# WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
## Faculty Senate

## FACULTY SENATE AGENDA

## Thursday, December 11, 2025
## **3 pm, LH 101**

*Click on links to review items*
<mark>*Terms highlighted in yellow have been edited since published*</mark>

**Roll**

**Members:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Abdulmalek Al-Gahmi | Sarah Herrmann |
| Clinton Amos | Brent Horn |
| Jennifer Anderson | Wendy Holliday |
| Tariq Arif-Daniel Magda | Gary Johnson |
| Isabel Asensio -Electra Fielding | Anne Kendrick |
| Vincent Bates | Leah LaGrone |
| Randy Boyle | Andrea Lalumia |
| Shawn Broderick | Cully Long |
| Brandon Burnett | Shannon McGillivray |
| Justin Burr | Eric Neff |
| Julian Chan | Casey Neville |
| Heather Chapman | Jeremy Oller |
| James Cohen | Jessica Oyler |
| Landon Coombs absent | Kacy Peckenpaugh |
| Brian Cottle | Brad Peterson |
| Rebekah Cumpsty-Ryan Ridge | Chelsea Pike |
| Bryan Dowdell | Brian Rague |
| Leslie Durham | Annyssa Reyes (Student) |
| Mary Foss | Julie Rich -Mary Beth Willard |
| Mia Foster (Student) | Elizabeth Sandquist |
| Jason Francis | Yas Simonian |
| Eric Gibbons | Brandon Stevenson |
| Mosiah Gonzalez | Mark Stevenson |
| Amanda Gonzalez | Deborah Uman |
| María del Mar González-González | Megan Van Deventer |
| Mark Halverson | Jordan West |
| James Hedges | Stephen Wolochowicz |
| Michael Hernandez | |

**Guests:**

Li Chen, Cori Horne, Cora Neal, Kyle Feuz, Valerie Herzog, Roy Kwon & Oliver Snow

# Agenda

1. Approval of [Nov. 13, 2025 meeting minutes](#)

   Motion to approve: Brandon Stevenson
   Second: Clinton Amos
   Outcome: Passes

## Informational Items:

2. Administrative Update- Brent Horn

   The message is straightforward: operations continue, momentum remains strong, and the university is moving forward. Most initiatives are green-light efforts, including the presidential search committee's launch and the search for the next dean of the Dumke College of Health Professions. Sabbatical applications will be reviewed over the holiday period to keep timelines on track for the President's Council and the Board of Trustees. Work across campus remains active, and that message should be shared widely. Despite recent leadership departures, the State Board of Education's decisions reflect confidence in Weber State's strength. Strong leadership continues among deans, departments, and staff.

   A recent news story called out the university for going too far with language restrictions. The situation came from a state law, legal guidance, and how that guidance was carried out. The rollout showed some things that could have been handled differently, and this is now being treated as a chance to learn, adjust, and find a better approach. The goal is to stay within the law while still staying true to the values of higher education. Other campuses are dealing with the same law, but this one happened to land in the spotlight.

   A committee once worked on the original implementation but was disbanded afterward, which sparked talk about whether a new group is needed. Some earlier decisions—like removing certain wording from websites—may need another look, especially since many changes were made quickly. Any new committee would need to balance the value of broader input with the reality of faculty workload. The focus now is on responding to the attention with openness, collaboration, and a genuine effort to do better moving forward.

   A question was raised about whether the departure of the University General Counsel will affect the university's ability to move forward.

   Response: It will not. Leadership remains in place, and the institution continues to be well-stewarded. Work is underway to improve regular communication so the campus community can see ongoing progress—updates on searches, interim roles shifting, and responsibilities handled by leaders such as Brent Horn, Allie Threet, Mark Halverson, Betsy Mennell, Alema Leota, and Tanner Boyd.

   The goal is to provide steady updates that build confidence in daily operations. Important work continues across the university, carried out by committed people supporting students, faculty, staff, and community partners. Legal support also remains available through UC.

In closing, pride in the institution and its mission was emphasized, along with a commitment to keep moving forward and doing good work. Happy holidays.

3. SAC agenda items- Marc Gangwer

   Not available

4. Student senate update- Mia Foster

   The student body president introduced herself and shared an overview of current student activities and priorities. Updates included ongoing projects, student needs, recent events, and key feedback gathered from students, including 120 responses to a recent engagement question. The information was shared with faculty to strengthen awareness of student experiences, reinforce that Weber State is more than a commuter institution, and emphasize the goal of helping students feel at home on campus.

   Resources, student preferences, and emerging themes were highlighted, with an interest in expanding the dialogue and improving the student experience. The president also shared her hopes for the university's future.

   The faculty asked whether the collected data could be shared and expressed appreciation for her efforts. A question was raised about outreach at the Davis Campus; a vice president there is gathering information from Davis students, and similar efforts are underway for online students.

   The faculty senators expressed gratitude to the presenter for her desire to help students be seen and heard. Stating that the information could be useful.

5. [Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Online Education](#)- Roy Kwon & Oliver Snow

   a. [Administrative Committee on Digital Campus Educational Technology (DCET)](#)

   NWCCU's mid-cycle review last year included 12 observations, with one focused on online education. The review noted uneven quality across online courses and inconsistent assessment practices. Two federal requirements also shape expectations in this area: Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) and accessibility standards. Together, these factors prompted renewed efforts to strengthen online course delivery and ensure consistency across the online learning environment.

   New legislation and policy changes have created an opportunity to collaborate with faculty on implementation across the university. An ad hoc committee is being formed, with a defined scope of work and proposed membership, and feedback is welcome on any additions or adjustments. The committee will address requirements related to Regular and Substantive Interaction, accessibility, and identity verification—three major areas currently shaping online instruction. Recent accessibility training sessions have already helped clarify many questions, and the committee will further guide next steps and implementation strategies.

