Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, April 5, 2019
Hamblin Hall Auditorium, 1:30 pm

Attendance:

Senators: A&H - D. Johnson (secretary), J. Barnes-Pietruszynski (vice-chair), M. Porter; BSS - M. Seyedmonir, B. Francis; NSM - R. Ford (chair), M. Fultz, J. Eya; PS - O. Banks.; LC - D. Wells (historian), M. Casey; Exec. at-large - K. Harper; BOG - F. Vaughan; ACF - B. Ladner
EPC - U. Karunathilake
Visiting Faculty – J. Eya, S. Collins, K. Steele, E. Sekabunga,
Deans/Interim Deans –, P. Carney (PS), D. Williams, N. Zaman
Provost: K. Jayasuriya

1. M. Fultz moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to approve the minutes with one attendance addition and minor spelling changes. The motion carried by voice vote.

2. Agenda items: M. Fultz requested a discussion before the end of the year about incoming freshman enrollment. M. Seyidmonir requested to add the proposal for a new Faculty and Senate Standing Committee. M. Fultz moved and O. Banks seconded approval of the agenda with amendments. The motion carried by voice vote.

3. R. Ford asked about the administration of the faculty listserv run through academic affairs. He was told that Dr. Stuart first ran it, and now S. Woodard administers it.

4. Provost: He briefly discussed his new appointment as President of Southwest Minnesota State University. He expressed how much he has enjoyed working with the Senate and appreciated their feedback, and even challenges/questions that have contributed to shared governance. In introducing the Nursing Program, he reminded the Senate that Academic Affairs is making improvements to how to introduce new programs, but this program was already far enough along to not be able to follow new procedures. He and Dr. Carney, both not nurses, prepared the proposal with limited experience in nursing. Two people from HLC looked at the proposal, and the proposal passed HEPC. As the site visitors left, they said, “You are making a strong argument,” so that is a strong positive sign. The WV Board of Nursing is one final step, which requires a nursing director being hired first, with him/her listed as director and HEPC approval. Dr. Harper chaired the committee and they have a final candidate and there is a pending offer in the next few days. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski read an online suggestion box question about its need given UC and Bridge Valley programs. We will be the more affordable 4-year program. Bridge Valley is only 2 years. He conceded the enrollment projections are guesses, but there is a need nation-wide and there is already a waiting list. He provided cost projections and revenue projections. He addressed the short notice of the Deans Candidate campus visit for Business and Social Sciences, assuring the Senate there was no agenda behind this and apologizing for the situation. R. Ford asked about the plan for the next provost. He said the President plans to do a national search. Scott Woodard will attend to business until then. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked
if it is too late for a search. The Provost said he feels strongly an Interim Provost should be a member of the Dean’s Council. M. Fultz asked about the results/data of the post-tenure review. The Provost has imputed scores into a spreadsheet, but hasn’t analyzed the data. He suggests we have groups to come together to look at the picture and draw the appropriate lines. B. Ladner said there should also be a qualitative approach. The Provost said that if we look at the data and find that cut-off points include some of our strongest professors, we would take a look at the instrument. He will not be here for those decisions. B. Ladner said that the instrument doesn’t fit some academic areas as well as others. B. Francis asked if there could be a probationary period. The Provost said this is the probationary year, so now is the time to make changes. His idea was not to punish or get rid of anyone, but to be empowered to encourage those not meeting basic responsibilities. B. Ladner said she submitted new suggestions last semester for the instrument. There was some suggestions or questions about when the instrument had been revised. It has been 2.5 years ago. R. Ford asked about student evaluation of faculty. There was discussion about online options. The Provost reminded that if all classes use Moodle for online evaluations, we would have to pay $7 per student per year, and there are 900–1000 students not enrolled, so it would cost around $7000 to move these online.

5. BOG: F. Vaughan outlined highlights from the meeting: Healthy Start grant, Chinese University relationship and considerable revenue. There are good things happening on campus, and we don’t share success as well. There were two program reviews, BA in Art and BFA in Music Performance. The BOG was satisfied with an executive report rather than the full report, and the requirements by HEPC are not as rigorous as the Program Review Committee’s. The Provost has requested a simplified process by end of April and said that it is in the Senate’s court to see this through. The Senate determined to request the new procedures by the end of May. He reported that the University’s revenue is slightly up, expenses slightly down, and the overall debt is lower than a year ago, so things are going in a positive direction. T. Guetzloff asked if enrollment goes down, is the financial state of the institution really in a better place? F. Vaughan said all he can do is report and ask questions, but improvement was reported. There was some talk of a policy clean-up committee. R. Ford asked if the policies the Senate is examining are BOG policies, and he didn’t know. M. Fultz asked if F. Vaughan had attended the Retention Meeting. He did not. M. Fultz said that, in visiting High Schools, they all reported that they can’t remember the last time a WVSU recruiter had visited the school. It was asked about the impact of the 2-year free tuition on enrollment. Someone said that when TN did this, the enrollment originally went down, but then went back up. There was discussion about other 4-year schools retaining 2-yr programs at the time of the split, but our internal politics didn’t allow us to retain allowed 2-yr programs. R. Ford asked if there was any BOG response to our letter of concerns. B. Ladner moved and M. Seyedmonir seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote. On an unrelated note, N. Zaman expressed concern that Starfish will have data open to the public.

