



FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Dan Williams, Chair

Colleen Vasconcellos, Executive
Secretary

Brendan Kelly, President of the
University of West Georgia

David Jenks, Interim Provost
and Vice President for Academic
Affairs

Rosemary Kellison,
Undergraduate Programs

Connie Barbour, Graduate
Programs

Emily McKendry-Smith,
Academic Policies

Mark Faucette, Faculty
Development

Cale Self, Institutional Planning

Ellie Towhidi, Student Affairs

John Hansen, Facilities and
Technology

Kathleen Barrett,
Intercollegiate Athletics and
University Advancement

Laurie Kimbrel, Budget

Angela Branyon, Rules

Nathan Rees, Diversity and
Internationalization

Rebecca Gault, Teaching,
Learning, and Assessment

Faculty Senate Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 1, October 2020

Welcome from the Faculty Senate Chair

Greetings! As the new Faculty Senate chair, I plan to make monthly newsletters a regular practice, because I believe that to make the Faculty Senate most effective, open communication is essential.

I hope that the Faculty Senate will take an active role in addressing the issues that concern faculty. To do that, we will need to strengthen the Faculty Senate committees and encourage faculty to bring issues of concern to the appropriate committee. This month, every Faculty Senate committee will create a schedule for monthly meetings for the rest of the academic year. If you have a concern that you want the Faculty Senate to address, please send it to the chair of the relevant Faculty Senate committee and, if you'd like, cc me (dkw@westga.edu) and the Executive Secretary (Colleen Vasconcellos) on the email. In most cases, the committee will probably begin considering the issue within a month. A list of Faculty Senate committees, with descriptions of each committee's purview and a list of its members, is available at <https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/faculty-senate/senate-standing-committees.php>.

October 16th Faculty Senate meeting: No-confidence resolution

At the October 16th Faculty Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate meeting voted by 32-14 (with 5 abstentions) to adopt the following resolution: "The Faculty Senate, as the representative body of the faculty of the University of West Georgia, declares that it has no confidence in the leadership of President Brendan Kelly." A recording of that Faculty Senate meeting is available online, and I would encourage you to listen to the recording to hear the discussion that preceded this vote. An electronic vote (which will be secure and completely anonymous) of the general faculty on the no-confidence resolution will take place from November 2 through November 9. The 512 full-time faculty members eligible to vote in this election will receive links to an electronic ballot on November 2.

Other Faculty Senate news from the October 16th meeting

The Faculty Senate voted to move student evaluations of instruction (SEIs) online for the fall 2020 semester, as was the case for the spring 2020 semester.

The Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (TLA) Committee is conducting a faculty survey about possible revisions to the questions on our current SEIs, and all faculty are encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact TLA Committee chair Rebecca Gault.

Faculty Development Committee (FDC) chair Mark Faucette reported that the provost informed the FDC that there have been no changes to the university's faculty leave policy and that, contrary to what some faculty had believed, it is still the case that more than one faculty member per department can apply for leave in any given year.

The Faculty Senate also approved new course additions and / or program changes in ANTH, ASTR, CEPD, CRIM, NUTR, and SJUS, and approved a proposed modification to the evaluation of departmental leaders. The Faculty Senate voted on a motion to make the president of the UWG chapter of the AAUP an ex officio member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, but because this requires a change to the By-Laws, it will need to be put to a general faculty vote, most likely in November or December.