

**West Virginia State University**  
**Faculty Senate**  
**Minutes – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The meeting was conducted by video conference call using Zoom and in person at 103 Davis Hall.

*Attendees (in-person): M. Wilson, M. Fultz, R. Ford, T. Ruhnke, K. Steele, L. Lambert, T. Reed, E. Waugh, E. Mahmoud, L. Davidson, A. Settle, D. Williams, and B. Ladner.*

The meeting was called to order L. Davidson at 1:30 pm.

T. Reed moved to approve the agenda and seconded T.Ruhnke. Faculty voted unanimously.

J. Pietruszynski added that the Faculty Senate Minutes from February 3<sup>rd</sup> include that he will be “conveying concerns to the BOG” and to include under the Constitutional Revisions and Restructuring section “steps are involved”. The March 3<sup>rd</sup> minute edits were approved by T. Ruhnke and seconded by T. Faculty voted unanimously.

## **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Academic Affairs Report***

M. Fultz gave a report on behalf of Provost Carney’s absence. M. Fultz informed faculty that the university has 10 to 14 days to go until program review changes. M. Fultz also mentioned Cabinet Members are putting together committees for assurance agreement for reaffirmation. M. Fultz stated the Faculty Handbook still lists the Community and Technical College President, need for approval of long distance calls, and other outdated information. The documentation according to M. Fultz will be massively different in the fall 2023 semester. M. Fultz stated departments responsible will be required to update sections involving federal regulations. This documentation will also include Faculty Senate Constitution and By-laws updates. M. Fultz also said the office of Academic Affairs will be working with the Executive Committee on revising promotion and tenure. M. Fultz stated he has contacted Human Resources at similar institutions and that our adjunct pay will be increased (incrementally) to compare better with our neighboring institutions. K. Steele reported that the final increase (\$50 for the first year, \$50 for the second year). This increase of pay for adjunct instructors at WVSU will be comparable to Bridge Valley. T. Ruhnke raised the issue for critical fields, asking whether we could pay more for people who have the credentials, since tuition will cover the cost, if numbers are sufficient. M. Fultz stated those with a Ph.D. will make \$700.00 per credit hour and those with a Masters will receive \$600.00 per credit hour after both increases.

### ***BOG Report***

L. Davidson mentioned Pietruszynski has not met with the BOG since the last Senate meeting. The next BOG meeting is scheduled for April 20, and J. Pietruszynski will have a report next month.

### ***ACF Report***

B. Ladner stated the ACF has not met yet and will have a report at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

### ***EPC Report***

Terry Reed stated one Educational Policy Commission (EPC) proposal was presented to the EPC committee. This proposal was for EDUC to eliminate EDUC 436 (Capstone for Elementary Education Majors), which was no longer required. T. Ruhnke moved to approve the EPC report and M. Wilson seconded.

### ***Program Review Report***

E. Waugh discussed the Program Review Committee Report and presented recommendations from the EPC committee to Faculty Senate. E. Waugh stated MEIL does not go through the Faculty Senate process now, but instead goes to Graduate Council. Business Administration, Economics, History, and Political Science are continued at the current level. Sociology is being identified for further development. E. Waugh stated several programs required follow up with assessment (a couple were compliant). A. Settle noted that deans, chairs, and the BOG need to make all these programs accountable, and we cannot have programs not doing their assessments. T. Reed moved to approve the EPC report and T. Wilson seconded.

M. Fultz added to the Program Review report that HEPC has changed requirements, which will include offices, as well as academic programs. M. Fultz also noted that the Committee will change to reflect faculty and staff who will need to meet continuously. Each program will undergo continuous program review starting in July 2024. Debbie Williams thanked Emily and the Program Review Committee in helping programs to complete reports.

The new committee will have two prior programs review chairs and two faculty recommended by the Senate Executive Committee. In addition to this, there will be a yearly review for everyone and a five-year cycle that is more in depth.

### ***Constitution and By-Laws***

R. Ford provided the annual report to Senate. R. Ford noted Faculty Athletic Committee changes, past Senate chair as a member of the Executive Committee, and clean-up changes were reported. T. Ruhnke moved to approve, and M. Wilson seconded.

### ***Presidential Investiture***

The Presidential Investiture will be held in Ferrell Hall Auditorium on April 13, 2023, at 10:00am. L. Davidson asked all faculty to attend this event and be dressed in their regalia. L. Davidson stated details will be finalized at rehearsal on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> for the platform party.

### ***Black and Gold Gala***

L. Davidson informed faculty about the Black and Gold Gala which will be on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. L. Davidson stated if you have not gotten your tickets, they are now available for WVSU faculty at a discounted price. L. Davidson also mentioned there will be silent auctions on a chance to win trips, jewelry, fine dining, etc. and all bidding can be done online. Tickets and table numbers will have a link which will be sent out. Reception starts at 6pm and the doors open at ~7/7:15pm.

### ***Spring elections***

L. Davidson stated she will be sending out information about what Senate and Committee elections are needed. Program Review and Faculty Personnel elections are needed in the spring, so that they can be ready for when the fall 2023 semester starts. L. Davidson stated, if a chair election is needed, please let her know that you need someone to manage the election and WHEN YOUR DEPARTMENT WILL MEET.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### ***Directory***

L. Davidson stated J. Barnes-Pietruszynski is still working on the directory (available via Google Form) and it will be put in a Google Drive in a searchable Excel format.

#### ***Re-structuring of FSSC***

L. Davidson mentioned the Executive Committee has been discussing re-structuring of some committees (i.e., ones that do not meet or can be combined). If you have suggestions for committees, we need but do not have or how committees can function better, please let the Executive Committee know.

#### ***Faculty Lecture Series***

L. Davidson mentioned the two lecture series that have been scheduled for this semester. For more information, please review the email sent out by Jonathan Eya.

#### ***New Faculty Handbook Appendix***

L. Davidson stated the Faculty Handbook Appendix is under reconstruction. J. Porter and J. Pietruszynski are currently working on this, and the purpose of this document is to help new faculty know what to prepare for Retention, Promotion & Tenure, plus procedures that may be useful. J. Porter will be emailing a draft of the Appendix next week to all faculty.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***American Federation of Teachers***

L. Davidson stated the American Federation of Teachers will be on campus this month and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski will send out the date when it is set.

### ***Virtual Attendance of Faculty Senate Meetings***

L. Davidson announced J. Porter is asking all online attendees to please email her ([jasmine.porter@wvstateu.edu](mailto:jasmine.porter@wvstateu.edu)) so she can list them as attending.

### ***Celebration of Sandi Maharaj***

L. Davidson mentioned the passing of Sandi Maharaj last week. The celebration of life will be held in the Student Union at noon in room 134. Donations can be made to the Shelia Payne Foundation (Trina Sweeney's mom) at WVSU.

### ***Out of the Darkness Walk***

K. Toledo stated on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm, the Hope Walks Here Suicide Prevention Walk will be held. For additional information and to register, visit [afsp.org/wvsu](http://afsp.org/wvsu) or look for posters of this event around campus.

### ***CARES Day***

L. Davidson stated CARES Day on campus will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup>, in memory of Joe Oden.

### ***On Campus Play***

L. Davidson informed faculty about the first on-campus full student play that will be held since COVID, which also involves reviving the Skeen Theatre black box. This radio drama will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

L. Davidson motioned to adjourn. T. Ruhnke moved to adjourn, and B. Ladner seconded.

Faculty voted unanimously at 2:30 pm.