

**William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils  
Year-End Report  
Academic Year 2025-2026**

**1) Academic Programs Council**

**2) Council Members:**

Steven Jones, COAHS  
Rahi Abouk, COB  
Karen Decker, COE, \*cochair  
Kiho Lim, COSH  
Neil Grimes, Library  
Deborah Kane Sheffield, Professional Staff\*cochair  
John Boronow, Adjunct  
Jonathan Lincoln, Admin

**3) Council Charges & Summary of Activities**

**a) Standing Charges**

- 1) Recommend procedures for inaugurating, changing, or terminating undergraduate and graduate courses and programs.
- 2) Review and recommend new undergraduate and graduate programs, major changes in existing programs, and undergraduate and graduate courses

**b. Priority Charges for AY 2025-2026**

- 1) Develop list of resources on decolonizing and evaluating programs for use by Council and program developers.
- 2) Liaise with leaders of relevant Four Pillar implementation teams as needed.

**c. 2025-2026 Summary of Activities**

- 1) Council co chairs, Karen Decker and Deborah Kane Sheffield, liased with Darlene Russell to review the Blue Ribbon Task Force Pillar Report to review recommendations and resources on decolonizing and evaluating programs. Council, as a whole, then convened to discuss findings. Council collaboratively developed a Decolonizing the Curriculum Checklist, intended for use as a primary resource, for proposal developers to reference before submitting proposals. The checklist will be finalized and approved at our first meeting in the Fall.
- 2) Council convened in early Fall semester 2025 to receive charges and elect co chairs.
- 3) Council reviewed 10 proposals including new programs and program changes. Council voted to approve 9 of the 10, with one proposal still under review for 2026-2027. Approved proposals were submitted and presented at faculty senate meetings throughout the year during Vice Chairs Report.

**d. Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:**

Recommendation to keep standing charges the same

- 4) Recommend procedures for inaugurating, changing, or terminating undergraduate and graduate courses and programs.
- 5) Review and recommend new undergraduate and graduate programs, major changes in existing programs, and undergraduate and graduate courses

**e. Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year:**

Continue to utilize the council as a reviewing body during the proposal approval process. Any additional priority charges should be carefully considered, in regard to council expertise, and function of council, before assigning.