

Minutes  
Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
Monday, August 22, 2016

1. Chair Lena Maynor called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Bluestone Room of the Mountainlair.

Members Present:

Cottrell, L.	Haines, K.	Kleist, V.	Stolzenberg, A.
DiBartolomeo, L.	Hauser, D.	Maynor, L.	Turton, R.
Elmore, S.	Hileman, S.	Merrifield, J.	Valenti, M.
Fint-Clark, R.	Ibrahim, M.	Nutter, R.	Veselicky, L.
Gee, E.			

Members Absent:

McConnell, J.

Guests:

Campbell, J.	Dean, R.	Proudfoot, C.	Stump, J.
Clark, N.	Molenda, J.	Richmond, T.	Wilson, C.
Day-Perroots, S.	Pfeifer, A.		

2. Chair Maynor moved for approval of the minutes from the May 23, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.
3. President E. Gordon Gee reported the following:
  - We experienced a 31% increase in applications for admission, one of the largest increases in the country at the undergraduate level. The freshman class size is estimated to be 5200-5300 students, representing the largest and best academically prepared class in the history of the University.
  - Our graduate and professional schools are also experiencing an increase in applications. For example, the School of Medicine has over 5000 applications for 110 places.
  - We have done a very credible job of retaining our faculty. Newly hired faculty seem to be coming in with substantial levels of enthusiasm for the institution.
  - We made a fundamental shift in implementing a cultural change for our entry-level students this year. We extended the time between move-in to the start of classes from 3 to 5 days. Every student participated in either an adventure life program or a service project to acclimate them to campus. We limited them from joining anything other than joining the University; for example, fraternity and sorority recruitment has moved to the second semester.
  - Bob Bastress wrote a wonderful commentary in the Dominion Post. He tied the work of the faculty to the land grant mission, which President Gee thinks was a very powerful statement.
4. Vice Provost Russ Dean reported the following:
  - One reason for the increase in applications for admission last year is likely our moving to the Common Application. Institutions that adopt the Common Application generally see an increase in the number of applications received, but a decrease in the yield rate. The overall number of admissions tends to increase, however. That is exactly what we experienced.

- Stephen Lee, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, has placed a greater emphasis on following up with applicants this year, including those who started, but did not finish an application, as well as those who completed an application and were offered admission.
- The freshman class size is estimated to have increased by 400 students, to about 5200-5300 total students. The average ACT score for last year's class was 24.0; this year's average appears to be 24.1-24.2. Average ACT scores have been gradually increasing; eleven years ago, the average ACT score was about 22.
- The preliminary retention rate from last year to this year is 80%.
- About 900 students were admitted to the Honors College, which is an increase of about 100 students over last year.
- We have exceeded our expectations for invoice values by approximately \$700,000. The overall headcount for the institution appears to be up by about 112.
- WVU-Tech has just under 200 students enrolled in Beckley, which exceeds our goal of 150 students. WVU-Tech is up about 44 students overall.
- First year enrollment at Potomac State College also appears to have increased.
- Welcome Week went very well. There were a lot more activities available for students this year.
- There will be a new office for international students housed in Purinton House, and led by William Brustein, Vice President for Global Strategies and International Affairs. More public announcements will be provided about the mergers that occurred to pull that office together. Dr. Brustein will begin his new position on August 31, 2016.
- A public announcement will be forthcoming about changes that are occurring in the Undergraduate Education office. The provost will be making a detailed presentation at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- There will be a budget reduction this fiscal year from central administration to the units. Units will also be asked to reduce spending in non-central accounts to improve cash flow. Starting next fiscal year, we will be back in the black and accumulating some cash.

