

William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils
Year-End Report

Academic Year 2025-2026

1. Council: Governance & Elections Council

2. **Council Members:** Gary Marks (Co-Chair) [LIB-2027], Shan Feng [COB-2026], Venkat Sharma [ADMIN-2026], Johanna Prado [PS-2027], James Miles (Co-Chair) [2026], Deniz Yuzel [COAHSS-2027], Jaclyn Morrisette [COSH-2026], Ellen Pozzi [COE 2026], [date] indicates end of term

3. Council Charges and Summary of Activities:

Standing Charges:

1. Delineate the role of the Faculty Senate in University governance.
2. Review the various governance statements.
3. Recommend patterns of and responsibilities for self-governance by colleges, schools, institutes, divisions and faculties.
4. Review the Policy Manual periodically and suggest policies that need to be reviewed, revised and/or updated.
5. Review proposed amendments to the Faculty Senate By-Laws and Constitution. To provide guidance to the Faculty Senate in the interpretation of proposals and amendment procedures. To maintain accurate records of Faculty Senate Governing documents, including historical records outlining all amendments and alterations.
6. Develop standardized procedures for all campus-wide elections.
7. Conduct Faculty Senate elections prior to April 30th.
8. Conduct campus-wide elections according to the election policy for: a) Promotion Committee, Sabbatical Leave Committee, UFRAC Committee. b) University-wide Ad-Hoc committees and major Search Committees where broad elected representation is needed. These elections can be called upon request from the Senate directly or by the Senate at the request of University Administrative officials for members from Faculty, Librarians, Professional Staff, and Adjunct Faculty.

Priority Charges for AY 2025-2026:

1. Collaborate with the SEC & Councils on possible use of Sharepoint as a Senate Council document storage option.
2. Continue to seek feedback from Councils on new realignment structure and Standing Charges.
3. Continue to review Elections Manual and Procedures with newly formed Elections Subcommittee
4. Provide Senators with an overview of Senate Governance Structures and requirements, including; election procedures, Senator responsibilities (meeting attendance in person), and Proxy representatives.
5. Update Bylaws to reflect electronic voting during in-person meetings

2025-2026 Summary of Activities:

The Governance & Elections Council continued efforts to update Faculty Senate governing documents to ensure accuracy and efficiency in Senate activities outlined in the Senate Constitution and Bylaws. The council continued to communicate with other councils related to their standing and priority charges and record keeping tools. The council also successfully conducted the necessary elections for the Senate, SEC, and university-wide committees.

Related directly to the Councils Priority Charges;

Priority Charge 1- Completed- The Council sought feedback from councils and evaluated the feasibility and logistics for adopting SharePoint as a universal document storage center for Senate Council records. The council has drafted a report for Senate consideration based on this priority charge. [Sharepoint Recommendation for Recordkeeping.docx](#)

Priority Charge 2- In Progress/Partially Completed- The council collected feedback from several councils. The council will have to follow up with councils in AY 2026-27 to determine if any legislation is necessary for Senate consideration.

Priority Charge 3- Completed- During the 2025-26 Election Cycle the Council updated the existing Elections Manual. [Elections Handbook updated- Copy.docx](#)

Priority Charge 4- Completed- The council drafted and submitted the Senator Information Packet to the Senate. The document provides current and incoming Senators with an overview of Senate operations, key terms, a brief introduction to Parliamentary procedures, and information on Shared Governance. [Faculty Senate-Senator Information Packet.docx](#)

Priority Charge 5- Completed- the council submitted, and the Senate adopted a bylaw amendment addressing the removal of paper ballots as the sole method for conducting secret ballot elections during Executive Council elections. [Bylaw Proposal Paper Ballot.docx](#)

New items were presented to the council which were outside the purview of the AY 2025-26 Priority Charges. These included a request for feedback on the status of NTTP faculty in relation to eligibility to serve as Senators within the Senate.

The Council also discussed feedback from councils related to the transactional structure of the Senate and Councils. Based on the feedback, the Council developed an additional recommendation for AY 2026-27. This recommendation includes a timely reporting mechanism for Senate Councils to assist in their annual operations and provide Senators with updates on Council activities. [Council reporting recommendations](#)

The Council Chair provided assistance to the Student Government Association as they assessed amendments to the SGA Constitution.

Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:

1. Finalize feedback from Senate councils to determine necessary legislation affecting standing charges of councils.

2. Review university, union, and senate governing documents to provide formal opinion on the status of NTPP faculty in relation to Senate Representation.
3. Develop a semesterly report template for Senate Councils to provide regular updates to the Senate and submit questions or comments related to Standing or Priority Charges being addressed by the council.

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

The G&E Council is outlined in the Bylaws to have a larger membership composition due to the additional responsibilities of conducting Senate & university related elections. The SEC should work to add these additional 3 at-large members to the council in AY 2026-27.