

**Faculty Senate
Handbook Committee Report
Oct. 31, 2025
Mac McKerral, chair**

The committee met on Oct. 8, 2025, at 2 p.m.

- The committee decided to move its meeting time from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. to accommodate a committee member's class schedule. Meetings remain on the second Wednesday of the month.
- The committee discussed the fraternization policy that was sent back to the committee by the Senate during the Spring 2025 term because the handbook language recommended by the previous Handbook Committee conflicted with university policy. Rob Hale explained that university policy supersedes the handbook. The committee had the option of aligning the handbook with the university policy or recommending to the Academic Affairs Office a change in the university policy. The committee voted unanimously to align the handbook policy with the university policy for the time being. The policy will be revisited after more data on reporting at WKU and other university policies can be gathered. It should be noted that there was sentiment expressed that faculty/student relationships should be prohibited in all circumstances. **An action item will be forthcoming in the Senate's December cycle.**
- The committee agreed unanimously to change the handbook language contained in the section on promotion to full professor to make it clear that promotion committees making the recommendations have five tenured voting members and that the director/department head is an advisory, non-voting member. **An action item will be forthcoming in the Senate's December cycle.**
- The committee discussed eligibility for the annual college awards. The committee unanimously agreed that University Distinguished Professors should be ineligible for college awards. The rationale for this decision is that the UDP's have already received the highest award/honor bestowed on a university faculty member. **An action item will be forthcoming in the Senate's December cycle.**

The meeting concluded at 2:45 p.m.