

Faculty Senate, 11 September 2026

In attendance: David Balok, Jack Sheffler, Darrel Malamisura, Jeff Yeager, Amanda Matoushek, Vincent Mateescu, Rodney Montague, Karen Grogan, Dharshana Arachchi, Bill Bennett, Vanessa Godfrey, Kristin Hicks, Ethan Harvey

Opening and attendance

- Darrel noted that the executive council had met with Cathy Deeb the previous day.
- Jack asked for a current organizational chart, saying he wanted to know who still works there. Darrel said the organizational chart should be updated regularly, but apparently is not.
- Darrel also mentioned that the accounting team would not be available until the week after September 15th because of tax season.

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 11:03 am.

Approval of minutes

A motion was submitted at 11:07 am to approve of the minutes from the last faculty senate meeting by Vanessa Godfrey and seconded by Ethan Harvey. Motion passed via acclamation.

Old business:

Constitution changes:

- Kristin reminded the group they needed to vote on the Constitution changes.
- She explained the main change: committee descriptions were updated so that a Senate member must serve on each committee, or be added as a non-voting ad hoc member if no senator is already on it.
- Darrel noted that most committees already had senator representation, except possibly curriculum and budget.
- Kristin volunteered to cover curriculum, and Darrel said he would take budget.

Approval of language change as described above:

A motion was submitted at 11:20 am to approve of the changes to the constitution by Kristin Hicks and seconded by Jack Sheffler. Motion passed via acclamation.

Constitution continued:

- Darrel noted that because this is a constitutional change, it still needs to go to the general faculty for final approval.
- The next general faculty meeting was identified as the 25th, and Darrel said the updated Constitution would be sent out with highlighted changes before that vote.

Digital forms and evaluations

- Darrel reported that the drop/add form and the yearly evaluation form were still being worked on and we're still waiting on Sarita.
- Amanda said Adam is working on converting the drop/add form from paper to a digital version.
- Amanda also said the upward evaluations had been reviewed and marked up, but the deans had returned them to Sarita and the group was waiting on her for further instruction.
- Darrel emphasized that he has been waiting on Sarita for multiple items and would like everything finished by the end of the semester.

Discussion of online faculty evaluation form

- Vincent raised a concern about the online faculty evaluation form and shared his screen.
- He explained that the fields were fillable, but typing into some of them caused the text area to shrink.
- Darrel clarified that the form is not truly meant to stay digital; it must be filled out online and then printed and handed in physically.
- Darrel said the current digital process is broken and that he wants the yearly evaluations, short-term leave forms, and other related forms moved into Moodle so they can be completed properly in one place.
- Amanda explained that Adam Grygiel is also working on other registrar forms and short leave forms so they can be filled out online and then routed automatically to the correct offices for signatures.
- Amanda said Adam had one of the deans do a test run on one of the registrar forms, and in the end it worked successfully.
- Darrel said he would believe it when he sees it, but expressed hope that the digitization effort would actually happen this time.

New business:

Student registration and hold issues

- Jeffrey raised a concern about a student in a humanities major who had lived in the dorms for three weeks but was never registered for classes because of a hold on the student's account.
- Darrel said the issue had already been discussed in the meeting with Cathy the previous day.
- Amanda explained that the decision had been made to move students in before schedules were fully finalized, based on the assumption that schedules could be created after move-in.
- Amanda said there were tables set up during move-in where schedules could have been made.
- In the end, the student about whom Jeffrey raised a concern went to Amanda and requested that she make him a schedule for the semester. Amanda had to tell the student to go home because she wasn't able to register him for classes.

- Darrel strongly criticized the process, saying students should not have been moved in until their holds were resolved if scheduling depended on that.
- He said the process was badly designed and that the hold issue should have been handled before arrival.
- Rodney added that the process was supposed to be automated, but clearly was not working and was harming accuracy in enrollment reporting.