5. Chair Lena Maynor reported the following:

- Proposed changes to the faculty constitution will be presented to the faculty assembly at the October meeting.
- Implementation of the General Education Foundation curriculum continues.
- The transition to a fully electronic SEI is still ongoing. The Teaching and Assessment Committee will be identifying issues that need to be improved.
- An ad hoc committee is considering revisions to the proposed attendance policy that was presented to the Faculty Senate in June.
- The 2016-2017 academic calendar approved by the Senate in June 2015 had December commencement incorrectly listed as Saturday, December 17. The correct date is Friday, December 16, 2016. The December 16 date has been posted on WVU's web site and publicized elsewhere.
- Tom Patrick was appointed to the ombudsman position. The best way to contact him is to email him at his University account.
- C.B. Wilson needs at least 5 faculty volunteers for the University promotion and tenure committee. One of those volunteers needs to be from WVU-Tech to serve as a representative for both divisional campuses. Anyone who is applying for promotion or tenure this year, or who is serving on their department or college promotion and tenure committee, is not eligible to serve on the University committee.

6. Karen Haines, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee, moved for acceptance of the following report:

Annex I, 2015-16 Committee Report and 2016-17 Goals. Accepted.

7. Lisa DiBartolomeo, Chair, General Education Foundations Committee, reported that she has been meeting with Lou Slimak, Director of Academic Excellence and Assessment, about clarifying LEAP language versus GEF learning goals. He will attend the committee's first meeting on August 29.
8. C.B. Wilson, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, presented Annex II, Alternate Pathways to Promotion and Tenure. This draft document was generated by the Faculty Incentives and Rewards Working Group. After the document is presented to the Faculty Senate, a series of campus-wide hearings will take place during the fall semester. The Working Group will then reconvene to review feedback and decide on next steps.
9. Linda Blake, University Librarian, talked about the Open Access Author Fund. \$30,000 is available in this pilot project to fund applications for publication of an article in a fully open access journal. Applications will be screened by a librarian, then reviewed by the OAAF (Open Access Author Fund) committee for a funding decision. Maximum awards can total \$1000 per article from the Health Sciences Center and \$2000 for all others. The pilot project will run through June 2017. Additional information is available on the Libraries' web site at <https://news.lib.wvu.edu/2016/08/23/open-access-author-fund-supports-researchers/>.
10. Taylor Richmond presented an overview of the harmonization project. The purpose of harmonization is to allow the use of common tools and techniques, including DegreeWorks, across all campuses and to re-examine learning outcomes and course content among all of our shared courses. The Office of the University Registrar identified 673 courses with shared course codes and numbers. Courses are defined as comparable (or "in harmony") when 70% of the learning objectives are in alignment. For those courses that did not meet the 70% threshold, faculty and administrators across all three campuses collaborated to address differences in course content. As a result of these efforts, four lists will be provided to the Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee: a) courses that are above the 70% threshold for alignment of learning outcomes, b) courses requested to be removed from the various campuses, c) course alterations that have resulted from collaborative discussions across campuses, and d) proposed course numbers where new courses are necessary.
11. Roy Nutter, ACF Representative, reported the following:
  - The general feeling is that nothing will happen with higher education initiatives until after the November election.
  - The floods caused serious damage to some K-12 schools. Up to ninety percent of the rebuilding costs for older schools can be provided by FEMA funding.
  - There will be a special legislative session in September to address flood damage.
  - The regular legislative session will run from February 15 to April 18, 2017, which will be later than normal due to the election and inauguration of a new governor.
  - Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, indicated that the osteopathic school's leaving the system will not likely be a topic in the next session, as "the complexities of property will impede and slow the process."

- Questions have been raised about whether there is enough institutional control for Regents Bachelor of Arts and Board of Governors degrees.
  - Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education, shared her belief that community colleges are a pathway out of poverty.
  - Chancellor Tucker and Paul Hill, Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), both indicated that any student who cannot afford to go to school should contact his or her Chancellor's office.
  - Chancellor Hill reported that dedicated revenue streams to higher education are still an option, such as an increased pop tax or a tax on other drinks.
  - Dr. Nutter distributed "2016-17 West Virginia Faculty Issues." He moved to place this document on the September 12, 2016 Faculty Senate meeting agenda. The motion was duly seconded. Motion carried.
12. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported that the Board of Governors will meet on September 8-9, 2016.
13. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, September 26, 2016.

Judy Hamilton  
Office Administrator