

Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Monday, August 28, 2017

1. Chair Matthew Valenti called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in the Bluestone Room of the Mountainlair.

Members Present:

Atkins, C.	Hileman, S.	Murphy, E.	Turton, R.
Cottrell, L.	Kleist, V.	Nutter, R.	Utzman, R.
DiBartolomeo, L.	Maynor, L.	Proudfoot, C.	Valenti, M.
Gee, E.	McConnell, J.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	Veselicky, L.
Hauser, D.	Merrifield, J.		

Members Absent:

none

Guests:

Campbell, J.	Kreider, P.	Pfeifer, A.	Wilson, C.
Clark, N.			

2. Chair Valenti moved for approval of the minutes from the May 22, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.
3. President E. Gordon Gee reported the following:
 - This year's freshman class is the largest, best academically prepared class in the history of the University. Our retention rates are also improving.
 - He will attend the West Virginia Chamber's Business Summit at the Greenbrier on August 31, which is an annual gathering of business, corporate, and government leaders. He will present the opportunities and investment strategies identified by McKinsey & Company in the study they conducted for WVU. He expects our recommendations to result in legislative proposals.
 - He believes that issues regarding race, ethnicity, and monuments will be prevalent on university campuses, and that the preservation of free speech in a time of turmoil is immensely important.
4. Provost Joyce McConnell reported the following:
 - We responded quickly to the events in Charlottesville. She believes everyone has done an amazing job in being proactive, and in maintaining a positive mindset for themselves and our students. She commended the History Department for the panel they put together to discuss the significance of monuments as speech, art, and history, and for providing the appropriate context for critiquing arguments being made around Confederate monuments.
 - She recognized the Physics Department for distributing 30,000 pairs of glasses statewide so that children who would not otherwise have been able to view the eclipse were able to do so.

- She is in the process of putting together a task force to plan for speakers or events on campus that may challenge our values of tolerance, inclusion, and safety. In the meantime, Chief Roberts is working with deans to examine emergency plans for buildings. Jen Fisher, the Executive Officer in the president's office, has also been engaged in campus mobilization around other kinds of crises. We are trying to pool this expertise so that we have people in place who have shared information and have a plan for dealing with a potential crisis.
- As a result of the state not submitting audit statements on time for three years in a row, we have been penalized by the U.S. Department of Education. We have been able to clarify what those penalties are following conversations with DOE representatives and with legal counsel that has expertise in this area. On the financial side, have confirmed that the actions we need to take will not result in any damage to our institution or to our students. We will also need to go through DOE for approval of new academic programs. The approval process for programs is very straightforward and takes about 60 days. Our timeline for approving programs will need to be adjusted accordingly. We are working to get clarification on how the DOE defines programs.
- To replace HEPC policies, our Board of Governors has to go through a process of formally adopting its own rules. Human Resources rules will go before the BOG on September 8. C.B. Wilson has been working with a group of people over the summer to develop a broad framework for addressing faculty policies. The group included Louise Veselicky, Melissa Latimer, Chris Staples, and Provost McConnell. Our goal is to make the fewest number of changes possible in order to replace HEPC policies with BOG rules. Major changes or controversial items will be flagged for future consideration. In addition, we want to change from detailed policy statements to more general statements of intent and purpose, resulting in broader guidelines for policy that can be changed more easily. The process going forward will include putting together one team to address faculty rules and a second team to address academic rules, holding campus conversations, presenting the proposed changes to Faculty Senate, providing a formal notice and comment period, and submitting the rules to the BOG for formal adoption. We expect to complete the process by the end of the academic year.
- The Higher Learning Commission accreditation site visit is scheduled for March 5-6, 2018. The HLC is taking a more critical look at its policy on faculty credentialing. We will need to provide supporting files to the HLC to demonstrate that we have a process in place and that we have appropriate credentialing.
- She thanked John Campbell for leading the search for our new CIO. Barb Dawson is now on board in that position
- Karen Diaz is off to a great start as the Interim Dean for Libraries.
- We created a center for the humanities and appointed Ryan Claycomb to serve as the interim director. We will conduct a search for a permanent director.
- The BOG took very seriously the presentation by Richard Turton and Stan Hileman on faculty salaries. We will form a committee this year to continue to work on faculty salaries. As the result of a test conducted in one department last year, we have come up with an algorithm that we think we can use. A compensation analyst from HR has also been assigned to help us determine how to move forward.

