Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, May 3, 2019
Hamblin Hall Auditorium, 1:30 pm

Attendance:

Senators: A&H - D. Johnson (secretary), J. Barnes-Pietruszynski (vice-chair), M. Porter; BSS - M. Seyedmonir, R. Francis; NSM - R. Ford (chair), M. Fultz, T. Ruhnke; PS - O. Banks; LC - D. Wells (historian), M. Casey; Exec. at-large - K. Harper; BOG - F. Vaughan; ACF - B. Ladner; Parliamentarian - J. Magan

EPC - U. Karunathilake
Visiting – J. Pietruszynski, M. Wilson, J. Cherry, A. Settle, A Bejou
Deans/Interim Deans – P. Carney (PS), D. Williams (BSS), N. Zaman (NSM)
Provost: K. Jayasuriya
President: A. Jenkins

1. Agenda: Additions to agenda – 1) a resolution in honor of Gail Mosby; 2) Faculty At-Large item taken off by J. Barnes-Pietruszynski; 3) J. Pietruszynski added FPC, resolution to honor Dr. Jayasuriya added by Tim Ruhnke. M. Fultz moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried by voice vote.

2. Minutes: J. Barnes-Pietruszynski moved and T. Ruhnke seconded approval of minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

3. Oree Banks – T. Ruhnke proposed a resolution recognizing Oree Banks’s long and loyal service to West Virginia State University and the NAACP. N. Zaman suggested we put it in formal language and present it in the General Faculty Meeting.

4. Gail Mosby – F. Vaughan presented a resolution prepared in memory of Gail. T. Ruhnke moved and B. Lander 2nd a motion to approve the resolution. R. Ford suggested we do the same in the General Faculty Meeting. He also suggested we do the same for Dr. Jayasuriya.

5. Seating of new senators – M. Seyedmonir reelected, with M. Pennington as an alternate for BSS. Library was unchanged. Towhid is alternate in NSM. L. Davidson was newly elected to a 3 yr. term for PS. L. Good is taking over for K. McDilda’s vacancy for 1 year. J. Canterbury is the alternate for PS.

5. Elections for Executive Committee – J. Barnes-P. moved, B. Lander seconded R. Ford as Senate Chair. He was elected by acclamation. T. Ruhnke moved and B. Ladner seconded J. Barnes-Pietruszynski to serve as Vice-Chair. She was elected by acclamation. T. Ruhnke moved and O. Banks seconded D. Johnson to serve as Secretary. He was elected by acclamation.

6. Tuition Waiver. A. Settle said the President assured that the tuition waiver would be passed by fall on two occasions as way of attracting faculty, etc. It is not a full tuition waiver, but is a buy one, get one free only for staff and faculty, with no dependents listed at all. R. Ford had an April 17 meeting with Denea and Kristi Williams. K. Williams said that the new language was a
tweaking of the overall policy, and the overall would still be going forward. A. Settle said he would like assurance. M. Fultz said that the BOG policy on waivers (25.2.6) says “a reasonable opportunity will be provided to use the award.” Preferentially given to residents. 92 percent said both employees and spouses/dependence would use it, and 75 percent said spouses or dependents would use it. T. Ruhnke said that a firm decision needs to be made so people can make plans. R. Ford said this might be a policy that will be considered by the new policy committee. N. Zaman asked what the hold up was for the decision. It was suggested it was financial. K. Jayasuriya said that, with open seats in classes, he can’t see why it would hurt us financially. R. Ford said that they would be good students. A. Settle said that fees would still be charged, and B. Ladner said they could charge the high school fee.

7. Provost: The Provost expressed gratitude to the Faculty Senate. His working with the senate was the biggest concern as he came here, and he is grateful for our working with him. He also thanked the Deans for excellent work. He spoke of the faculty evaluation instrument and post-tenure review. The concern of his in creating the instrument, overall, was having no way to evaluate and correct faculty who are missing as many classes as they teach, etc. This tool provides him a way of holding faculty to basic responsibilities. He suggested we don’t have to change the instrument (maybe add a few things in), but could change the parameters. R. Ford asked about student evaluations. J. Pietruszynki said he would speak to that.

8. EPC. Physics passed no changes. Math, Science, and Engineering had a lot to prep for the civil engineering option. T. Guetzloff saw that there needs to be SAT language rather than ACT listed in the documentation. U. Karunathilake checked the actual proposal and saw the same problem. He will get in touch with the dept. chair and they will make those corrections, forgoing new signatures. The name was changed to Bachelors of Science in Engineering with an emphasis in Civic Engineering. R. Ford asked who the professors were. There are two. Xi and Towhid. Comp. Science changed one degree requirement, making one more required course and one less elective. T. Ruhnke moved, F. Vaughan seconded acceptance of the report. The motion carried by voice vote. T. Ruhnke asked about the timeline of getting courses approved in time for the nursing courses to be offered. U. Karunathilake said the first meeting is September and there is time. M. Fultz suggested whoever writes the proposals talk to EPC first. It dramatically improves 1st time pass rate.