   The committee will include faculty representation, a faculty chair, and ex officio members from units responsible for supporting and carrying out these processes. As an ad hoc group, it will begin with a two-year term, with the option to extend. Monthly meetings are

planned due to the rapid pace of regulatory changes, including the federal accessibility deadline of April 24, 2026. Subcommittees will address specific components as needed.

An administrative committee will also support this work by overseeing the university's digital infrastructure. This includes evaluating tools integrated into Canvas, reviewing requests for new digital products, and determining what should be added to the digital ecosystem. The goal is to maintain a reliable, scalable, and accessible system that supports students, departments, and the broader campus community. Rubrics and guidelines may be developed to ensure consistent decision-making.

Further updates will be shared as the committee structure is finalized and prepared for a faculty vote.

6. [Program Prevetting Process](#)- Roy Kwon

   **First**, the system office now wants early notice about any new programs being considered so they can provide viability and duplication data. A pre-vetting process was created this fall to meet that expectation. The timeline ended up being too tight, so starting next year, the entire pre-vetting cycle will move to spring, giving the full fall semester for curricular review.

   **Second**, the system office will now require an annually updated three-year new program plan from every UC institution. These plans, due each April 1, list programs that may be proposed over the next three years. Missing the deadline will not lock out programs; the plan is updated every year. The system office is still developing the required template, so departments are encouraged to work with chairs and deans now to identify possible future programs.

7. Central Scheduling- Cori Horne

   An update was provided on the move to centralized scheduling. The USHE mandate requires all Utah institutions to centrally coordinate academic space scheduling to meet space-utilization targets tied to future building funding. The university is now required to comply, and the transition is being approached carefully to balance faculty needs with student demand.

   The Registrar's Office will take a larger role in this work. After an RFP process, the university selected Ad Astra as the scheduling software because it preserves faculty preferences for teaching times, locations, and modalities. Implementation begins in spring, with a soft pilot possible for the summer/fall 2026 cycle and full use planned for 2027.

   Ad Astra includes tools for room right-sizing, enrollment monitoring, and predictive analytics to help determine needed course sections. A new academic administrative committee with representation from all colleges and key Faculty Senate committees will guide configuration and review the outdated class meeting patterns document to ensure it better reflects instructional needs.

   More information will be shared as implementation progresses, with the committee expected to begin meeting in January.

   There was a request for student study rooms from the student senators.

## Action Items:

8. Curriculum- Li Chen

UCC provided a briefing on the November 18 meeting. A total of 78 proposals were reviewed, but 37 were moved to the next agenda at the originators' request, leaving 41 proposals. The committee approved 10 course revisions, six discontinuance/suspension proposals, nine new courses, one new program, and seven program changes.

Three discontinuance/suspension proposals were withdrawn because they involved short courses or workshops, and one program change was deferred due to its connection to several discontinuance proposals scheduled for the next agenda.

Motion to approve: Brian Cottle
Second: Casey Neville
Outcome: Passes

9. GEAIC Gen ed renewal update- Cora Neal

Shared an update on the gen ed renewal and reviewed 27. There are about 120 breadth courses for next year.
Next year we are hoping to stagger the courses coming through. If you have a gen ed breadth course ready please send it through now in order to alleviate some of the load for next fall.

10. GEAIC request for committee changes- Cora Neal

Two requests for GEAIC: first would like to have a vice-chair to provide some continuity between transitions. The second is for an increase in the members on the committee.

Motion to approve a vice-chair: Jordan West
Second: Brandon Burnett
Outcome: Passes

11. APAFT - PPM 8-28 - Annual Faculty Performance Review Documents- Kyle Feuz & Valerie Herzog

Work on PPM 828 began in September 2023. During development, House Bill 438 was passed, requiring annual faculty performance reviews starting March 2024. Questions about merit-pay allocation were also emerging, so both issues were combined into one policy.

The policy was first reviewed in Salary and Benefits and presented last year but was voted down for revisions. It was then updated, sent to APAFT, and further revised to align with state law and related policies. Both committees have now approved the current draft.

Although a red-line version appears in Curriculog, PPM 828 is entirely new, so no true comparison exists. APAF worked with deans and gathered broad feedback to ensure legal compliance and address stakeholder needs. The current version reflects that collective effort.

Motion to approve: Jordan West
Second: Brandon Stevenson
Outcome: Passes

12. APAFT - PPM 8-11 - Evaluation of Faculty Members 3.0 Post-Tenure Review- Kyle Feuz

This change to the PPM 8-11 is meant to bring us into compliance with the law. There is an attached redlined version in the files section of the proposal. The committee took the interim guidance that WSU has been using for the last two years, the law, and the old PPM working to bring those elements into alignment.

Motion to approve: Brandon Burnett
Second: María del Mar González-González
Outcome: 35 for, one opposed - Passes

13. Vote on third member of Salary Recommendation committee- Jason Francis

Spoke about the reason why the vote happens for the third member of the recommendation team.

   a. Fon Brown

      Motion to approve: Vincent Bates
      Second: Casey Neville
      Outcome: Passes

## Upcoming Items:

14. Curriculog substantive and new program proposal forms shut down December 12, 2025.

15. Curriculum proposals need to be at the UCC step by January 4, 2026 to be considered for the 2026-2027 Catalog.

## As May Arise:

● The FS chair shared that the presidential search webpage is available online. Shared that if there are thoughts or concerns please share. But can not divulge any information. USHE also has a web page on the search.

Question asked about why the search is done anonymously. It was due to state law and it is so that there is protection for people who are

Motion to Adjourn: Justin Burr
Second: Andrea Lalumia
Outcome: Passes

16. Adjourn Meeting @ 4:40 pm