

# University Senate –November 4, 2024



University Senate Meeting Minutes  
November 4, 2024  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Virtual via Zoom

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Margaret Ball, Miguel Barbosa, Nurun Begum, Greg Boyce, Jill Boyle, Christopher, Brooks, Donna Bulzoni, Kevin Casebolt, Marguerite Carver, Tamar Cato, Domenico Cavaiuolo, Marcy Cetnar, Jeyaprakash Chelladurai, Stephanie Ciccone-Felmly, Robert Cohen, Oliana Cole, Donna Marie Cole-Malott, Deena Dailey, Susan Dillmuth-Miller, Caroline DiPipi-Hoy, Chris Domanski, Darla Drummond, Johan Eliasson, Nieves Gruneiro Roadcap, Bailey Higgins, Jan Hoffman, Lorna Hunter, Youngwook Ju, Kiondre Kenner, Heon Kim, Thomas Kish, Josie Kraemer, Brooke Langan, Kenneth Long, Nehiry Lora, Kizzy Morris, Margaret Mullan, Michael Nichols, Jamire Parker, Sandra Pena, Mary Francis Postupack, Michael Quigley, Elaine Rodriquez, Melinda Rosen, Michael Sachs, Liz Scott, Daniel Schmidt, Jennie Smith, Robert Smith, Brandon Snyder, Santiago Solis, Krissy Sprankle, Keith Vanic, Kelly Varcoe, Daosu Wang, Bethanie Watson, Holly Wells, R. Samantha Williams, Sylvester Williams, Lanxi Xu, Shiqi Zhang, Xuemao Zhang

## **ABSENT:**

Mary Amador-Rosario, Laurene Clossey, Bill Broun, Nick D'Angelo, Karen Danna, Matthew Davis, Daniel DiCupe, Jaylon Duncan, Nakeem Facey, James Galdieri, Melissa Geiger, Rebecca James, Damali Jackson, Chris Kavanau, Jamory Lee, Andrea McClanahan, Pasqual Ortiz, Richard Otto, Tina Perez-Beltran, Elizabeth Richardson, Gina Scala, Brian Street, Ansumana Turay, Shawn Watkins, Keiara Whetstone, Jahsim Williams, Xiaochen Zhou

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Review of October 2024 Minutes
  - a. No objections, approved by general consent.
- 3) University President's Report
  - a. No formal items to address at this meeting.
  - b. University police are working with PA State Police and Stroud Regional Police to investigate the incident that occurred on campus last weekend. Enhanced safety measures are occurring throughout campus as well as an increased presence of law enforcement. Campus police and IT are working together to work to improve safety on campus.
  - c. Provided Provost Ball along with presidents of the University Senate and APSCUF with a draft of the committee structure for assessment of our General Education curriculum. This program is critical to our effectiveness and operations. Will be assessing this as part of Middle States self-study report. Further details will be coming shortly.