9. President Jenkins. He has been thinking of ways we can recognize seniors in their final week. The barbecue for them was to help with this, and he invites any other ideas.

R. Ford asked about the process or timeline for tobacco use on campus. A student group and Lindsey Good as advisor did a study, presented it to the BOG, and then was going to put it up for a comment period. P. Carney says L. Good had received a grant for this work and invited outside groups. The next step is back to the BOG, then a 30 day review. Lindsey shared the data with the President. He said there are a few schools around the state he knew were tobacco free, but doesn’t know the status of all schools. There is no haste to get it done. T. Guetzloff said cars would be exempt, but it might drive some students into seclusion. Senators reported that people don’t use the designated areas (Hamblin was specifically cited as a problem area, Hill Hall does well). D. Wells said that they need a windbreak, shade, etc. outside.

The Academic Dishonesty Policy problem is that, even in a clear case of cheating, the policy was problematic enough that no sanctions could be put in place. The proposed policy said
one infraction was a failed course, and there were comments saying that was too harsh. J. Barnes-Pietrusynski asked if different departments have different lines, so English can have teachable moments? K. Jayasuriya said that it is up to the instructor to choose whether to use the process. He says that faculty can use their own sanctions without using this process. President said the faculty can come up with their own sanction, but suggested an option to turn in the incident to catch repeat offenders. R. Harris said students want a harsher punishment that what we are discussing. President said he saw that as a former Dean of Students. B. Ladner reemphasized the need to only fail the assignment, and Provost agreed. T. Ruhnke said that the formality of the report would put people on guard, less likely to take the risk. President said that, if the student argues the faculty sanction, then the next step would be a recommendation to the council, using the form. The council, legally, can’t learn about other infractions until the formal process is underway.

**Tuition waivers.** Pres. Jenkins introduced the buy one get one free model hoping it would motivate people to move along and benefit in the summer. He reassured that the dependents piece is pretty simple and is coming, but details need to be hashed out (tax implications, etc.). He’s all for it. It is good for the institution. M. Fultz asked if any Faculty were on the tuition waiver committee. J. Cherry couldn’t remember the committee make-up, so they’d have to talk with K. Williams. B. Ladner asked if we have any evidence of the new ideas improving the pace of degrees, returning, etc., comparing it to the use of the old policy. Towhid asked about a full tuition waiver for staff and faculty and their dependents (especially dependents). K. Harper said we are talking only about staff at this point. 3-3.5 million is lost to the institution due to waivers, and we factor that in every year. Mostly athletic, but a few other scholarships. Each year they determine how much they can absorb before going bust. Adjusting the Black and Gold waivers, too. M. Seyedmonir asked how much was athletics. President said a significant portion, but didn’t have the number. He could share that with the faculty. There was considerable discussion about tuition waivers, athletics, and ways these serve the institution’s current financial obligations.

**Enrollment.** M. Fultz asked about the fall enrollment. P. Jenkins said that we’re somewhere in the 200s currently committed. The target is 450. This means we need about 600 students to get to that number due to attrition. There are more from Memphis currently accepted than from the entire state of WV. How many have we received not due to this service? Pres. Jenkins said that we are not using an outside service, so all of those students had specific interest here. M. Fultz said that we’ve had top-knotch students on campus this year and there was no waiver allowed for them to apply. Pres. Jenkins said that it was laziness on our part. We could have done it and waived the application fee. T. Ruhnke said that students’ financial situation would encourage them to come here, but we write them off as assuming they’ll go elsewhere. M. Fultz says he doesn’t even try to recruit due to these road blocks. **Pres. Jenkins said that this fee will be waived from here on out.** P. Carney emphasized the need to recruit from early enrollment. Pres. Jenkins suggested a day on campus to bring them here. T. Guetzloff said the Friday Faculty Recruiting Bus is a good idea. Retention: B. Ladner said Shannon’s presentation at the A&H College Meeting was helpful. O. Banks suggested more activities, and Pres. Jenkins said it takes a variety of times of day. Getting them connected to campus is important. R. Ford held out the idea of “What can faculty do to help?” Pres. Jenkins said advising (in its broader definition of relationship building) is crucial. J. Pietruszynski said his family has not come to football games since they’ve been charged. **Pres. Jenkins said that faculty will now be let in**
free. B. Ladner asked about getting names of incoming students for the fall so we can contact them. Pres. Jenkins says the Deans have that information and she can contact the Dean.

Pres. Jenkins said that, after the **building walk-throughs**, the cleaning service has been told things need to improve for the contract to continue. This summer building issues will be addressed (white boards). J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that Ferrell Hall has mold issues in the HVAC. R. Harris says that Hamblin 140 has blown stuff out of it for the past 10 years. Pres. Jenkins said that they went in each building and classroom and this was not the impression he was given. M. Fultz suggested an online submission form for issues. R. Ford applauded the President for his thorough walk through, something he has never seen. The faculty applauded. Faculty offices have not been considered (privacy), but those issues can be reported, too.

