

**WFU Faculty Senate Agenda – March 18, 2026**  
**Farrell Hall, Room A17**

Call to Order – 4:00p

1. Approval of February 18, 2026 meeting minutes - Approved

2. Announcements

- a. Senate representative on the Security Advisory Committee - Rodrigo Castro
  - i. This committee has been formed to provide strategic direction for safety and security of the Reynolda campus and will work closely with the WFU police department and DeaconOne.
- b. The Senate can appoint a member to the Parking Committee – if interested, contact a Senate officer
- c. Elections
  - i. They will be conducted during this meeting, with ballots emailed to all senators
- d. Newly elected College Senators
  - i. Will be joining at the next meeting: Diana Arnett, Dani Kim-Shapiro, and Ellen Miller
- e. Faculty Handbook Updates
  - i. Collecting changes and updates for the next revision
- f. Change to retirement plan custodian announced this week
  - i. ExComm was briefed on the transition by VP of HR Mary Lucal and representative of Retirement Planning Committee as well as a representative from CapTrust
  - ii. Q: What does the language around recordkeeping mean? A: Michelle Steward, RPC member, described the process of the committee’s review of services and encourages faculty to contact both HR and CapTrust for specific information about their planning
  - iii. Retirement Planning Committee are fiduciaries—thanked by Pres. Virgil
  - iv. Observation that RPC is not an elected committee as fiduciaries

3. Old business

- a. Update on policy process
  - i. Senate President met with Ken Little around campus chalking and demonstration policy
  - ii. Senate’s role in the consideration and adoption of policies
  - iii. Anything that touches the academic mission will have a review and comment period for the Senate, going through the ExComm initially
  - iv. Policies touching on academic mission may be collected on a website for faculty access
- b. Presidential Search update
  - i. Committee developed a series of calibration exercises around topic areas such as: being able to serve a broad range of constituents, serving with humility and heart, preserving academic distinctiveness, guiding Wake Forest through changes in athletics, navigating relationships with Advocate
  - ii. 14 candidates interviewed via Zoom, now down to 6 under consideration for further interviews
  - iii. On track for July 1 appointment
  - iv. Committee Member—the new president will not be appointed before the end of April; July date is the one to keep in mind
  - v. At least one faculty member in each interview so far
  - vi. Q: Will we know the finalists? A: We will not know finalists.
- c. Academic Freedom work with AAUP (Tess Wise)
  - i. See attached slide deck
  - ii. Q: Senator from library: Unclear who is responsible for hearing grievances and who is represented in the process—librarians for example seem not to have a place for submit a grievance? A: Sen. Pres. – It is unclear and the Senate could help present reasonable processes for clarifying the issue.
  - iii. Conflict between universal academic freedom language and processes around dismissal

#### 4. Current business

- a. Senate President Report
  - i. Senate statement on principles to guide new Provost search was sent to Pres. search committee and those principles were well-received by committee and candidates with whom it was shared
  - ii. More values statements to speak with a clear voice from the Senate on key issues
  - iii. ExComm working on a better understanding of intellectual property rights around faculty materials and AI
  - iv. ExComm is working on new ways to engage with the administration and the Board of Trustees; ExComm feels like this moment of change is important for the Senate to speak to
  - v. Social hour: look for more information
- b. Elections (Saylor Breckenridge/Jason Parsley)
  - i. Single candidates for President, VP, and Secretary
  - ii. Two candidates for at-large positions
  - iii. Qualtrics ballot emailed to all voting members once vote is called
- c. Standing Committee reports.
  - i. Athletics (Parsley)
    - There was a presidential round table on college sports on 3/6 in the White House; WFU Athletic Director John Currie was selected to attend. Committee hasn't spoken with him yet, but plan to hear his feedback.
    - Online credit hour limit: currently 15 hours of online credit count towards graduation. This impacts student-athletes among other groups. Pre-Covid, ~10% of summer courses were online; since Covid, around 67% of summer courses in the College are taught online. Students can end up exceeding the limit.
      - Several committees, including the SCA, have worked on this issue and proposed changing or removing the limit.
      - College Committee on Academic Planning brought this resolution to a vote at the Monday faculty meeting; it was tabled until October.
      - Q: Can we get more data on what courses are being taught online during the semester before the issue next comes to a vote? A: We likely do need updated information.
  - ii. Capital Planning (Castro)
    - Group met this afternoon to discuss strategic representation on different committees and working groups involved in capital planning activities. More to say on this at the next meeting.
    - Space planning at Wake Forest webpage has a summary of the presentation given about the campus space plan, including information about desires for types of space and values around space planning. There is a feedback form, so if you have questions or comments about the processes, please use the form.
    - Set of workshops on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to give feedback on space planning.
    - Security Advisory Committee
      - Charge:
        - Provide strategic direction for the safety and security of the Reynolda Campus and associated properties.
      - Responsibilities:
        - Setting strategic direction for Safety and Security Initiatives
        - Evaluate peer benchmarks and emerging risks
        - Prioritization of initiatives for the budgetary process
        - Ensuring alignment with university values and transparency
        - Focus on physical security and emergency management at the Reynolda Campus and adjacent properties, athletic properties and venues, non-academic properties, Wake Downtown
      - Current activities:
        - Classroom Security Enhancements

