Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, September 7, 2018
Hamblin Hall Auditorium, 1:30 pm

Attendance:


Exec. at-large – K. Harper. T. Guetzloff; Visiting Faculty – T. Rhunke, M. Pennington; Library: W. Stinson; Promotion and Tenure Committee – T. Kiddee; Constitution and Bylaws – M. Workman

Deans/Interim Deans – R. Wallace (A&H)

Meeting called to order at 1:38 p.m.

1. O. Banks moved and T. Rhunke seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried by voice vote.

2. M. Pennington moved and F. Vaughan seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

3. R. Ford reminded committee chairs to turn in written reports. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she has reports of people not going to the meetings. R. Ford asked what we can do about that. Take roll and post in the minutes? M. Workman suggested we remove them from the committee. F. Vaughan said that the chairs could look at attendance when considering the annual report. T. Rhunke said this evaluation will take the chair more time. B. Ladner suggested that the dept. chairs contact the committee chairs when evaluating faculty. K. McDilda suggested the candidate include the minutes in their self-report. K. Harper suggested this adds to the volume of the report, to which K. McDilda suggested an online portfolio. D. Johnson moved and K. McDilda seconded that the Committee Chair keep a record of attendance that will be available for review. The motion carried by voice vote.

4. R. Ford thanked those in the university keeping written records for accountability.

5. Provost report (speaking to President issues in Pres. Jenkins’ behalf).

The Blue Ribbon Commission has been meeting but have nothing to report. T. Rhunke asked what was the goal of the commission. The president says that they will supply a report on Dec. 1.

The Registrar position has been posted and is moving forward. The interim registrar resigned, so Traci West-McCombs is now the interim. Kristi Williams is the interim VP of Finance.

There is a committee for recruitment and retention that K. Jayasuriya was appointed to 2 days before, chaired by Dr. Yvette Underdue Murph. T. Rhunke asked about the plans a former committee made, such as 90-credit audits. The Provost said the 60 and 90 degree audits are being done by chairs. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said Dr. McGee is new as a retention expert. F. Vaughan said that Dr. Underdue Murph presented a detailed plan to the BOG. The presentation stated there are 509 this year new students this year, and the 633 from last year are new and transfer students. T. Guetzloff asked how we’ll adjust to the approx. $3 mil. hit from being down 100 students. Kristi Williams has reported that they estimated down financially and look ok. T. Rhunke said that these numbers don’t suggest a recruitment and retention plan that has been implemented and working. It was asked if other colleges are suffering this loss, or are WV and Marshall growing? K. Jayasuriya said that Concord’s retention is 76% fall to fall. They are doing better that us, and we should learn from them. F. Vaughan suggested we invite Dr. Underdue Murph to present her plan and take questions. B. Francis asked about early enrollment as a recruitment effort, or bringing students here on a school bus for events. The provost
said we can go to the early enrollment courses and talk with students. O. Banks said that our location is poised to recruit well. T. Guetzloff said that if we have the same numbers as in Carter’s last year, then it needs looking at. T. Rhunke said that if we match the 2012 effort, the problems are systemic.

The provost said we are giving an offer today for a chemical hygiene officer. The controlled substance policy is on the back burner for now since the researcher left... due to no policy. F. Vaughan said the BOG sent the R&D presented policy back to them because it was based on another school’s policy and not suited to our institution.

There is confusion about the Cultural Activities Committee’s change of oversight given the work to be done, contracts to be honored, etc. The committee needs basic information to move forward with their mission. The provost didn’t have any answers. That is Dr. Underdue Murph’s prevee now, as approved by the President, with a need for student input. T. Rhunke said that there are 4 students on the committee to accommodate for this need. The committee is concerned that the offerings will become a pop venue, not a cultural one befitting a liberal arts education. T. Rhunke moved and B. Ladner seconded that the Provost, the Cultural Activity Committee Chair (Zach Fitchner), and Dr. Underdue-Murph meet to communicate a plan to move forward and change the constitution and By-laws to reflect the changes. R. Ford suggested that we amended the motion to say “revise as needed.” T. Rhunke withdrew the motion and B. Ladner requested the provost work on facilitating the discussion. R. Wallace suggested a motion to honor last year’s work. B. Ladner moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded that the new system honor the decisions (contracts, etc.) of the previous year.

The Provost said that M. Jones said all computers older than 5 years have been replaced. It was confirmed by the faculty that this is not true. The provost asked for a list of the old computers. M. Seyedmonir said Tracy has the list and he will get this from Tracy and deliver it to the provost. T. Rhunke suggested we stick to the process of turning in computers when someone leaves, letting IT wipe them, then send them out. The provost thought this was the process. M. Seyedmonir said that classroom computers, according to IT, are overseen by Academic Affairs, but the provost says this is not their responsibility. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that, with growing online programs, faculty need good computers. K. Jayasuriya said to send all issues his way. M. Seyedmonir said that M. Jones would not sign off on any PO’s, though Tracy presented the list of needs.

R. Ford asked about the plan for faculty evaluation in response to the BOG policy. K. Jayasuriya said that this is a test year. M. Pennington asked if the instrument should be changed to reflect any new emphasis by administration (ex. experiential learning). R. Wallace said there is an open category in the new form where faculty can present work for points, in consultation with the dept. chair. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that one form for all disciplines is a challenge. The provost said that the open category will help, and reminded that you are not required to be excellent or score points in all categories. He suggested he needs to look at the data and perhaps alter the cutoff points. R. Francis asked about the definition of service learning. K. Jayasuriya said he would like this component in the curriculum, where students serve in areas that are specific to the curriculum. T. Rhunke asked for the instrument to remain so the retention committee can get some comparative stats. K. Jayasuriya said he has numbers from the last two years, and they will have the numbers for the next year. We can use this data (not every single faculty, but many of them). K. McDilda asked about reliability between evaluators, etc. The provost said the data we have will help us know this. M. Pennington asked about the difference in the way people self-evaluate. The provost said that the chairs and deans will help people honest. K. Jayasuriya is open to people making a case for points with chairs and deans. Katie asked about brand new faculty. K. Jayasuriya suggested they learn about the instrument.