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- d. Formal recognition given to Dr. Andrea McClanahan for receiving the Distinguished Professor Award at the meeting last week. Congratulations to Dr. McClanahan for this major achievement in her career.
  - e. Strategic Plan feedback received during the roundtable discussions over the last several weeks has all been captured and recorded. A final draft of the document will be disseminated to the campus before the Thanksgiving holidays and presented to the Council of Trustees at their December meeting for approval.
- 4) Fix the Agenda
- a. Agenda accepted by general consent
- 5) Committee Reports
- a. Executive Committee
    - Met last week and set the agenda. The digital suggestion box is now on the website and the first suggestion has been received. This suggestion is for senate to provide more visibility on campus and for there to be more notice of senate meetings.
  - b. Academic Affairs
    - Robust conversation regarding the issue that so many midterm grades were not entered. This has been recognized as a problem various places on campus. Many different areas on campus that provide support for students struggle to actively assist students without midterm grades providing information about how students are doing. D2L gradebook information is also unclear for many students. Committee is hoping to find a way to encourage faculty to let their students know what their midterm grade is.
    - Discussion surrounding the importance of midterm grades and the information that they provide to students. Possibility of Devin Feighan giving a presentation to whomever might need it on the use of the D2L gradebook.
    - Students are used to a different level of access to their grades with the learning management systems that are used in k-12 education. This is a different level of access, which is possibly difficult for them to get used to.
    - Student senators- midterm grades are sometimes hard to understand based on what percentage of the course they actually cover. It is important for students to have a benchmark to see where they are in the class. Questioned if every faculty member is required to enter a midterm grade and use the D2L gradebook function or put up a syllabus. Provost Ball assured students that all faculty are required to have a syllabus up on D2L and to talk to the Department Chairs if this is not the case.
    - Provost Ball- Devin will come out and/or provide video training to support faculty with entering midterm grades and with the D2L gradebook information. Encouraged faculty to have this discussion at the department level.
  - c. Rules and By-laws
    - Have not met yet, will be scheduling to meet sometime in the next week. A poll was sent out for meeting availability.
  - d. Budget, Finance and Planning

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- Met on October 31<sup>st</sup> and set the date for the final meeting of the semester. Timeline was created for the auxiliary budget and local fee proposal for the next fiscal year. Strategies discussed to explore how to close the structural budget gap. Also discussed the charge received from the University Senate regarding electric vehicle charging stations on campus. This will be looked at from a facilities perspective as well as a financial perspective. Hope to have something to report back at the final meeting of the semester.
  - e. Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee
    - Meeting is scheduled for next week.
  - f. Research
    - Yet to meet this semester, but will try to meet before the end of the semester.
  - g. University Senate Evaluation Committee
    - Report has been made accessible and was distributed to all senators. It was also posted on the webpage. Formal adoption vote will occur later in this meeting.
- 6) Student Government Association Report- President Krissy Sprankle
- a. Had annual safety walk collaborating with campus police, facilities and parking. Assess safety matters across campus and work to create a plan to address the issues. Looking forward to seeing changes suggested.
  - b. Approved several new clubs including the Tonesetters, an acapella group on campus, as well as the Modeling Club. Approved amendments to the Sign Language Club constitution.
  - c. Teddy bear drive is coming up next month (1<sup>st</sup> week in December). Annual toy drive that will deliver toys to kids. SGA will take any donations of toys for all ages.
- 7) Old Business
- a. University Senate Committee Additions
    - Student Affairs: Business faculty- Xiaochen Zhou
    - Research: IRB Representative- Christine Fisher
    - Approved by general consent
  - b. Academic Affairs: Delay the add/drop and withdrawal window by 2 days for shortened sessions (i.e. Winter)
    - Will bring a larger team into the discussion. Is not just academic affairs, but also includes many different stakeholders across campus.
    - Provost Ball and Rob Smith will look into it.
  - c. Academic Affairs: Entrance requirements for students/students with high GPAs without college prep or HS academic-level classes
    - Good discussion for college level meetings.
- 8) New Business
- a. Formal adoption of the University Senate Evaluation Report
    - Rob Cohen presented the history of the committee and the changes that have taken place as a result of the evaluation report in past years.

