



**FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Jeffrey Reber, Chair

Laura McCloskey Wolfe,
Executive Secretary

Brendan Kelly, President of the
University of West Georgia

Jon Preston, Provost and Senior
Vice President for Academic
Affairs

Kim Green,
Undergraduate Programs

Georgia Evans, Graduate
Programs

**Clifford Davis and
Ericka Wentz (Co-
Chairs)**, Academic
Policies

Amy Cuomo, Faculty
Development

John Hampton, Institutional
Planning

Gavin Lee, Facilities and
Technology

Dylan McLean, Student Affairs
and Intercollegiate Activities

Blynn Olivieri Parker, Budget
(Rotating Chair), Rules

Mike Hester, Diversity and
Internationalization

Jason Swift, Teaching, Learning,
and Assessment

Faculty Senate Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 3, November – December 2023

Report from the Faculty Senate Chair

Welcome to the Spring, 2024 semester! I hope you had a restful and rejuvenating break. I would like to thank all the senators, committee members, student representatives, and administrators who worked on senate business last semester for your hard and smart work. Much was accomplished in your committee meetings and in our senate meetings. I was especially pleased with our senate-wide discussions on key topics. Out of those discussions, we have identified three senate-wide tasks that will be worked on in the Spring, and we have organized groups to work on these tasks.

The group that will focus on faculty workload policy is comprised of: Mark Janzen, Cody Mason, Betsy Dahms, Jason Swift, Laura Phillips, and Ana Zapata Calle.

The group that will work on the scheduling of courses is comprised of: Ericka Wentz, Clifford Davis, Dylan McLean, Kelly Dyar, Lynn Pazzani, and Lantz Ferrell.

The group that will work on intellectual property policy is comprised of: Robert Griffin, Mark Janzen, Katie Morales, Beth Sheppard, Gavin Lee, and Bryan Perry.

I am grateful to these senators and committee members for their commitment to these tasks and look forward to the work they will accomplish. Each group is encouraged to identify a group leader (or co-leaders) and to begin meeting and working on their task as soon as possible. We will continue to have conversations on topics of senate-wide concern during the second hour of senate meetings in the coming semester, and I hope that senators and committee members will continue to sign up for the taskforces that may be formed to further examine those topics.

I would also like to express my appreciation to President Kelly and Provost Preston and several other administrators who attended senate, presented administrator reports, and participated in our senate conversations this semester. I particularly appreciate the reception provided by President Kelly at the conclusion of our December meeting, which is an idea that developed out of a recommendation from our very first senate-wide discussion hour. The reception provided senators the opportunity not only to celebrate the work of the fall semester, but also to engage in conversation and merry-making with members of the Staff Advisory Council and many administrators and administrative staff. We hope this can become a regular tradition each fall. It is becoming ever clearer to me that as we weave the relational thread that is critical to successful shared governance through formal and informal interactions with campus stakeholders, we strengthen the senate's role in the university community. I look forward to more opportunities to add more strands to that thread this semester that will further strengthen the senate's participation in shared governance.

I look forward to continuing the work of the senate with you!

Committee Reports

Undergraduate Programs Committee (UPC)

As usual, UPC will hold meetings monthly during spring semester. Our first meeting was Thursday, January 11 at 2 pm. The days and times for UPC meetings for the remainder of spring will be available from the UPC chair and will be listed in forthcoming Senate newsletters.

UPC AGENDA DEADLINES: The dates below show the agenda deadlines for UPC meetings.

- Friday, February 2, 5 pm
- Friday, March 1, 5 pm
- Monday, March 25, 5 pm (first day back from spring break. Note this is a week earlier than a typical schedule due to the SACSCOC visit in early April.).

UPC's curriculum work that flowed through to the November and December Senate meetings is summarized below:

November: UPC processed eight curriculum proposals including a new course in Sociology, a new course in Music, a modification to the BBA in Management Information Systems including three new courses, and modifications to one course in Management and to the Nexus in Supply Chain Management. We also approved the latest set of courses recommended to receive the high-impact practice(HIP) designation for undergraduate research.

December: UPC processed 23 curriculum proposals including, from CACSI, a new Anthropology lab, a revision to the Embedded Certificate in Forensic Science, a new course in Psychology, a program revision for the Social and Behavioral Health BS, three revised or new courses for Theatre and the associated program revisions to include the courses in the Theatre BA and in the Theatre with Concentrations in Acting and Design/Technology BFA, and revisions to the lab contact hours for three Physics labs. For the College of Education, two new courses for teaching elementary math were added. RCOB added two new courses and revised the Management BBA to offer a concentration in project management. From University College, proposals were approved to revise the Political Science BS, to revise the Criminology BS, to add a new College to Career course for POLS and CRIM, and to revise the Criminology internship course. Also for UC, the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies added a new interdisciplinary pathway in Public Management and Society. We also approved the latest set of courses recommended to receive the high-impact practice (HIP) designations for service learning and for work-based learning.

Any questions about the schedule or work of UPC can be directed to UPC chair Kim Green at kgreen@westga.edu.

Graduate Programs Committee (GPC)

The Graduate Program Committee (GPC) met on October 26, 2023 and November 16 at 11:00 am.

