



YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

1 Tressel Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Academic Senate Meeting

Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2025

The Academic Senate met at 4:00 PM on April 23, 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 Chet Cooper, Chair. Dr Bob Kramer certified that quorum was present (Excused absences: Dr Wendy Thomas, Dr Ron Davis, Dr Robert Caven). The meeting began with an announcement on the passing of Dr Martin Berger and Dr Peter Reday. A moment of silence was observed. The agenda for today's meeting was revised. Item #5 on the agenda was a duplicate of item #4 and was changed to "Election and Balloting Committee Update" by Dr Robert Kramer. The revised agenda was approved by the senate majority. The recording of minutes from the April 2nd meeting was approved by the senate majority.

The meeting began with an update from President Bill Johnson. President Johnson acknowledged the passing of Dr Peter Reday. President Johnson acknowledged the 1st women's bowling national championship team. An invitation was extended to faculty members to attend a celebration in Kilcawley at 6 pm after the meeting. Appreciation was extended to faculty members for their assistance and contributions to the Academic Master Plan. President Johnson shared that enrollment indicators have been on the rise and is hopeful for this trend to continue. The governor came to Youngstown and announced that Youngstown is the site of the 4th final innovation hub. President Johnson welcomed any questions from the audience.

The meeting then shifted to a report from the Executive Committee by the chair, Dr Chet Cooper. Dr Cooper reported that people have been asking about Senate Committee lists and Dr Cooper reported that those lists are on the YSU Academic Senate TEAMS group. Any questions should be directed at Dr Martha Pallante. Dr Cooper proceeded to introduce a new tradition that would involve recognizing student groups who have excelled during the academic year. Dr Cooper proceeded to read through the names and asked that the students stand if they were present.

Dr Bob Kramer, chair of the Elections and Balloting Committee had announcements to make. Most elections have been wrapped up, but some senator slots are still vacant. Encouragement given for fellow faculty to encourage others to fill those vacant positions. This will also include positions on the Elections and Balloting Committee and the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Senate Committee Reports

- Academic Programs report and Undergraduate Committee report were approved unanimously by the senate body. Dr David Asch offered appreciation to the Academic Programs Committee members for their hard work this academic year. Dr Cooper also acknowledged the hard work of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Dr Nicolette Powe, chair of the First Year Experience Committee delivered a report:

- Key change is that the First Year Course will move from 10 weeks to 15 weeks starting in Fall 2025.
- The course is recommended for incoming students who have less than 20 credit hours.
- The course is not required for graduation.

SGA President Jordan Pintar provided SGA election results:

- There are currently no student senators for Bitonte, Williamson, and Cliffe. These positions to be filled in the fall.
- New SGA President is Sophia Myers and Vice President is Carter Cook.
- The summer initiative included the repainting of fire hydrants.

Dr Chet Cooper presented the General Education Report on behalf of Dr Adam Earnhardt:

- A list of course approvals was presented and the opportunity to ask questions or comment was provided (no questions or comments given).
- The report was approved by simple majority.

Dr Joe Palardy and Hillary Fuhrman provided a presentation of Artificial Intelligence as part of a report by the Artificial Intelligence Ad Hoc Committee:

- Dr Palardy discussed the implications of artificial intelligence on higher education and workforce evolution.
- The committee proposed focusing on leadership, curriculum reforms, and comprehensive literacy regarding AI integration in education.
- Questions and comments were accepted, with none offered.
- Consider forming an AI coordination task force or standing committee to oversee developments in artificial intelligence and its impact on education.
- Explore access to frontier models for enhanced capabilities in generative AI applications.

This concluded the senate reports for this session.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business

Dr Dawna Cerney presented a revision for a grading policy update for Title IV Funding through the Academic Standard Committee:

- Discussed transfer students' academic standing policy to ensure equitable treatment across all students.
- The proposed grading policy change aims to clarify completion criteria for course grades, effective fall 2025.
- Changes were approved by simple majority.

Dr Chet Cooper reflected on the work done by the senate this year and expressed his appreciation to the senate body for their work. For any issues this summer, Dr Cooper asked that he, Dr Martha Pallante, and

Dr Edmund Ickert be contacted. Dr Cooper stated that if any business was needed over the summer that the Executive Committee would act on behalf of the Senate. Dr Cooper wished everyone a safe and happy Summer.

Minutes submitted by:

Edmund Ickert

Secretary, Academic Senate