

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

1. Council: Senate Budget & Planning Council

2. Council Members: James Alford; A. Gerri Budd; Mariel Read Essner; David Hack;
Rajiv Kashyap; Kirsten Loewrigkeit; Judy Matthew; Lillian Luisa Milanés.

3. Council Charges and Summary of Activities:

a) Standing Charges

1. Recommend University budget policy and overall direction.
2. Advise and prioritize in matters related to institutional planning and finance.
3. Examine and review the institution's proposed budget.
4. Work with the administration in resolving fiscal concerns.

b) 2025-2026 Summary of Activities

The Council implemented a new meeting format, in which Council members submit discussion questions and agenda items to the VP for Finance and Administration in advance, and any items not addressed at a particular session will carry forward throughout the semester.

Using the new format, the Council's role has been one of dialogue and information sharing and it is intended for the Council to help reviewing the program reviews, which are conducted by the Provost's Office. The Council has discussed the impact of national immigration policy on the University's finances, the University's relationship to the state budget, has begun to explore the integration of AI tools in personnel management, will have access to the All Funds Report, and will review a summary of the rightsizing measures taken after COVID. Additionally, the Council will begin inviting guests in the coming year.

2) Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:

It is recommended that the priority charges for 2026-2027 be as follows:

1. Advise the administration in planning the proposed budget for each fiscal year.
2. Work with the Faculty Senate to strengthen the effectiveness of the Council.
3. Serve as a central channel to present questions and follow up on Enrollment Forum presentations.

3) Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year:

The Council could be of greater use to the University if it had a recognized role, however formal, in the budget process. In addition, the Council could offer assistance to any faculty considering or reviewing an initiative that has budgetary implications.