10. **Teacher Committee.** P. Carney spoke for Chair P. Williams. There is a writing, math, and praxis reading course. There is a new GPA requirement. Students must take the Praxis Content before student teaching. They have 58 masters student applicants (mostly WVSU undergrads). They are looking toward an accreditation visit is 2021. J. Pietruszynski requested more leeway for requests. T. Ruhnke moved and F. Vaughan seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

11. **ACF:** The interim HEPC head was applauded for her work. She did a great job, despite initial concerns about her ties to WVU (WVU-Tech employee). Similar anxieties exist with the new interim, current chancellor of 2-year degrees, but her initial work suggests a listening ear and a holistic view of higher ed. 5 programs were recommended for termination, a few others around the state due to low enrollment. B. Ladner clarified that the 2-yr. free tuition bill is a last dollars in after accepting full FAFSA award and an annual drug test. The list of acceptable degrees is broader than 4-years would have hoped, given some of them are transfer degrees. However, straight transfer degrees are not included. It’s not clear that it will take that much away from 4 years schools. There was a lot of interest in the first 2 weeks. It will get students to fill out FAFSA, which might encourage students to do a 4-year degree once they see what’s available. There are some reporting things going away, less burden (on Deans, esp.) and going electronic with more user friendly interface. B. Francis asked for clarification of FAFSA. N. Zaman asked that, with ad hoc HEPC, it feels like it’s orphaned. B. Ladner says that much of the same staff is still in place and doing the work. With the Blue Ribbon Commission, there’s not too much forward-looking. There was a strong argument to the Legislature about the need for HEPC. R. Ford passed along the request from Pres. Jenkins that if anyone had information regarding the history of our 2-year degrees and the possibility of us offering such degrees, to contact the President with that information. M. Seyedmonir moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

12. **Retention Committee.** T. Ruhnke detailed the work of the committee in decisions made. All were digital portfolios except two. They are pushing for full digital so all members can access these to do the work of evaluation before the meeting. They are looking forward to comparing all faculty scores to those asking for retention will be very helpful in crafting letters for improvement. There is a multiyear calendar that J. Pietruszynski has worked on that will help. N. Zaman suggested a unified format for the digital portfolio. T. Ruhnke said using the instrument as the structure is a solution, with a page number column added to the eval. instrument. B. Ladner moved and M. Fultz seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.
13. **Promotion and Tenure.** There were 9 portfolios, including one research professor in biology. Documents came in traditional form except for one digital. All were recommended by deans, 7 by dept. chairs, and 2 were dept. chairs. The committee recommended all to be awarded tenure and/or promotion. K. Harper spoke about the ad hoc committee that determined the criteria for evaluating research appointments. This year’s committee had the draft language, and it is now in the handbook. R. Harris said that 10% raise language is something the committee couldn’t guarantee. B. Lander moved and T. Ruhnke seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

14. **Faculty Personnel.** J. Pietruszynski said that the faculty personnel committee calendar can be voted on in August, but we can vote that in today. Online evaluations are cost prohibitive according to Academic Affairs. However, we can move all evaluations online for web 30, web 80, and web 100 for no cost as a pilot. The committee also feels that classes lower than 5 should not be evaluated. The committee also feels that the chairs can make some of these calls, including the requirement to have others administer your evaluations. Lastly, they want to provide more detail in the handbook regarding faculty evaluations. Towhid asked if a student can administer the eval, sign, etc. then submit? R. Ford asked what is to be done today. B. Ladner moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to endorse the calendar. M. Fultz asked if anything had changed from the past year. J. Pietruszynski said it is all the same with the Friday date adjustments, aside from the firm March 1 date as is BOG policy. The motion carried by voice vote. B. Ladner asked about how faculty evaluations change vs. the older instrument. T. Ruhnke was also interested in the level of lower-level to upper level. R. Ford suggested the chairs collaborate on that goal. T. Ruhnke moved and F. Vaughan seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

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

16. B. Ladner moved and M. Fultz seconded to adopt the new language for the Cultural Activities Committee. B. Ladner suggested to take out at-large. T. Ruhnke suggested a revised make-up of student appointment. After some discussion, it was determined that one student would be appointed by the dean of each college and 2 appointed by the Director of Student Life. R. Ford also suggested that we have the Director of Student Life have a vote, rather than be ex-officio. **INSERT LANGUAGE FROM BARBARA’S AGENDA NOTES** T. Ruhnke moved to amend the language of the membership as discussed, and those who moved and seconded accepted. The motion carried by voice vote.

17. R. Ford expressed the opinion that the faculty ended the year positively in regards to the Cultural Activities Committee.

18. R. Ford suggested we table the dean’s veto power discussion regarding EPC forms until the fall.

19. M. Seyedmonir had R. Ford read his proposal for a technology committee. T. Ruhnke moved and F. Vaughan seconded the proposal. The motion carried by voice vote with one dissenting vote.