



YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

1 Tressel Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Academic Senate Meeting

Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2026

The Academic Senate met at 4:00 PM on April 22, 2026, in 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, Chair. Dr Martha Pallante certified that quorum was present (Excused absences: Joseph Carucci, Kendra Fowler, Jeff Buchanan).

Dr Kristine Still brought forth a motion to add a brief update on course syllabus training efforts. Motion was seconded. Senate majority approved addition of the update to the agenda. The new item appears as item C on the agenda.

The recording and written minutes from the previous senate meeting on 4/1/26 were approved by senate majority.

President Bill Johnson

President Johnson addressed the senate. The following information was shared to the senate:

- President Bill Johnson stated that this Saturday (4/25) at 10:00 am Stuebenville will have an open house for the community. Expecting/Hoping for a strong turnout.
- Currently in the initial stages of the Public Safety training facility in East Palestine. Goal is to build a site to allow training of first responders.
- President Johnson suggested the idea of putting on a variety/talent show for the students. Will revisit in the fall.

President Johnson took questions from the senate. No questions presented at this time.

Provost Jennifer Adams

Provost Adams addressed the senate. The following information was shared to the senate:

- Provost Adams provided an update on SB1 deadlines. Many of the deadlines line up in the Summer semester term. Per Provost Adams there appears to be no programs that fall below the five graduates for three years threshold that would require a waiver application (will confirm this after official numbers are collected following graduation). Provost Adams highlighted the strong collaboration across faculty and administration in ensuring that no programs fall below the threshold for a waiver. The deadline for waivers is June 1st.
- Provost Adams stated that a new law has been enacted since 2017 that no bachelor's program can have more than 126 credit hours and no associates can have no more than 65 credit hours. If

programs are above that, they are considered in violation. ODHE has stated that by December 31st, all bachelor and associate programs must meet these credit hour thresholds. There is a need for programs who are over this threshold to find a way to get under the cap numbers.

Provost Adams turned over her time to Dr Jackie Mercer and Associate Provost Kevin Ball who highlighted the following:

- The state does not require a second writing course (it is an institutional requirement) which has raised some questions about the need for such a course. AAS/AAB programs will be given a choice to eliminate the 2nd writing course requirement to help get under the hour cap if needed.
- Re-emphasized that the 126 and 65 credit hours caps have been in place previously, but now ODHE is enforcing those caps. ODHE is unlikely to approve of any exceptions above those cap numbers. ODHE would prefer programs capped at 120 vs 126. Faculty comments were supportive of the 2nd writing course.

Dr Pallante summarized the reported cap values on hours. Recommendation for Gen Ed is for only AAS/AAB to use the 2nd writing course as being optional. Dr Pallante questioned whether this was a change to general education and whether we need a recommendation from the Senate body on the change. Concerns were made on the timing of a vote for the change. Provost Adams wanted to re-iterate the need to bring the associate program numbers into compliance and that the 2nd writing course would be in the hands of the faculty/program directors in identifying whether removal of the 2nd writing course would be recommended to bring the program in compliance. Provost Adams wants the programs to be brought before Senate in early Fall for approval so that it can get to the Board of Trustees for final approval ahead of the deadline. Dr Pallante asked for a motion to approve the recommendation from General Education and the Associate Provost to reduce AA/AAB English requirement to a single English as an option. Dr Rogers expressed concern over the language and was concerned it might become mandatory over all AAS/AAB programs before departments have had a chance to look at the language. Dr Tapp suggested putting the recommendation in writing for clarity on language before voting. Dr Mercer clarified that it is not required of all AAS/AAB programs. This is just an option for programs over the 65-credit hour threshold to optionally remove the 2nd writing course to help get below the number. A suggested wording is to say AAS/AAB programs do not need to require a second writing course. A motion was made to rescind the prior motion. The motion was approved by senate motion. A new motion was offered to accept new wording of the recommendation. The new motion was made following a second. The new recommendation was presented as:

“AAS, AAB, and ATS degree programs need not require a second writing course as degree requirement. This does not prevent programs from choosing to include the second writing course as a degree requirement.”. Discussion followed. Question was raised if removal of the 2nd writing course would bring students below the GER threshold. Removal of the 2nd writing course would not interfere with required GER credits. The resolution passed with majority senate approval.

Senate Executive Committee Report

Dr. Martha Pallante presented the report from the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met last Wednesday. Dr Pallante shared the following information with the senate as part of her report:

- An election will be held for a seat on the Executive Committee for CCCA. Will be conducted over the next week. The numbers for at-large senators have been finalized and will take place in the near future.
- It has been recommended that Charter and Bylaws look at three areas: (1) Disagreement between two documents for terms of department senators, (2) a process for filling the vacancy of vice chair should it become vacant, and (3) for elected committees that if a vacancy persists in a specific college and there are no volunteers that it be open to at-large candidates.

- Committee worksheets have been completed and will be available on Microsoft TEAMS Academic Senate site.

Dr Pallante brought forth a commendation to the senate for Dr Chet Cooper (full commendation to be made available on the senate website). The commendation recognized Dr Cooper's service to the senate spanning over 20 years. The commendation passed with senate majority.

This concluded the Executive Committee Report.

Senate Committee Reports

- Dr Thomas Wakefield submitted a report from the undergraduate curriculum committee. The report was recommended for acceptance to forward to the Board of Trustees by majority consent.
- Dr David Asch submitted a report from the Academic Programs Committee. Dr Asch recognized the hard work of all committee members this year. The report was recommended for acceptance to forward to the Board of Trustees by majority consent.
- Dr Mercer submitted a report from the General Education Committee. Dr Mercer recognized the work of the committee since she assumed her role as Chair. Dr Mercer highlighted that the next HLC visit will be in 2028 and that there is currently no assessment for general education in operation. After 5 months of work, an assessment plan was developed for gen ed. The committee researched other Ohio universities' general education assessments to align their practices accordingly. This will be a 4-year cycle with a timeline proposed. Next year will be a pilot year. Dr Mercer will reach out to Chairs, Program Directors, and Faculty that have GE courses and ask them to pick some courses to include for the pilot (feedback will be provided in spring semester). A follow-up with faculty and chairs will occur to get more feedback on the process and identify what worked/didn't work. No questions were asked at this time.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

AI Committee Update

Dr Joe Palardy presented an update from the AI Committee. Some highlights included:

- Agentic AI is on the rise.
- Rapid advancements in AI technology impact research, teaching, and service roles within academia, necessitating adaptation strategies.
- AI Conference to occur on 5/7/26.

Student Conduct Code Updates

Dr. Matt O'Mansky provided an update on the student conduct code.

- A flow chart was created for outlining the process of how to respond if a potential violation occurs. This flow chart will be posted on the senate website.

CourseSYL Updates

Dr Kristine Still provided an update on CourseSYL.

- Required that all faculty with summer courses must upload to the syllabus repository by May 17, 2026, and July 5, 2026, for Second 7-week courses. This will be a pilot run-through to locate potential problems before fall rollout.
- Faculty need to ensure that all syllabi are uploaded into the syllabus repository by August 17 for fall semester classes. For faculty with late assignments, placeholder syllabi will be in place with a 5-day period of time to get the syllabi completed.
- Faculty will need to complete CourseSYL training. A QR code was provided with webpage links for registration.

Questions were taken from the senate body.

No other business, Dr Pallante requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn approved.

Minutes submitted by:

Edmund Ickert

Secretary, Academic Senate