Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, October 05, 2018
Hamblin Hall Auditorium, 1:30 pm

Attendance:

Promotion and Tenure Committee – T. Kiddee; Constitution and Bylaws – M. Workman
Faculty Scholarship – A. McConnell
Deans/Interim Deans – N. Zaman (NSM)
Provost: K. Jayasuriya

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

1. T. Ruhnke moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried by voice vote.

2. T. Ruhnke moved and O. Banks seconded to approve the minutes with attendance changes. The motion carried by voice vote.

3. R. Ford said the shell for committee work is up and he encouraged committee chairs to use this repository. This is important for accountability with this work.

4. K. Jayasuriya said that we have a new slogan. “It starts at State.” We need to change it in our email signatures, etc. 101 of our 320 new students had early enrollment, a key indicator of its value as an investment. We are not just giving away credits. It used to be 13%. Let’s bring this up to 50%. There is a committee established, and he hasn’t heard any complaints at this point. B. Ladner, on the committee, is coming up with a handbook and are those involved are only concerned that the policies will be followed once established. She asked if this was causing our on-campus enrollment to go down in certain courses. K. Jayasuriya said that these students may not take a few of their 39 courses, but they will take the other 37. T. Ruhnke asked how many credits the incoming students have taken coming in. He said the highest is 27, but he’d be surprised if most take more than 9. He can look up these specifics. M. Fultz asked for the 30-day headcount. K. Jayasuriya said he hasn’t been given this number, but it was shy of 1,800 as full-time students. M. Fultz asked about the financial impact, and the Provost said that we budgeted conservatively. M. Fultz asked what the plan was for recruiting. K. Jayasuriya said there is a committee established by the president with invited faculty and deans to be looking at this. T. Ruhnke expressed doubt about the work that is accomplished in institutional committees. He suggested that Pat Schumann’s presentation to the faculty was very helpful. We would like to see other VP’s extend themselves to the same extent. R. Ford said that he has the hardest time getting rosters of these committees and doesn’t know what else to do.

B. Ladner said the English dept. has been told they can’t order toner even though there is a student fee devoted to the labs. K. Jayasuriya said for her to email the problem. K. Jayasuriya said that departments’ recommendations should be considered. N. Zaman said that we could consider exemptions from the Gen. Ed components from their majors (ex. science majors don’t need to take the science credits). K. Jayasuriya said that he thinks the departments should make this decision. B. Ladner said she would bring this up to the committee for consideration. K. Harper said that the problem that arose with the engineering program was that the professor designing the program didn’t have an understanding of the Gen. Ed component.
J. Magan expressed respect toward our 33-year serving astronomy professor (adjunct) who teaches in the public schools will be teaching his last class this semester. He would like to formally acknowledge his service in some form.

5. Faculty scholarship: A. McConnell said the committee’s goals are to have a fundraising campaign and to get more nominations next spring. M. Fultz asked the ratio of nominations to awards. She said that, once those who were ineligible were excluded, all nominees were given an award. M. Workman asked for the requirements and A. McConnell stated them. T. Ruhnke asked the amounts in the funds. She said it was around $6,000 total (endowed and restricted). T. Ruhnke recommended publishing those numbers so that faculty who are more inclined to donate to the restricted would see how the money is being used year to year. She said that there has been some challenge to the committee in a gap in institutional memory, and she has been doing a lot of investigating. R. Ford asked if they are building transferable institutional memory, and she said this is their goal. N. Zaman suggested someone on the committee keep working to invite more faculty to donate. A. McConnell asked for recommendations of faculty who are deeply committed to this who could serve as a model. She said there is an online portal that will be shared with faculty that allows people to choose restricted or endowed, as well as one time or monthly donation. T. Ruhnke moved and M. Fultz seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

6. Gen. Ed. committee: There are fewer proposals this past year given the focus on the revisions in the previous years. There were two proposals, one to count Social Work 3XX as a Tier II international Perspectives course. The other proposal was to have a Peer Education course housed within Gen. Ed since NCATE wouldn’t allow for it in the Ed. dept. The progress of the handbook has slowed. The meetings were called as work was needed, with 4 meetings last AY. K. Jayasuriya asked about the assessment component. B. Ladner summarized the spring 2018 data gathering, analysis and discussion, with the plan this fall for each Gen. Ed course to have the Gen. Ed. outcomes as part of the course objectives. T. Ruhnke moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to accept the report.

7. ACF: B. Ladner stated there has been no meeting since last faculty senate meeting. K. Jayasuriya asked about a Gazette article. K. Harper said Shepherd, Concord, and others are getting more money, with us only 400,000. T. Ruhnke said that some of the problems we as faculty observe in Ferrell might also concern those in the legislature. B. Ladner said that HEPC’s opinion of Pres. Jenkins is very high. T. Ruhnke said he didn’t know what to do about the public perception of State, but anecdotes add up. B. Ladner suggested that the past 40 years as a whole is a challenge to change that perception.

