

University Senate –March 3, 2025



University Senate Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2025
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miguel Barbosa; Nurum Begum; Gregory Boyce; Christopher Brooks; Donna Bulzoni; Marguerite Carver; Kevin Casebolt; Laurene Clossey; Robert Cohen; Donna Marie Cole-Malott; Benjamin Coyle; Susan Dillmuth-Miller; Caroline DiPippi-Hoy; Nakeem Facey; Nieves Gruneiro-Roadcap; Jan Hoffman; Lorna Hunter; Youngwood Ju; Chris Kavanau; Kiondre Kenner; Heon Kim; Thomas Kish; Brooke Langan; Kenneth Long; Nahiry Lora; Margaret Matis; Mary Francis Postupack; Elaine Rodriguez; Melinda Rosen; Michael Sachs; Danny Schmidt; Jennie Smith; Robert Smith; Santiago Solis; Krissy Sprankle; Brian Street; Taina Telfort; Keith Vanic; Kelly Varcoe; Aaliyah Velez; Holly Wells; Sylvester Williams; Rosemary Williams; Shiqi Zhang; Xuemao Zhang

ABSENT:

Mary Amador-Rosario; Margaret Ball; Bill Broun; Domenico Cavaiuolo; Jeyaprakash Chelladurai; Oliana Cole; Deena Daily; Nick D'Angelo; Matthew Davis; Darla Drummond; Johan Eliasson; James Galdieri; Melissa Geiger; Damali Jackson; Andrea McClanahan; Margaret Mullen; Michael Nichols; Richard Otto; Jamire Parker; Elizabeth Scott; Brandon Snyder; Daisy Wang; Shawn Watkins; Bethanie Watson; Lanxi Xu; Xiaochen Zhou

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Review February 2025 Minutes
 - a. Changes to the minutes regarding the Senate absence policy and the ability to appoint someone to come to the meeting for ex officio members.
 - b. Minutes approved by general consent
- 3) University President's Report
 - a. Reviewed the proposal from University Senate concerning changes to Marshal at graduation ceremonies. Will put together a committee to review and make recommendations, will present an update at the next Senate meeting. Several concerns with the proposal as it stands:
 - Possibility of including all employees who are retiring rather than just faculty
 - Faculty participation in graduation ceremonies, only about 35% of faculty participate. Not appropriate to give faculty/staff the honor if they haven't participated in graduation ceremonies in the past
 - Susan Dillmuth-Miller: would you be open to the Senate forming a committee and making recommendations?

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- President Long: Will go with other individuals and bring recommendations back to Senate. Want to be sure to include individuals who may not be represented in Senate.
 - b. A couple employees mentioned that they felt like they were shut down in the conversation at Senate, want to remind everyone that this is a body where everyone's voice should be welcome and should be considered.
- 4) Fix the Agenda
- a. Agenda approved.
- 5) Committee reports- status updates
- a. Executive Committee
 - Met and set the agenda.
 - Senate meeting next month will be in person at Beers and then there will be a get together immediately afterwards at Trackside that has been graciously put together by President Long.
 - b. Academic Affairs
 - Provost Ball is unable to attend today's meeting.
 - Committee met, no report this month.
 - c. Rules and By-Laws
 - Will be meeting tomorrow (3/4)
 - d. Budget, Finance, and Planning
 - To discuss tuition extension policy
 - Kizzy Morris will be coming to the Senate meeting next month to present data on the tuition extension proposal
 - Update from Green Initiative Committee regarding electric vehicle charging stations
 - Maria Cohen will come to the next Senate meeting to talk about her work with the electric vehicle chargers.
 - e. Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee
 - Will be meeting this month.
 - f. Research
 - Have not met in February or yet in March.
- 6) Student Government Association Report – Report by President Krissy Sprankle.
- a. Hosted another successful involvement fair and were able to swear in 10 new senators.
 - b. Approved the Reactivation and Constitution Amendments for the Residence Hall Association
 - c. Want to give a shout out to all of the participants in Dancing with the Staff, have heard nothing but good things from students who attended.

