, we learned about the enhancements to the building, which included:
 - a. Flexible general-use classrooms
 - b. Study areas
 - c. Research and teaching laboratories supporting experiential learning
 - d. Gathering spaces, and
 - e. 75 faculty offices for the Entrepreneurship Program and Departments of Philosophy, Education, and Computer Science.
 - f. Renovations are expected to conclude in Summer 2026.
 - 2. **Learning Spaces:** Since 2023, the Provost and President's offices have worked with Facilities and Dr. Tranvisano to secure funding to renovate a large block of classrooms. These projects traditionally occur during summer and since 2023, when this initiative was first implemented, about 50 general-use classrooms have been renovated.

This approach (selecting a group of learning spaces at one time) has proven to be more effective and efficient than previous practices of picking a handful of classrooms, often in different buildings.

The group spearheading this initiative is now working on identifying learning spaces that would be good renovation targets for Summer 2026. If you have feedback about learning spaces that would be good candidates for the Summer 2026 iteration of this program, please contact any member of the Capital Planning Committee.
 - 3. **Faculty Senate Capital Planning email:** The committee is currently working on getting a dedicated email that would facilitate communication between faculty members and the committee.
 - iii. College Senators (Tarte/Breckenridge) – No Report
 - iv. Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (Morath)
 - v. Fringe Benefits (Kirkman) – No Report; Committee will meet Friday, 1/23
 - vi. Medical School (Cartwright) – No Report
 - vii. Salaries (Evans) – No Report
 - viii. University Integration (Kaufman) – See presentation above and slide deck in Compiled Committee Reports

5. New Business

Adjourn – 5:31p

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 Spring Meeting (Farrell Hall Room 111 @ 4:00

February 18, 2026

March 18, 2026