- Panic buttons
  - Door lockdown
  - DEACstations
  - [Training documentation](#) (DeaconOne portal/Articles)
- Capital Planning
  - University Priorities & Capital Projects Advisory Committees Campus Space Plan
    - Feb 5, 2026
    - [Space Planning at Wake Forest](#)
    - [WFU Space Planning Feedback](#)
  - Feedback on desired space upgrades and enhancements:
    - Academics
    - Buildings
    - Dining
    - Gathering
    - Outdoors
    - Transportation
  - Spaces were categorized into 5 areas:
    - Academic neighborhoods
    - Campus edge development
    - Community-oriented places
    - Outdoor and mobility
    - Residential neighborhoods
  - Planning Principles:
    - Modernize for Academic Excellence, Growth, and Collaboration
    - Support an Immersive Student Experience
    - Prioritize Investments in Existing Assets
    - Reimagine Wake Forest as a Network of Connected Places
    - Promote Visionary Stewardship of Place
  - The next workshop will be held April 15-16
- iii. College Senators (Tarte/Breckenridge)
  - See attached slide deck
  - Q: How have changes in study away been communicated to students? A: The changes are being phased in strategically.
  - Q: How does the need for more faculty in response to enrollment growth align with a planned reduction in TT teaching loads? A: There is an awareness of the potential challenges. Q: Will this impact research expectations, too? A: This concern was also raised by the Collegiate Senators.
- iv. Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (Morath) – No report
- v. Fringe Benefits (Kirkman)
  - Six positions on the University Fringe Benefits Advisory Committee: met in February and met earlier today, and the Senate committee meets in advance of those meetings.
  - Committee was briefed on the shift in retirement
  - Other issues committees are looking into are partner benefits, weight loss drug coverage, and retirement policies around age and service year requirements
  - Executive Director of Compensation and Benefits has been hired (compensation of staff, not faculty)
- vi. Medical School (Cartwright) – No report.
- vii. Compensation (Evans)
  - Met on February 25<sup>th</sup> as a look ahead meeting.
  - Looking at AAUP data while acknowledging its limitations
  - Working with OIR on data reportage
  - Desire for continuity to help the committee’s work over time

viii. University Integration (Kaufman) – No report.

5. New Business

- i. Member-at-large: Mahta McKee; rest of slate elected unopposed.
- ii. 2026-2027 Senate Officers:
  - President: Steve Virgil, School of Law
  - Vice President: Kendall Tarte, Wake Forest College
  - Secretary: Katherine Shaner, School of Divinity
  - At-Large: Mahta McKee, School of Medicine
  - Past-President: Saylor Breckenridge, Wake Forest College

**Adjourn – 5:28 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 Spring Meeting (Farrell Hall Room A17 @ 4:00

April 15, 2026