8. Honors Committee: T. Ruhnke said that he is concerned that those who contribute to the workload on the committee are term limited, with implications for next year’s committee. They were able to cut down the Gen. Ed. requirements. He said that they would like to open the possibility of special topics (299) courses that could be recommended to Gen. Ed. as fulfilling a requirement. They also talked of designating honors faculty. Recruiting needs to be a focus. Finding courses for the Gen. Ed. component is still catch as catch can. Recruiting faculty as advisors and mentors is also needed. It may be that the faculty and student interest is low. It needs to be more than just T. Ruhnke but needs buy-in campus-wide. Right now it’s heavily science and psych, and he wants to expand this past Hamblin. We could have an invitational meeting. He has spoken up at Gen. Faculty meetings, but faculty don’t email with student recommendations. Faculty who recognize student aptitude and attitude in intro-level classes can recommend this student to the program. B. Ladner said that many of their majors don’t declare the major until sophomore year, and they often come there with GPA issues. M. Fultz suggested contacting advisors of student organizations. T. Ruhnke said that the challenge is catching students early in the program.

He could do more with outreach, but it’s also a challenge to plan a recruitment meeting and not have people come. T. Kiddee asked how honors could include online students. There was some
discussion about the challenges of doing this, with T. Kiddee suggesting a few ways to make it work. T. Ruhnke said they will come to a decision before the end of the semester. T. Kiddee said he has been wanting to be a part of the committee for years, to which T. Ruhnke said these are the people he wants, those who are committed for the long-term. If the faculty were amenable to modifying the document so there weren’t term-limits, this would help. M. Fultz proposed a schedule to make this happen for the Bylaws and Constitution. J. Magan said that the Gen. Ed committee began as those instructors of Gen. Ed. courses who wanted to serve. This wouldn’t be a bad model. M. Seyedmonir said we can look at the restructuring, and asked if past committee chairs could contribute to that discussion. Given the challenges from the past, and the commitment of the students and committee members to the current plan, they will move forward. M. Seyedmonir clarified that administrative support is what he’s asking about. K. Jayasuriya said that we could look at a structure of the program within Academic Affairs. M. Seyedmonir suggested it could help to have a structure with more specific administrative support. B. Ladner said that the Education Department has a model with a committee of faculty and students. This might help with buy-in. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that getting rid of term limits could solve all of this. D. Wells suggests that more at-large faculty slots might help. T. Ruhnke will come back with a proposal and will seek more support and guidance from academic affairs and deans. R. Ford said the committee we design will have the charge to have these discussions. N. Zaman asked if a sophomore would be declined, and why. If we could open this up, then the window to discover the students would be bigger and lead to more enrollment. The sequential seminars is the issue. M. Workman said he had the information about the committee from previous meetings. B. Ladner moved and M. Fultz seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote. M. Seyedmonir suggested a similar structure as program review. M. Workman presented the language he had received, but this would be the first reading. He and T. Ruhnke spoke about the language projected. M. Fultz suggested we continue with other items and T. Ruhnke could come back with language for a first reading before the end of the meeting.

9. EPC – There were 13 proposals to start the Chemical Engineering degree. There were problems with the syllabi and Gen. Ed component, so it has been referred back to the department for revisions. B. Ladner said that Chem 105 or 107 (given there is a lab component) would probably have been accepted. Math decided to go ahead with the 136 credits. M. Fultz asked if academic affairs has a problem with 136 hours. K. Jayasuriya said yes, given the original proposal was for 126 hours to HEPC. The solution for the future can be to reduce the Gen. Ed. portion, as properly proposed to the Gen. Ed. committee. J. Magan moved and M. Fultz seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

10. Constitution and Bylaws: M. Workman presented a 2nd reading of new language allowing at-large exec. members to serve on one committee as senators are now able to do. M. Fultz moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to accept the language. The motion carried by voice vote.

8b. Honors committee continued: T. Ruhnke suggested the provost recommend committee members and the executive committee select them. B. Ladner said that the exec. committee should do the selecting. T. Ruhnke mentioned the Provost appoints the director. He suggested the director select one individual per college and these selections be approved by the executive committee. Language was refined as M. Workman typed. This committee was taken off of the list of faculty senate committees that were term limited. B. Ladner moved and M. Fultz seconded to approve the language as a 1st reading to be sent to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The motion carried by voice vote.

11. N. Zaman pointed out that the last scheduled faculty senate meeting is scheduled for the Friday before commencement. Some discussion followed about moving this meeting, but no final decision was made.
12. BOG Presidential Review: R. Ford asked if we want to, as interested faculty (not Faculty Senate),
draft some sort of combined statement that would be less ignorable than individual statements. B.
Ladner suggested R. Ford send a reminder email for individuals to submit their own statements.

13. B. Ladner asked K. Jayasuriya if he had heard about or had an opinion of the Cultural Activities
change.

14. Research and Development Cooperation: M. Fultz said that Dr. McMeans appointed two faculty to
the board. M. Fultz has been reappointed and Matthew Carroll was appointed. K. Jayasuriya said he
doesn't think M. Carroll had accepted, but M. Fultz said he thinks he had. The oversight problems of
the committee were discussed. N. Zaman reminds the board only meets once a year, so it doesn't even
matter who is on the committee. M. Fultz said that the bylaws say two years, but some years are only
one. It is a presentation meeting without active discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.