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- d. Information session regarding President Trump’s executive orders is this week, on Wednesday at 7pm in Beers/ Dr. Connolly, Dr. Cutler, Dr. Kieselbach and Lauren Peterson from Safe Monroe will be speaking.
 - e. Student organization award ceremony has been postponed until April 6th.
- 7) Old Business
- a. No Old Business
- 8) New Business
- a. Nominations (Nominations Committee)
 - Nominations are open until April 7th. Open positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Member at Large. You can self-nominate or nominate one of your colleagues today through chat or through email to mcarver1@esu.edu.
 - b. Proposal: Gardner information with the data and output to be made available for faculty and staff.
 - No discussion, brought forward for a vote. Passed: 29 voted yes and 7 voted no.
 - Will be recommended, coming from University Senate.
- 9) Open Discussion
- a. Faculty Parking: Frank Gay
 - Susan Dillmuth-Miller: Some concerns regarding faculty parking and that parking spots were being taken away, also questions about tags.
 - Frank Gay: Everyone is experiencing the effects of the strains on parking. In the process of getting our new parking assessment done, it is done every three years. With ongoing construction projects, every space is taken up by extra projects and faculty and students are noticing. To date, we have written over 3,300 citations. It seems as though there is not enough parking, and the assessment will let us know if we need more parking or if we need to make better use of the existing parking.
 - Heat Map shown
 - Every blue dot represents a citation that has been written, fairly spread across campus.
 - Susan Dillmuth-Miller: Are we going back to the tags? I have heard scanning is inefficient.
 - Frank Gay: We are evaluating the decision to move away from tags. From an enforcement point of view, it is much more effective to have a visual queue that we can work off of until the technology can catch up.
 - Susan Dillmuth-Miller: Is it true that faculty spots are being taken away beyond the ones taken away for construction?
 - Frank Gay: No, everything is based off of whatever the assessment tells us. If anything, we are looking at adding more parking and more faculty and staff

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parking. We just have to be a little more creative with the use of space and how we are going to pay for it.

- President Long: There is a parking committee and there should be representation throughout the campus. I encourage everyone, if you have representation, to bring those concerns to whoever your representative is.
 - Frank Gay: Thank you President, our next meeting is this Friday, so anyone who would like to attend send me an email and I will make sure you get an invite.
 - Susan Dillmuth-Miller: Greg Boyce, who is a Senator, represents the Senate on the committee.
- b. Gardner Subcommittee work
- Santiago Solis and Karen Danna: Culture of Belonging
 - Please see presentation for more detailed information
 - Group was given the charge to discuss belonging and different kind of areas that would pertain to that. One part of the group focused on early experiences, the second group focused on social settings and peer groups and the third focused on faculty and classrooms. Many of the ideas related to creating opportunity for relationships and team building within groups and cohorts to enhance student experiences.
 - Met again in this spring to finalize information. Worked in three small groups focusing on psychological safety and well-being as well as motivational supports, structural opportunities, mattering and gathering.
 - Focused on the question of belonging and how the structure of the world is different post-pandemic for students. Disconnect students feel in forming connections and really feeling a sense of belonging or knowing how to engage with their surroundings. Based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs and suggests that belonging shapes a student's relationship to their campus and has a very strong impact on their engagement, retention, graduation rates, and success rates.
 - Research makes it clear that it is not where you go to school, but what you do when you are there. There are 6 big factors that contribute most to graduation rates and student success: (1) having at least one professor who made them excited about learning (2) feeling professors cared about them as a person (3) having a mentor who encouraged them to pursue goals and dreams (4) working on a project that took a semester or more to complete (5) having an internship or job that allowed them to apply what they were learning in the classroom (6) being extremely active in extracurricular activities and organizations during college.
 - The question was, how do we become the kind of place described where students can thrive? Research shows that we tend to lose students

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somewhere around the end of their sophomore year, so this group really took a look at how to make this a place students can thrive. Goal was to align with the strategic plan, so developed a working definition of belonging. Belonging refers to the feeling of being accepted, valued, and connected to a group or community. It encompasses a sense of safety and security in relationships where individuals feel they are an integral part of something larger than themselves. This can relate to family, friendships, workplaces, cultural and social groups, and more. Belonging is important for emotional well-being, and can influence self-esteem, identity and overall mental health.

- 3 key areas which focused on building a hospitable soil, early experiences, social settings and peers, and faculty and classrooms. Conversations started to identify ideas and initiatives on campus. This includes the construction of the new student union, the dining hall and other areas across campus. Also talked about creating communal areas for students across other areas of campus, including the University Ridge.
- In terms of faculty and classrooms, importance of fostering relationships and bridging pedagogy and classroom spaces. Connecting to faculty and having students take responsibility for their own learning as they develop relationships is important. Students appreciate when faculty get to know them better and have conversations with them. Spaces on campus to allow for communication will benefit faculty, staff and students and allow connections to occur.

10) Announcements:

- a. Susan Dillmuth-Miller: Middle States survey for faculty and students, QR code is listed in the Senate recording and also available through email. Open to all faculty and all students.
- b. Chris Kavanau: APSCUF is holding an informational rally this Tuesday from noon to 4pm at the suites quad between Hemlock and Sycamore. Will be discussing what the consequences would be hypothetically of gutting the Federal Education Funding and the Department of Education and how we, as citizens, can push back for higher education. There is a lot at risk; 10 million students from working class families across the country could lose need-based pell grants or subsidized loans, increasing college costs for working class families. 7 ½ million students with disabilities could lose access to special education services funded by the federal government. Rallies like this will be held across PASSHE campuses.

11) Adjournment @ 4:02 pm

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