5. Chair Matthew Valenti reported the following:

- Two Executive Committee meetings per semester will be held in the dean's conference room at the new Agricultural Sciences Building, to include the September, November, February, and April meetings.
 - The September 11 Faculty Senate meeting will include the annual meeting of the University Assembly and the President's State of the University address.
 - Agenda items for the Executive Committee meeting should be submitted twelve calendar days before the meeting.
 - There is a revision underway for the faculty handbook, which was distributed to some members of the Executive Committee at the end of last year. Please let one of those people know if you have comments.
 - Nigel Clark has asked that, where any doubt might exist, motions to the Faculty Senate specify the campuses and constituencies to which they apply.
 - He and Roy Nutter are advisors to the WVU amateur radio club. The club is one of eleven teams worldwide selected to talk with the international space station using their amateur radio equipment. The club will establish the radio link and middle school students will ask the questions. We are using this as a way to promote STEM to the over 100 middle schoolers who will be visiting campus for this event. We will receive only about one week advance notice, so the date has not yet been established. The club will transmit from the Advanced Engineering Research Building.
 - On June 29, the BOG passed the current University budget, which included a new \$300 international student fee. The fee is an unexpected hardship from students coming from low income parts of the world. On July 20, the Office of Global Affairs hosted an open forum to discuss this issue. At the meeting, they proposed a one year delay in implementation. Once implemented, the fee will be waived as part of the tuition waiver for graduates students on assistantships. How fees will be handled for self-funded graduate students or graduate students receiving fellowships from an outside source is yet to be determined.
 - Following the HEPC meeting on August 11, he participated in a BOG summit. Topics included the heightened cash monitoring situation and featured a workshop conducted by Tom Meredith, who has served as chancellor for 3 state systems.
 - He met with Joyce McConnell and John Campbell to discuss goals for the year. The main business item will be replacement of HEPC policies. Other items involve completing initiatives started last year, including the attendance policy, developing an implementation plan for incorporating plus/minus grades into the GPA, promoting job security for teaching faculty, and faculty oversight of graduate programs.
 - He is starting to line up speakers for this year's Faculty Senate meetings. Please let him know if you have any suggestions.
6. Ralph Utzman, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee, moved for acceptance of the following reports:
- Annex I, 2016-17 Committee Report and 2017-18 Goals. Accepted.
7. Nathalie Singh-Corcoran, Chair, General Education Foundations Committee, reported that the committee met on August 21. The meeting was largely devoted to an assessment report submitted by Lou Slimak. The report suggested that we do not cover all of the LEAP

learning outcomes in the current GEF course offerings. The committee will need to determine how to remedy that situation.

8. Nominations to the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Panel – appointment of members was deferred until the September meeting.
9. Lena Maynor reported that she received a request late in the spring to open eCampus seven days before the start of the semester. In turn, several people raised the concern that this would require faculty members to interact with students prior to the start date for annual faculty contracts. It is her understanding that there would be interface issues with BANNER if there is not an all or nothing switchover, meaning that dates for opening eCampus cannot be tailored to individual instructors.

After a lengthy discussion, the committee recommended opening eCampus three calendar days before the start of classes. Dr. Maynor will follow up with ITS and the eCampus advisory group.

10. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, reported that the August HEPC meeting included a report on the probation status of Alderson Broaddus University. At the ACF meeting, Vice Chancellor Corley Dennison indicated that he intends to contact the provost about the civility commission, which will be concerned with bullying and harassment.

Dr. Nutter circulated a document entitled 2017-18 WV Higher Education Faculty Issues. The committee deferred consideration of the document until the September meeting.

11. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported that the Board of Governors continues to work closely with Rob Alsop and Stephanie Taylor to reinvent rules. Matthew Valenti is the new Faculty Representative and Blake Humphrey is the new student representative to the Board of Governors. In addition, the governor appointed Tim Bailey and Elmer Coppoolse as new BOG members. Bill Wilmoth is now serving as the BOG Chairman, with David Alvarez serving as Vice-Chairman.
12. New Business – C.B. Wilson presented a broad summary of the BOG Policies which will become eight new BOG Rules. His committee also shared this information at the chairs symposium and deans council meeting. The information he presented is in draft form, since there has been no faculty input as of yet.

13. The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, September 25, 2017.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator