

**Minutes from the WVSU General Faculty Meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020
Wallace Hall Auditorium, 10:00 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

1. F. Vaughan moved and T. Ruhnke seconded approval of minutes from Aug. 13 and Dec. 11. The motion carried by voice vote.
2. T. Ruhnke suggested the presidential search be added to the agenda. M. Fultz moved and Z. Fitchner seconded approval of agenda with the option of sharing new, concrete information on the presidential search process if applicable. The motion carried by voice vote.
3. Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski clarified which committees were meeting on Thursday, January 9 (chairs said details would be emailed) and opened up for other chairs to call for meeting times.
4. Professor awards – M. Fultz described the genesis of a new faculty awards proposal. Last year the Academic Affairs leadership did not hand out any faculty awards. M. Fultz approached Academic Affairs about the Faculty Senate offering awards and they gave him the criteria for past award selections. He approached past award winners about serving as a committee. T. Guetzloff asked if AA actually said they relinquished this task. M. Fultz said they gave lists and criteria and were invited to each revision meeting. They never opposed any decision. B. Ladner said this was the first time she realized this was independent, to potentially replace AA awards. She feels there are many ways faculty can be rewarded. M. Fultz said that all full-time faculty are eligible, not just tenure-track faculty, a change from the AA criteria. A. Settle said that when AA awarded these they requested a portfolio once nominated, which took a lot of time. M. Fultz said it is a much smaller portfolio process, with reviewers taking a more active role (ex. sit in classes when teaching occurs). It is simplified as much as it could be. Dr. Naga suggested the name “excellent teacher” or “teacher of the year” award rather than “teaching award.” Faculty Senate only approved one trial year, with the idea of refining as we go. These awards can help faculty with annual reports, promotion and tenure, etc. It was approved by the Faculty Senate, so unless the faculty rejects this, we will move forward.
5. The American Federation of Teachers (a union many of us belong to) will be on campus for an informational meeting (date and time TBA and will be emailed), and Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski invited all to attend, hoping we can increase participation.
6. Mickey Blackwell said the state legislature is planning to flat line salaries over the next 6 years for teachers, police, etc., and has no plan to increase university budgets for an extended time. He invited we all get involved. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked for him to email the faculty with a few details.
7. T. Ruhnke asked if F. Vaughan had any new details about the Presidential search. He said no, and will invite all to attend their scheduled meetings next Thursday.
8. Aaron Settle reminded Assessment coordinators of the Jan. 31 deadline. There is a Town Hall Meeting for the HLC visit in McGhee Suites, which those people could also attend.
9. T. Ruhnke encouraged the BOG to share information with the faculty rather than keep things in rumor to encourage trust from the faculty. Is there information the BOG (via. Frank) can share

to alleviate fears that all the work for the search will be done between now and August? (He has been on a past search and knows how much work has to be done.). T. Guetzloff said that they cannot vote in executive session. F. Vaughan said that they cannot discuss what happens in executive session. A faculty member said that there is routine maintenance that is not happening for months and months (ex. toilets, toilet paper).

11. R. Ford asked if there was anything from the Athletic Committee. R. Ford said that President Jenkins verbally said it would be the same members this year as last year. A. Settle never received an appointment letter for this year. T. Ruhnke asked for the NCAA's policy about having this committee within academic affairs or more independent from that. If this was within senate, it would be fully staffed and be making reports. A. Settle said that if it was within Academic Affairs, we'd have to look into voting membership, etc. for the Athletic Director and other non-faculty members who are central to its work. More active, consistent oversight would help this work. Should we be trying to figure out a better way?

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.