The new D/F repeat credit limit is up to 21 credit hours. In 300-400 level, you can repeat C’s as well up to 8 hours, with those contributing to the 21 hours. This starts with a clean slate of 21 hours this fall.
6. F. Vaughan congratulated O. Banks as an inductee into the South Carolina State Athletic Hall of Fame.

7. ACF – B. Ladner said that important legislators are on the Blue Ribbon Committee, so it will be taken seriously. There are legislators who are not in line with the thinking WVU. There was going to be an HEPC Chancellor search, but it was suspended and someone was appointed. She hopes WVU doesn’t take on the HEPC roles, a suggested alternative to the HEPC.

A new allocation model is in the works, with projections suggesting Shepherd will get considerably more funding, WVU and Tech would get some less, with us getting a modest amount more. The model urges more funding overall, considering enrollment, types of programs, and at-risk students served (includes most risk factors of 1st generations). B. Ladner moved and F. Vaughan seconded that we accept the report, and in the process, show our support for the ACF initiative. M. Seyedmonir asked about when the SAT transition will happen. The ACT will still be acceptable, but SAT scores will be used to gauge ACT equivalence. M. Seyedmonir asked if the legislators are also looking at tenure of secondary schools. K. McDilda says no, they’re thought of differently. B. Ladner said they don’t have the same protections. K. Jayasuriya said that the BOG tenure eval. process was a good move in relation to the spirit of the legislature. F. Vaughan heard that WVU is partnering with all community colleges to award retroactive credit for life experiences. B. Ladner said that it is actually that the community colleges have been able to award credit for WVU credit earned, and the new policy just makes this easier. The motion in support of the ACF initiatives carried by voice vote.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski moved and M. Seyedmonir seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

8. BOG – There have been three meetings since the last faculty senate meeting. There are some personnel changes from term limits and one resignation. William Lipscom is the new chair, and there is a new student rep. There are a few close calls for quorums, given the lowered numbers. The furlough policy is tabled. The foreign language ed. program was discontinued due to no student enrollment. 2.4 million has been raised this year. Katherine Johnson was a big part of that ($344,000, exceeded the $250,000 goal). The employee status policy was passed stating that there is no designation between classified or unclassified. This doesn’t impact faculty. Budget good news: Our revenues dropped by 10% last year, but so did our spending (7-8%). We were $265,000 overbudget. We have $1.2 in Oasis plus other accounts. We are moving the needle in the right direction, and F. Vaughan said he feels better about the institution’s position now than before the meeting. The cuts were across the board. M. Seyedmonir asked what areas were cut. K. Jayasuriya said that we are 65% of the budget, so we took the biggest dollar amount hit, which makes sense. T. Guetzloff said that there was a $2.8 bill transfer into this year, so what does that mean about the stated surplus? K. Jayasuriya said that the debt is coming down, so we have work to do, but heading in the right direction. R. Wallace asked F. Vaughan’s feeling about the recruitment piece. F. Vaughan said it was an excellent presentation, but we’ll wait to see the bottom line. He said that the idea that we have Dr. Underdue Murph report to the senate is a good one. B. Ladner asked if she is now fully staffed. Yes. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she is working on staff accountability, and F. Vaughan said she has focused on the structure this past year. T. Guetzloff said we are still not fully staffed for wrap-around services. F. Vaughan said that the athletic director is pleased with what she is doing. N. Zaman asked why we have fewer students? J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that there are a variety of issues at play. F. Vaughan said that her response will be welcome. Only 3 minutes of the presentation were on the discussion of the reduction in enrollment.

M. Workman asked if there has been any more B&G directors salary discussion. F. Vaughan said no, and the board is not going to touch it. They are not interested, or don’t see it as part of their responsibility. F. Vaughan introduced Mark Wilson, instructor of economics and Katie Bidding in Chemistry (just graduated from Duke). J. Barnes-Pietruszynski moved and M. Seyedmonir seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.
9. Faculty Personnel Committee. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski spoke for J. Pietruszynski who is now chair of the committee. B. Ladner moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski moved to accept the proposed calendar. The motion carried by voice vote. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked about the new student evaluation forms. T. Guetzloff said we are using the new ones. They have been printed. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said the committee is still considering the online options. R. Ford asked about the online timeline. Perhaps the goal is for the spring? D. Johnson reminded that the technical solution, and especially the associated funding, wasn’t found last year. R. Ford clarified that FPC is still working to this end.

10. Regarding at-large executive committee members, B. Ladner and M. Seyedmonir seconded that we change the bylaws to read “At-large executive committee members are eligible to serve on one standing committee of the Faculty Senate.” This falls in line with the change made to senators a few years back. The motion carried by voice vote.

11. R. Ford said that he attended the R&D board meeting in May. M. Fultz moved that they post their meeting minutes online. They said no, stating it doesn’t need to be a motion, saying they will do it. The minutes are still not posted. R. Ford did communicate to the President that the feelings toward R&D governance is an open sore, not going away, and we wait for his action to build trust. M. Seyedmonir asked about the faculty recommendation to the board. T. Guetzloff pointed out that the President could appoint a new board chair. B. Francis asked who was chair. It is Orlando McMeans. R. Ford has never seen the rules governing the organization and has never seen the contracts.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.