6. M. Workman requested action of at-large members of the Exec. Committee. After some discussion, it was discovered this had already received 2 readings and can be included in the constitution.

7. EPC: U. Karunathilake said that Criminal Justice and Econ had simple mistakes that were corrected within the week. M. Fultz pointed out that, given that there is an ex-officio member,
the vote tallies were all one too high. K. Steele mentioned she sent a revised version shortly thereafter. M. Fultz and B. Ladner seconded to accept the report with the revised vote tallies.

8. R. Ford asked about a reporting structure for R&D grant monies. B. Ladner moved and M. Fultz seconded for the executive committee to request a report from the Research and Faculty Development Committee to report on a month with few reports and have the committee decide what information should be requested.

9. Cultural Activities: B. Ladner clarified that the fee to be discussed on the agenda was the Cultural Activities fee. R. Ford reported on the meeting with Dr. Underdue Murph, Trina Sweeney, and Joey Oden. Dr. Underdue Murph did not bring numbers to the meeting. Our numbers were 2 years old. So there was a lack of clarity to work from. There were discussions about having a new committee run through their office, including faculty, students, and community members. They also said Deans could be involved with monies. K. Steele expressed the concern of a large committee with faculty as minority. R. Ford expressed that his strong preference is to divide the monies and keep the faculty committee autonomy. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that the course of action this year by Student Activities in postponing meetings and not moving forward with next year’s plans/inviting proposals, leads to the conclusion that they are using the money for other purposes. B. Ladner said that Dr. Underdue Murph’s perspective ties the effective use of this money to an employment outcome within her department (i.e. T. Sweeney’s job performance), so leaving certain things within her power is needed. R. Ford said that HEPC requires the fees money remain to be spent for that purpose. T. Guetzloff reminded that there are learning outcomes associated with these activities, so they are different from student activities. T. Guetzloff moved and B. Ladner moved to recommend President Jenkins to reaffirm the mission and reinstate the funding of the Cultural Activities and Educational Assemblies Committee through the Cultural Activities fee, a Faculty Senate standing committee. The motion carried by voice vote.

10. R. Ford suggested we clarify the Dean’s role as administration/faculty in terms of faculty representation. T. Guetzloff moved and B. Ladner seconded that the Faculty Senate deems Deans to be on loan to the Administration, and as such are ineligible to serve as representatives of the Faculty. The motion carried by voice vote.

11. T. Guetzloff moved that all chairs of Faculty Senate committees be tenured faculty members. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if we’ll have that many tenured faculty, and if it’s worth missing out on new faculty’s work. He said that Chairs can delegate. N. Zaman suggested it would be hard to ensure tenured faculty would be elected to the committees. B. Ladner said some of the best committee chairs have been young. M. Fultz asked the ratio of non-tenured to tenured faculty. Following discussion the motion wasn’t seconded.

12. M. Seyedmonir proposed the establishment of a new Faculty Senate Standing Committee of Instructional and Academic Technology and prepared a handout with language. D. Wells suggested a non-voting member from the Library should be added. B. Ladner thought this should be a voting member. M. Seyedmonir moved and B. Ladner seconded to approve the proposed language. B. Ladner moved and K. Steele seconded to amend the language to include the
addition of one library staff member to the existing structure. T. Guetzloff moved and J. P Barnes-Pietruszynski for the est. The motion carried by voice vote.

13. Policies: R. Ford referenced the agenda list of policies. Governor Libscomb was asked if they were board policies. He didn't have all in front of him. There are some of the policies (ex. tobacco use, tuition waiver) that have Board policies, so the two would have to be reconciled. M. Fultz asked for clarity on who is getting tuition waivers. T. Guetzloff said he never received that information while on the board. R. Ford asked what to do today. M. Fultz suggested we set a deadline on comments, then pass those along to the President. B. Ladner also said to request where the academic policy came from. R. Ford assured the senate he has asked. T. Guetzloff says we have 3 policies on academic dishonest, so that makes it impossible to accuse a student. B. Ladner said that, if the draconian policy exists, the faculty would be hesitant to enforce it. R. Zaman asked where they’ve come from. He asked specifically about the indirect monies from grants. The tuition waiver policy came from Denea on March 7 and approved to send it around to faculty and did the same day. Tobacco use from Lindsey Good. Academic Dishonesty was through grade appeal because of the 3 different policies. Indirect has been on our plates so long, and the last word was with VP of Research. Early warning grades is something Shannon is working on, but why not faculty? Cultural Activities and New Programs were talked about within the meetings. B. Ladner suggested we set comments deadline. M. Fultz moved and M. Seyedmoir seconded we close the 3 policies comment period by next Friday, April 12, have Exec forward them to the President with a request a report on these policies by the next Senate meeting. The motion carried by voice vote. M. Fultz volunteered to send Rich the tobacco and tuition waiver policy.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12