



## **University Senate Minutes March 6, 2025, 4:00-6:00 PM, AF 202**

**Present:** Barry Althouse, Allan Back, Lorin Basden Arnold, Scott Bastedo, Christopher Bloh, Colin Bolger, Cheryl Brattley, Kate Clair, Richard Courtney, Deborah Duenyas, Kaoutar El Mounadi, Lisa Frye, Joe Harasta, Olivia Hartman, Kenneth Hawkinson, Cade Herndon, Caecilia Holt, Julia Hovanec, Loriann Irving, Eric Johnson, Yoon Mi Kim, Eric Laub, Dannell MacIlwraith, Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Kyra Richards, Rick Salafia, Jennifer Schlegel, Dylan Schwesinger, Greg Shelley, Kim Shively, Norm Sigmond, Michelle Sims, Georges Sirrakos, Myung Song, Tiffany Stasiunas, Todd Wallker, Lisa Weckerle, Todd Williams, Gwendolyn Yoppolo

**Absent:** Joanne Cohen, Marlene Fares, Robert Flatley, Shelly Hoppis, Tracy Keyes, Steve Lem, Padraig McLoughlin, Juliet Njoroge, Marci Scheuing, Honey Svoboda

**Guests:** Matheson Bair, Michele Baranczyk, Jahliem Brown, Lucas Cherniak, Alex Darlington, Rafael Diaz, Jacklyn Downing, Austin Harris, Safiatu J, Aminata Jalloh, Michael John, Andrea Krishman, Paul Langford IV, Jordan Mitchell, Megan O'byrne, Ryan Otten, Karen Rauch, Thomas Venit, Gabby Wilson, Ashley, Elias, Drago, Isaih, Taj, Arnold, Mirabel

### **I. Call to Order: 4:02**

- **Change in Agenda:** President Ken Hawkinson will present first report.

### **II. Announcements**

- **None reported.**

### **III. Guest Speakers**

#### **A. REVEALS Grant – Michele Baranczyk**

- See the PowerPoint presentation in the **March Senate SharePoint Folder** for details.

## B. GEPAC – Megan O’Byrne

- Review information and reports in the **March Senate SharePoint Folder**.
- Additional details are available on the [GEPAC website](#).
- Questions can be directed to [GEPAC@kutztown.edu](mailto:GEPAC@kutztown.edu).

## IV. Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2025

- **Accepted as submitted.**

## V. Reports

### A. University President – Ken Hawkinson

- Recently underwent **major back surgery** and was out for a few weeks. Lorin Basden Arnold served as Acting President in his absence.
- **University Leadership:** KU has a strong presence in leadership roles within PASSHE, gaining widespread respect.
- **Budget Outlook:**
  - Strong financial projections for Fall 2025, with expectations of a **balanced budget**—a rarity among PASSHE campuses.
  - Contingent on the **state system securing a 6.5% budget increase** next fall.
  - Discussions with key legislators indicate **support for this increase**, allowing KU to maintain its **tuition freeze for the 7th or 8th consecutive year**.
- **Retention Rate:** 78%, considered a **positive indicator**.
- **Upcoming Events:** The **grand opening of the new admissions building** is scheduled for early June.

### B. Senate President – Lisa Frye

- Reminder: The **Registrar’s Office** has sent an email regarding **Change of Major** and when it is effective in MyKU.
- If experiencing difficulties, **contact the Registrar’s Office** for assistance.

### C. Senate Vice President – Kim Shively

- Available **Senate positions** are listed in the **March Senate SharePoint Folder**. Encourage members in your department to consider open positions in your college.

### D. University Provost – Lorin Basden Arnold

- The next **edition of the Provost’s Update** will be released soon.
- Faculty are encouraged to submit exciting events and accomplishments for inclusion.

- **Faculty Engagement:** Thanks to those who participated in discussions about shared joys and challenges—these conversations help identify solutions.
- **Professional Development Grant:** Applications are open.
- **Strategic Budget Process:**
  - **Emails have been sent** regarding the budget submission process.
  - Reminder: **Download forms before filling them out** to avoid issues.
  - Questions? Contact the Provost's Office.
- **System-wide Initiatives:**
  - Discussions are ongoing regarding a **shared academic calendar**.
  - Goal: Provide students with **expanded course-sharing opportunities** across PASSHE campuses.

## **E. Student Government Board – Kyra Richards**

- **Feedback collection** is underway.
- Currently **finalizing the budget process**.

## **F. Assessment/Middle States – Karen Rauch**

- **Middle States Accreditation Update:**
  - **The review team has not yet arrived.**
  - **The team chair has not been assigned.**
  - Accreditation organizations are adjusting to recent federal policy changes (**Dear Colleague letter implications**).
  - Despite uncertainties, **DEI remains a Middle States guiding principle**.
  - Progress is ongoing, with revisions to be completed soon.
  - **Action Updates:** Thanks to faculty—**97% compliance achieved**.

# **VI. Standing Committee Reports**

## **A. IRB for Protection of Human Subjects**

- **Written report available** in the **March Senate SharePoint Folder**.

## **B. Professional Development Committee**

- **Written report available** in the **March Senate SharePoint Folder**.

## **C. Research Committee**

- **Written report available** in the **March Senate SharePoint Folder**.

## VII. Unfinished Business

- No items discussed.

## VIII. New Business

### A. ASPC Policy – Brian Kronenthal, ASPC Chair

- **Policy Proposal:** ACA-019 (Transfer Credits Revision).
- **Key Updates:**
  - **Changes marked in red** on the document.
  - **Aligns with PASSHE regulations.**
  - Includes **exceptions for certain students** where applicable.
- **Outcome:** Policy revision approved.

### B. Proposed Senate Constitution Amendments – Lisa Frye

- Presenting proposed updates to the Senate Constitution.
- **Discussion and vote** will take place in the April Senate meeting.
- **Proposed Amendments:**
  1. **President Candidates and AWA** – See details in the **March Senate SharePoint Folder**.
  2. **Increase Student Representation** – See details in the **March Senate SharePoint Folder**.

## IX. Good of the Order

- **Discussion:** Concerns raised regarding **Senate representation** as departments merge.
- **Clarification:** Senate Constitution states there is one representative from each academic department, so merging departments **will result in fewer representatives** on the Senate body.

## X. Adjournment

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Greg Shelley
- **Seconded by:** Colin Bolger
- **Meeting Adjourned.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Julia L. Hovanec**  
Senate Secretary

**Access Senate Documents:**

[March Senate SharePoint Folder](#)