Attendance verification and enrollment discrepancies

- Darrel said many students were still showing up on rosters despite being unverified or never attending, even after the purge date.
- Amanda explained that she found a spreadsheet showing students with zero attendance in the attendance tracking software, and that there was a tab labeled “not verified zero attendance.”
- Amanda said these students should have been withdrawn, but instead they remained registered.
- Amanda contacted administration, but received little useful response. Tammy Martin told Amanda the financial aid office was looking at the disbursement status of each student, which Amanda said was exactly the problem because the purpose of attendance verification is to prevent disbursement to students who are not actually attending.
- Kristin added that she had also asked why students on her list were not removed, but received no meaningful response.
- Amanda said one honor student was removed incorrectly even though she was verified, and reinstating her required multiple faculty signatures.
- Darrel said he had previously refused to complete paperwork for similar administrative mistakes and was not willing to do the administration’s work for them.
- Darrel later said the inconsistency in records made the institution look like it was “fluffing the numbers.”
- Darrel also referenced an earlier example from years ago where multiple reports showed different enrollment numbers on the same day, with the highest number reported to the state for funding.
- Darrel said all this was a serious reputational and compliance issue that would not look good to the HEPC, for example.

Meeting with Cathy and institutional concerns

- Darrel described the previous day’s two-hour meeting with Cathy as a “wait and see” situation.
- Darrel said Cathy listened carefully and took detailed notes.
- Darrel told the group he had suggested restoring faculty representation on hiring committees for every position, since that had been removed under previous leadership.

- Darrel said faculty are the people who understand how the institution actually functions and should at least be able to ask questions and make suggestions in hiring processes.
- Kristin added that Cathy had asked detailed follow-up questions about how committee structures used to work.
- Darrel said Cathy seemed receptive and also acknowledged that she had been given incomplete or misleading information in the past.
- Darrel and Kristin both described the administration as having withheld information or lied about important matters, especially around bills and other operational issues.
- Darrel said the Senate would need to continue holding administration accountable and demanding transparency.

Follow-up on firing of Dr. Martin and broader board context

- Kristin mentioned that Cathy said firing Dr. Martin was probably the hardest decision the board had made since she joined, though in hindsight it might have been easier given what they know now.
- Darrel said Cathy and her family have received threats.
- Darrel also pointed out there was likely going to be backlash, especially from local people.

West Virginia Seal of Biliteracy

- Amanda asked whether the West Virginia Seal of Biliteracy item had been placed on the agenda.
- Amanda explained that the seal is awarded to middle and high school students who demonstrate proficiency in English and another language through state testing.
- Amanda said state code allows universities to award up to six language credits to students who enter with the seal.
- Amanda said the college had already voted to support awarding six credits, and that she had written a procedure assigning the credit to Language 190 and 191.
- Amanda said the remaining issue was identifying what approval path was needed.
- Darrel initially thought it might only need to go through the department and then to Sarita, but after hearing more detail he said it may need Senate and University Council review because it could affect general education credit.
- The group agreed to wait until Sarita returned so the process could be finalized.

Additional attendance verification clarification

- Kristin said she had access to a separate attendance verification report in Argos.
- Kristin said it showed faculty verified and student verification fields, which suggested students may be able to verify themselves.

- Darrel was surprised by that and said he had verified students himself but still had unverified or inactive students on his roster.
- Kristin explained that some students apparently verified themselves even if the instructor did not verify them.
- Darrel said this made no sense and confirmed that the attendance verification process was confusing and poorly documented.
- Amanda said the verification/disbursement review had been done behind closed doors, so faculty did not know exactly how decisions were being made.
- Darrel said this was further proof that transparency and shared governance were lacking.

Closing discussion

- Darrel reiterated that faculty were doing administrative work that should not fall on them.
- Darrel said the current procedures were not written down clearly and that the burden kept falling on faculty to make life easier for people in administration.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made at 12:03 pm by Kristin Hicks and seconded by Vincent Mateescu. Motion passed via acclamation.