



## YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

1 Tressel Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44555

### Academic Senate Meeting

#### Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2025

The Academic Senate met at 4:00 PM on November 5, 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 Chet Cooper certified that quorum was present (Excused absences: Dr Cary Wecht, Dr Martha Pallante, Dr Dawna Cerney Dr Dessalegn Guyo, Dr Ida Fusillo, Dr Joy Christiansen Erb, Dr Robert Gilliland.

The meeting began with Dr Hillary Fuhrman presenting a resolution in honor of Dr Marti Alschuler. The resolution was as follows:

Whereas, Dr. Mari Alschuler faithfully served as a Professor in the Department of Social Work since 2013, dedicating herself to educating students; and was a recognized professional expert, serving as a licensed therapist and supervisor; and

Whereas, Dr. Alschuler demonstrated a deep commitment to service and professional excellence through her involvement as a regular Board Member for the National Social Workers Association, Ohio Chapter, for which she provided over 33 years of service, culminating in the receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023; and

Whereas, her passionate advocacy for veterans and the LGBTQ community contributed to her receipt of Youngstown State University's Diversity Award for Campus Leadership in 2015; and

Whereas, she shared her passion for the arts with the broader campus community through her volunteer work within YSU's English Festival and by providing many talks on meditation, spirituality, or poetry; and

Whereas, Dr. Alschuler integrated her passions into specialized expertise in poetry therapy, gaining recognition as an international expert with the International Federation for Biblio/Poetry Therapy; and

Whereas, the loss of Dr. Mari, as she was known to students, on Saturday, September 20th, following a hard-fought battle with cancer, is deeply felt across the Department of Social Work and the entire YSU community, who are grateful her years of dedicated and passionate service;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Youngstown State University, through this Proclamation, honors the life, dedicated service, and enduring memory of Dr. Mari Alschuler, expressing our deepest appreciation for her significant contributions and our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who were touched by her presence; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the members of the Academic Senate pledge to uphold the standards and values of dedicated service, compassionate advocacy, and professional excellence that Dr. Alschuler so diligently championed in her work.

The resolution to honor Dr Alschuler was approved by a majority vote in the Academic Senate. The resolution will also be sent to Dr Alschuler's relatives.

The meeting continued with a majority approval of today's agenda. The recording of minutes from the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting recording and minutes were approved by the senate majority.

The meeting then shifted to a report from the Executive Committee by the chair, Dr Chet Cooper. Dr Cooper reported that there was nothing new to report at this time.

### Senate Committee Reports

- Dr Thomas Wakefield submitted a report from the undergraduate curriculum committee. No Senate members objected to the report. The report was recommended for acceptance to forward to the Board of Trustees by majority consent.
- Dr David Asch submitted a report from the academic programs committee. Dr Asch reminded everyone that the deadline for changes to academic programs is February 1, 2026. Dr Asch would also appreciate it if changes were entered earlier to avoid a high volume of requests near the deadline. The report was recommended for acceptance to forward to the Board of Trustees by majority consent.
- Dr Joe Palardy and Dr Hillary Fuhrman provided a brief presentation on the work of AI Committee report. Dr Palardy introduced new goals as follows: 1 Understanding where we are in regard to AI current usage and awareness, 2 Developing a framework using a data-driven approach, and #3 a spring conference looking at practices that people are doing. Dr Hillary Fuhrman mentioned that a survey will be coming out later this week to ask faculty about how they are currently using AI in the classroom. This includes the possibility of sharing new and innovative ideas. If you wish to keep the survey response anonymous, you may email Hillary or Joe. There is also the possibility of an outside speaker coming to kick off the Spring conference. The committee has requested the following actions from faculty:
  - Faculty should consider submitting their innovative teaching practices for presentation at the spring conference on AI integration.
  - Faculty are encouraged to participate in the AI usage survey that will be distributed later this week.
- Dr Chet Cooper delivered a motion on behalf of Dr Martha Pallante from the Governance Committee. The motion is that "All Senate Appointed Committee shall meet prior to the December 2025 meeting to confirm membership and any vacancies, confirm a chair, and complete the Committee Information sheet available at the Senate web site. Hearing nothing, the Governance will assume the responsibility of repopulating the committee as per our charge, and the Executive Committee will complete the Committee Information Form". The governance committee is assuming responsibility for repopulating the committee. Dr Cooper reminded the Senate Body that committees are supposed to meet once a semester and file a report to the Senate. Dr Cooper requested that committees fill in any vacancies, complete their worksheet, and make sure they meet before the end of the semester. The resolution passed with majority consent.

### Old Business

No old business was presented.

## New Business

- Sofia Myers presented an informational announcement on “Swipe out hunger week”. The initiative is meant to help raise money for penguin pantry. Both monetary and physical donations are accepted. Sofia provided a QR code that can be shared with fellow students and faculty who wish to donate. There is an event this Friday from 4-6pm in Williamson Hall entitled, “Dessert with the Deans”. There will be free dessert and basket raffles. The following is the provided QR code:

<https://qr.link/3TIOLR>



- Dr Hillary Fuhrman provided a presentation and draft of a proposed syllabus template revision for compliance with SB1. Dr Fuhrman reports that she has been working with ITL Committee and Standards Committee to create a syllabus template. Ohio revised codes requires the posting of syllabi publicly by fall 2026. The final template will be brought to the Academic Senate in December. The single common syllabus word template will be required to be used by all faculty in Spring of 2026. The office of Academic Affairs has contracted the use of CourseLeaf SYL software to post the syllabi required elements publicly while keeping sensitive information private. This could lead to two types of syllabi: one public and one more detailed syllabus for classroom use. There is work being done to set up IT and faculty training on the new CourseLeaf system. Faculty will have opportunity to provide feedback on the template. Final template and policies will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the beginning of December. By January all faculty will need to use the word version of the syllabus. In Spring of 2026 there will be training with the CourseLeaf system. In Fall 2026, all faculty must use the system to upload their syllabi. All items in the template draft that are highlighted “green” are required elements for the public version of the syllabus. Anything that is not “green” does not need to be shared. Discussion and questions ensued following the presentation. Important action items include:
  - Feedback on the common syllabus template is requested from faculty, with a comment period open for suggestions before December.

- Faculty members need to adjust their syllabi into the required sections, including course readings and policies.
- Dr Jackie Mercer introduced herself to the senate body in her new role as General Education Coordinator. Dr Mercer thanked Dr Adam Earnhardt for his work on helping move the Gen Ed Model in compliance with OT 36. All students will have to take and pass a civics course regardless of major with SB1. General Education Committee is working on where this course will fit in the model. Work is being done with Associate Provost Christine Still to determine how to move forward with the micro credentials. Work is also being done on establishing an assessment protocol for general education courses to help with HLC review. The general education committee met for the 1st time today with a report to be provided at the next Senate Meeting. Dr Mercer encouraged anyone with questions to contact her.

Dr Cooper asked the body if there were any other business that needed to be attended to. None was present. A motion to adjourn was received with a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr Cooper officially adjourned the meeting following a majority consent.

Minutes submitted by:

Edmund Ickert

Secretary, Academic Senate