YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
1 Tressel Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Academic Senate Meeting

Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2026

The Academic Senate met at 4:00 PM on November 4, 2026. 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.

Senate was called to order by Dr. Martha Pallante. Quorum was confirmed. The Chair noted that the Senate had a full slate of representatives, including student senators.

The agenda was approved following a motion and second. No discussion or corrections were raised.

The recording of the previous Senate meeting (10/7/26), available on the Senate website, was approved as the minutes following a motion and second. No discussion or corrections were raised.

The Chair encouraged senators to review the simplified guide to Robert's Rules of Order and emphasized the importance of raising questions, proposing amendments, and expressing concerns during the discussion period before a vote. The Chair noted that a motion to call the question, if approved, ends debate and is followed immediately by a vote on the pending motion.

University President's Report

President Bill Johnson addressed the Senate and provided university updates.

- The President congratulated the football team on its 31–28 victory over North Dakota, highlighting the team's late-game comeback and expressing enthusiasm about the season.
- The President thanked faculty for their efforts to recruit and retain students and emphasized the importance of improving enrollment processes, strengthening high-performing programs, and providing students with experiences that encourage them to remain at YSU.
- The President congratulated Ohio Governor-elect Amy Acton and noted that he had worked with Dr. Acton previously on issues affecting Ohio, including rural communities and the COVID-19 response. He indicated that he had reached out to offer assistance and intended to maintain a relationship with the incoming administration to support higher education.

Senate Executive Committee Report

Dr. Martha Pallante presented the Executive Committee report.

- The vacant Senate Executive Committee position for the Cliffe College was filled by Amy Copeland.
- The Senate conducted a digital vote on the recommended speaker for the Williamson College of Business Administration/STEM graduation ceremony. The vote received 34 votes in favor and 4 opposed but did not meet quorum. The matter was subsequently considered by the Executive Committee, which voted 6–1 to forward the recommendation to the President and Provost's offices and then to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- Senators were reminded to review committee membership lists and worksheets. Committee members and chairs were asked to contact Vice Chair Mike Costarell if a committee has not met or if its membership information needs correction. The goal is to have a complete committee roster by December.

- The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Charter and Bylaws Committee, has begun identifying revisions to the Senate Charter and Bylaws. Areas for attention include outdated language and acronyms, alignment with Senate Bill 1, and updating provisions to reflect the current size and structure of the faculty.

This concluded the Executive Committee Report.

Committee Reports

Charter and Bylaws Committee

- Dr. Bob Kramer reported that the committee is reviewing the Senate Charter and identifying provisions that require revision. Examples include inconsistencies between the Charter and Bylaws regarding whether department senators may succeed themselves, as well as outdated language and other conflicts.

- The committee plans to focus on the Charter during the current semester and anticipates bringing proposed revisions to the Senate for review and comment at the January or February meeting. Work on the Bylaws will also begin.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Report

- The committee report included course proposals for approval, including course additions and deletions. The report was presented in the absence of the committee chair.

- The Senate approved the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee report.

General Education Committee Report

- The report included proposed courses for inclusion in the General Education curriculum, with limited changes noted for certain mathematics courses, as well as a series of course deletions.

- Discussion addressed the process for reviewing course syllabi in relation to Senate Bill 1. It was explained that department chairs review syllabi each semester for objectivity and for content that may raise concerns under the legislation. Questions may be returned to the faculty member or referred to the dean.

- The Senate approved the General Education Committee report.

Academic Senate Technology Committee

- Dr. Thomas Madsen reported that the committee had met twice during the semester, reviewed its membership list, and updated its charter. The committee works with Information Technology (IT) to share information and provide feedback and recommendations on IT initiatives.

- One topic discussed was the campus transition from Wi-Fi 6 to Wi-Fi 7. The committee is seeking input from senators about technology topics or potential policy recommendations it should consider. Senators were invited to contact Dr. Madsen with suggestions.

- Rosalyn Donaldson, the committee's IT liaison, discussed university guidance regarding artificial intelligence tools. Microsoft Copilot was identified as the university's current enterprise AI tool; other tools are available through selective contracts, and a BoodleBox pilot was noted in the Williamson College and another campus unit.

- University-contracted tools may include data-protection provisions that prevent institutional data from being used to train models. Faculty were advised to avoid entering personally identifiable information

into tools that do not have appropriate university data protections and to contact IT Security regarding tools they are using.

- Discussion addressed Adobe's AI assistant and the use of personal email to transfer student work. It was explained that university-licensed Adobe products are covered by the university's agreement, while use may differ through a personal account. University business and student-related documents should be handled through the university email system rather than third-party email services.

New Business

- The Student Government Association President introduced the newly elected student senators in attendance. The Senate welcomed the student representatives and recognized the importance of having a full slate of student senators.

- Student Government announced Swipe Out Hunger Week, scheduled for November 16–20. Student senators will help promote the initiative and work with Senate committee chairs and faculty representatives.

- Student Government expressed an interest in strengthening shared governance and increasing collaboration between student and faculty representatives on campus initiatives.

The Chair emphasized the importance of the Senate's ongoing Charter and Bylaws revisions and the goal of developing a structure that will support the Senate's work in the future. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Bob Kramer and seconded by Brian Vuksanovich. The motion was approved.

Minutes submitted by:

Edmund Ickert
Secretary, Academic Senate