The GPC meeting agenda for October was extensive. Forty proposals from the five departments (1) Department of Anthropology, Psychology, & Sociology; (2) Department of Sports Management, Wellness & Physical Education; (3) Department of Early Childhood through Secondary Education & Reading; (4) Department of Counseling, Higher Education, & Speech Language Pathology; (5) Department of Natural Sciences were voted on and approved. Block votes were taken on six of the proposals from the Department of Sports Management, Wellness, and Physical Education and on 27 proposals from the Department of Natural Sciences.

A subcommittee to examine mentorships for Graduate Students was established to explore current mentorship options and identify potential avenues for mentorships. This committee should have information to present to the GPC committee in early 2024. Graduate program policy recommendations were made, discussed, and approved for Specific Requirements for Stand-Along Certificates and Course Requirements for Program Completion.

The GPC meet on November 16 consider two proposals from the College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry: Anthropology, Psychology, & Sociology. Both proposals were approved. Dr. Matt Varga, Dean of the Graduate School, updated the group on the recommendation of the subcommittee for Graduate mentorships. The committee recommended the creation of a student organization for mentorships of students. The GPC approved that recommendation. Graduate Assistantships was also discussed with the GPC by Dr. Varga. There are currently 57 proposals that have already been evaluated and approved by Dept. Chairs and Deans. The GPC would review proposals in an advisory capacity. The deadline for completing the proposal review is February 4th. Dr. David Newton presented a list of work-based learning and service-learning graduate courses. The GPC approved these courses for that designation.

The most recent meeting of the GPC was January 11, 2024.

Academic Policies Committee (APC)

The Academic Policies Committee (APC) is currently assisting the Student Affairs and Intercollegiate Activities Committee (SAIA) in establishing a task force to provide recommendations on the Block Schedule proposal presented during the September

15th senate session. The task force is in the formation process and is scheduled to begin work after the holiday season, investigating student and faculty preferences about course scheduling. This initiative stands as the primary focus of our committee at this juncture.

Furthermore, we are delighted to share that a student representative has been welcomed onto our committee. We eagerly anticipate gaining valuable insights from the student perspective as we endeavor to advocate for the interests of both our faculty and student body within the committee's undertakings.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the committee's work, please feel free to contact Clifford Davis at cdavis@westga.edu or Ericka Wentz at ewentz@westga.edu.

Faculty Development Committee (FDC)

The Faculty Senate passed an amendment proposed by the FDC to the UWG Faculty Handbook addressing Non-Tenured Faculty and Negative Performance Improvement Plan in response to the Board of Regents' clarification of their policy. The committee reviewed a faculty request for clarification of the UWG Faculty Post Tenure Policy and proposed an amendment scheduled for Faculty Senate approval in January. This proposal itemizes the materials to be included in a dossier needed for post-tenure review. Finally, the FDC collaborated with Brian Mosier, director of Sponsored Projects, to enhance the Faculty Grant Application Process; submission review is scheduled for February.

Rules Committee

The committee meeting was held on November 15, Wednesday. The members addressed three items relevant to faculty and academic policies and procedures.

First, the committee discussed the request from the Office of Legal Affairs to decommission duplicated or conflicting academic policies/procedures: 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2011 located in PolicyStat as part of the FY Policy/Procedural Review and cleanup process. Several PolicyStat links did not work and the committee could not review the current policies side by side to acknowledge the duplication of policies. The committee decided to review the policies and vote on the decommissioning of policies using a Google form after the links are activated.

Second, the committee continued to discuss the Faculty Handbook changes from the last meeting and decided to form a subcommittee to work together to draft a new procedure for making changes to the Faculty Handbook. The new procedure will be shared with the Rules Committee at the next meeting. The subcommittee member includes Jamie Brandenburg, Cindy Johnson, and Kristi Carmen.

Third, Timothy Schroer from the Department of General Education presented the proposal regarding the policy related to permitting Senior Lecturers to serve on promotion committees when considering the promotion of a Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. Currently, the policy (103.0201) allows for only tenured track faculty to serve on promotion committees. Dr. Akins advised that the proposal go to the Faculty Development Committee first for their review before any action is taken by the Rules Committee.

Facilities and Information Technology Committee (FTC)

The FTC worked with the Provost's office to discuss faculty concerns regarding the potential hoteling of offices. As a result, the Provost held an open meeting for faculty in mid-December to discuss space concerns and considerations.

Helpful Links and Reminders

Main Faculty Senate Webpage

[Faculty Senate](#)

Committee Rosters and Meeting Information

[Senate Standing Committees](#)

- Includes committee meeting dates, agendas, and meeting minutes.

Agendas

[Faculty Senate Agendas](#)

- Agenda items are due to Jeff (and copy Laura) by 5pm the Friday before each meeting.
- Agendas for each Faculty Senate meeting are posted the Wednesday before the meeting.

Minutes

[Faculty Senate Minutes](#)

- Faculty Senate minutes are available approximately one week following each meeting.

Link to Livestream and Recordings of Faculty Senate Meetings

[Laura Wolfe's YouTube Channel](#)

- Senate meetings are open to the public.
- Livestreams begin shortly before roll call.
- Recordings are available through this same link immediately following each meeting.