



YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

1 Tressel Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Academic Senate Meeting

Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2025

The Academic Senate met at 4:00 PM on February 5, 2025 Debartolo Hall Rm 132. Attendance at the meeting has been logged separately from these recorded minutes. This meeting was video recorded and will be made available, along with, supporting documentation for presentations made during the senate meeting separately.

The meeting was called to order by Dr Martha Pallante, Vice Chair. Dr Bob Kramer certified that quorum was present. The agenda for today's meeting was approved by the senate majority. The recording of minutes from the January 8th meeting was approved by the senate majority.

The meeting agenda began with Dr Bill Johnson addressing the senate body. Some of the highlights included:

- Dr Bill Johnson thanked everyone for their hard work.
- Enrollment is up this spring compared to last spring by over 9%, higher than other universities in the state.
- No questions taken at this time. Dr Bill Johnson's door is open for any questions in the future to meet with him personally.

Dr Martha Pallante delivered the Executive Committee report next. Some highlights included:

- Ohio Faculty Council meeting in January was in January. Dr Pallante brought up some brief highlights including Senate Bill 1 information.
- The Ohio faculty council is contemplating sending a letter to state representatives regarding Senate Bill 1.
- Governance Committee has sent out rosters and worksheets to active committees. A total of 85% have responded that almost all committees are full.
- Will update the Senate TEAMS with the new committee information to be uploaded to senate webpage for updating.
- Edmund Ickert to send reminder on how to access TEAMS.
- To alleviate issues with sound quality, those wishing to ask questions should queue on either side of the aisles and will utilize the microphone.

Dr Martha Pallante brought forth the committee reports to the senate for voting.

- Academic Programs Committee report was approved by senate majority.
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee report was approved by senate majority.

Dr Martha Pallante introduced old business with calling forth Dr Adam Earnhardt.

Dr Adam Earnhardt presented on the General Education report and the revised rubric, both brought up to be voted on.

- General education report presented to senate which included list of course actions on current provisional list of general education courses.
- Dr Earnhardt acknowledged a typographical error with one member. The social personal awareness representative is no longer on the committee (Jaietta Jackson).
- General education report passed by senate majority.
- The revised rubric was presented to the senate by Dr Adam Earnhardt. The presentation started with a timeline of how the rubric came into development. A timeline was also shared with application of the rubric to developing the original general education course list. The original rubric was revised following an extended period to allow senators to review the rubric and provide feedback. One email response was received given the proposed revised rubric. Need to whittle down the number of general education courses, but also expand beyond 75. Unsure at this time how many general courses would be included but won't be around 200. Holding off on making decisions on new courses until this is approved. The General Education Committee will begin immediately evaluating courses using the revised rubric upon approval. Discussion ensued with questions being taken by Dr Adam Earnhardt. Revised rubric was approved by senate majority with 1 abstain.

Dr Martha Pallante introduced: Dr Dawna Cerney/Dr Claire Berardini/Ms. Hillary Fuhrman to begin new business starting with 2 policies coming out of the Academic Standards Committee.

- Academic Standards Committee presented two policies from the Academic Standards Committee: Supporting Self-Monitoring by Posting of Grades in Blackboard LMS and GPA Recalculation.
- Ms. Hillary Fuhrman presented on the Supporting Self-Monitoring by Posting of Grades in Blackboard LMS. Proposal to require all faculty members to post grades in blackboard for students' self-monitoring (Reference policy for details). Discussion on whether the policy should apply to all students or only first-year students. Concerns raised about the impact of the requirement on faculty and potential negative performance evaluations. Concerns also raised about what metrics and student feedback will be used in determining compliance. Initial motion made for vote on proposal with later withdrawal of motion. Motion has been tabled until next senate meeting for further discussion and consideration.
- Dr Claire Berardini presented on the GPA recalculation policy. Grade recalculation policy is being modified to automate GPA calculations after successful completion of a course. Currently, 45% of completed grades go without GPA recalculation due to students forgetting to submit a petition. Changes include using the highest grade for recalculation and allowing students to repeat a course twice. Discussion ensued with questions taken. Motion for vote made. Motion was passed by senate majority.

Dr Martha Pallante introduced Dr Cary Wecht who is making an informational announcement.

- Artificial Intelligence statements added to the common syllabus. Responses to student feedback process up by 20%. Dr Wecht has requested that student evaluations be done in-class to further help improve response rates. Dr Lucy Kerns to be performing analysis of student feedback instrument to help refine items. A workshop to help people kind of go through with that knowledge of the instrument and its reliability and validity information, kind of how to interpret those data and report those out (March 12).

Dr Martha Pallante introduced Provost Jennifer Pintar/Dr Kevin Ball to present an informational session on the reduced credit hour program:

- Reduced credit hour bachelor degrees are different from three year degrees and aim to make education more cost-effective for students.
- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) are reviewing guidelines for these programs, with an estimated approval timeline of fall 2025.
- Some programs, such as psychology and exercise science, are voluntarily considering offering reduced credit hour options.

Dr Martha Pallante reminded the senate body that the previously schedule senate meeting on 3/5/25 has been moved to 3/12/25. Please note this change. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Edmund Ickert

Secretary, Academic Senate