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- Senate President Susan Dillmuth-Miller discussed the results of the report for this year. Senators who responded to the inquiry thought that senate was not doing enough or operating at full capacity. A discussion of changes in management style and how things are presented to University Senate and the Executive Board took place.
- No questions or objections, approved by general consent.
- b. Approval of University Senate Meeting Dates 2025-2026
  - Approved by general consent
  - September 15, 2025 (in person)
  - October 6, 2025
  - November 3, 2025
  - December 1, 2025
  - February 2, 2026
  - March 2, 2026
  - April 6, 2026 (in person)
  - April 27, 2026 (if needed)
- 9) Open Discussion
  - a. Gardner Report and Q & A: Dean Nieves Gruneiro-Roadcap
    - Key slides from Gardner pulled for this presentation. Please see the included slides from the report for a full listing of information.
    - Gardner’s High-Level Overview
      - Enrollment cliffs after first and second years
      - Students leaving ESU in Good Academic Standing
      - Black and Hispanic students leaving at higher rates
      - Half of all Pell-eligible students left ESU before year 3
    - ESU needing to have a clear understanding of the population we serve and their needs. Examining all the things we put in place to foster student success.
    - Provost Ball: One example of the information regarding the gateway courses is with the College of Health Sciences and the changes made to Health & Wellness. Prime example of the positive effects of how we can evaluate and redesign courses.
    - Vice President Santiago Solis: Divided focus of the Foster a Sense of Belonging initiative into three working groups, one of which focuses on early experiences and two others focus on social settings/peer groups and faculty in the classroom.
    - Associate Provost Kizzy Morris: Group she chaired originally met last spring to look at a problem statement, discussing how we can better identify factors that impede student success and then be able to deploy support strategically. Looking into reframing student success coaching based on various touch

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points. Target interventions being discussed around things that happen cyclically for students in terms of support.

- Conversation concerning meeting students where they are and the significance of midterm grades.
- Robert Cohen: Question concerning DFWI rates in high enrollment courses.
- Dean Gruneiro-Roadcap: High enrollment courses that service a lot of students tend to have higher DFWI rates. That information is available in the Gardner slides but also in the S Drive.
- Questions concerning if Gardner information can be shared with University Senate or at the College level so that it can be discussed. Provost Ball discussed how the information was shared in the spring semester several times, including at the All University Meeting. Gardner spent significant time on campus looking at the data collected and came back with recommendations and key points.
- Though there is no report that can be disseminated on campus, the full presentation of the findings has been shared in multiple venues across campus. If anyone would like to work with the teams, please let administrators know. Vice President Solis mentioned that he would be willing to meet with anyone who would like an overview of the information from his subcommittee. Question from Jan Hoffman concerning if the teams could give a presentation concerning the self-study at University Senate. Provost Ball agreed that this can be done.

## 10) Announcements:

- a. Provost Margaret Ball- two Provost Colloquiums coming up this next month. One this week features Ed Arner and Xiaochen Zhou from Sports Management entitled One Plus One Equals Three. This is regarding cases on experiential learning through the integration of teaching, service, and research. This will be on November 6<sup>th</sup> in Beers Lecture Hall at 5:30pm. A colleague, Dr. Schennum, from County College of Morris published a book on the Bethlehem steel workers and reshaping of the industrial working class. She will be presenting on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.
- b. Darla Drummond- Pyrrhic Defeat will be exhibited at Powers Gallery from November 6<sup>th</sup>- December 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be an opening reception at 4:00pm on Wednesday 11/6 followed by a panel concerning mass incarceration from 5:30-6:30pm.
- c. President Long- Election Day is tomorrow, please get out and vote.
- d. Brooke Langan- College of Education is hosting the National State Teachers of the Year which will be held at a conference on motivation and engagement this Saturday (11/9). Please reach out if interested, it will include some great teachers from across the state who are going to be sharing some great best practices.

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- e. Michael Sachs- Active shooter training webinar will be held December 12<sup>th</sup>. This has been requested and will be presented by a department of the Homeland Security. If we have 100 registrants by December 1<sup>st</sup> it will be ESU only.
- f. Elizabeth Scott- free coffee on Wednesdays at 2:00pm in the library. The library has extended a traveling exhibited called Out Campus, a History of LGBTQ+ activism at Pennsylvania Colleges and Universities in the lobby.
- g. Bethany Watson- choir concert will be held on 11/15 and the following week there will be a jazz band concert on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by a concert band concert on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> is a student directed plan called The Wolves, which is a collaboration between students and athletics because it is the story of a girls travel soccer team.

11) Adjournment @ 4:16PM