

Minutes  
West Virginia University Faculty Senate  
Monday, February 8, 2021

1. Nathalie Singh-Corcoran, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. The Senate met by videoconference.

Members Present:

Anderson, K.	Crichlow, S.	Goodykoontz, E.	Martucci, A.	Scaife, B.
Angeline, M.	Cronin, A.	Graziani, G.	McCombie, R.	Schaefer, G.
Arthurs, J.	Cui, A.	Gross, J.	McCroy, J.	Schimmel, C.
Bastress, R.	Davari, A.	Grushecky, S.	McCusker, B.	Sealey, V.
Benedito, V.	DiBartolomeo, L.	Hamrick, A.	Miltenberger, M.	Singh-Corcoran, N.
Bernardes, E.	Dilcher, B.	Hardy, S.	Morris, T.	Soccorsi, A.
Bernstein, M.	Donley, D.	Harmon, I.	Mucino, V.	Steele, J.
Bhandari, R.	Dotson, S.	Hatipoglu, K.	Murphy, E.	Swager, L.
Billings, H.	Downes, M.	Hauser, D.	Myers, S.	Tack, F.
Bragg, R.	Eades, D.	Hessl, A.	Nix, A.	ter Haseborg, H.
Bravo, G.	Elliott, E.	Hibbert, A.	Nutter, R.	Toppe, M.
Bresock, K.	Ellison, M.	Hileman, S.	Ogden, L.	Tu, S.
Bryner, R.	Elswick, D.	Hodge, J.	Olfert, M.	Valentine, K.
Burnside, J.	Eubank, T.	Hudgins, C.	Olson, K.	Vanderhoff, J.
Butina, M.	Evans, J.	Jaczynski, J.	Orr, E.	Vercelli, M.
Casey, R.	Evans, K.	John, C.	Peckens, S.	Watson, J.
Celikbas, E.	Famouri, P.	Kelly, K.	Perhinschi, M.	Wayne, S.
Chantler, P.	Feaster, K.	Kitchen, S.	Petrone, A.	Welsh, A.
Chisholm, S.	Fleming, S.	Kupec, J.	Phillips, T.	Willard, M.
Clemmer, M.	Funk, A.	Law, K.	Rakes, P.	Woloshuk, J.
Cohen, S.	Galvan-Turner, V.	Leary, M.	Rice, T.	Woods, S.
Corio, E.	Galvez, M.	Li, H.	Sabolsky, E.	Young, S.
Costas, M.	Germana, M.	Mallow, J.	Samuels, H.	Zegre, N.
Cottrell, L.	Gilleland, D.	Marra, A.	Sand-Jecklin, K.	

Members Excused:

Bonner, D.	Honaker, L.	Reddy, R.	Ryan, E.	Williams, D.
Burt, A.	Momen, J.	Rogers, T.	Sims, J.	

Members Absent:

Davis, D.	Holbein, M.	Klein, A.	Nguyen, Y.	Sedney, C.
Fullen, M.	Hornsby, G.	McGinnis, R.	Reece, R.	Shrader, C.
Geldenhuis, W.	Hutson, Z.	Morgan, J.	Renzelli-Cain, R.	Squire, D.

Faculty Senate Officers Present:

Hauser, D.	Hileman, S.	Martucci, A.	Nutter, R.	Singh-Corcoran, N.
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2. Chair Singh-Corcoran presented for approval the minutes from the Monday, January 11, 2021 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
3. President Gordon Gee offered the following suggestions for us to think about when planning for a post-COVID world:

- We must reaffirm and reframe the governance of our university for efficiency and agility. Our faculty governance must be reviewed as to how we can improve structure and function. Part of the shared responsibility of faculty is to streamline committee structures and policies.
- We need to rethink our financial model to support what is essential to the university and to determine how we can create new sources of revenue.
- We must articulate our university's value to the public.
- Our university must accelerate toward opportunity.
- Higher education institutions are very vulnerable. The resilient research university will become a bustling town square, a gathering place for teachers and learners, scientists and innovators, accessible through multiple physical and virtual gateways.

4. Provost Maryanne Reed reported the following:

- In case of inclement weather, we will automatically switch to online or remote instruction so as not to lose any more days of instruction. Because we lost a half day on January 20, we revised the academic calendar so that May 3, which was a finals prep day, is now another day of instruction. That is because of HLC and Department of Education requirements.
- Our COVID positivity rate has hovered around 2% for students and under 1% for faculty. On the Morgantown campus we tested over 20,000 students, faculty, and staff prior to the start of the semester. We are currently engaged in sample testing at least 1000 students on a weekly basis with a mix of PCR and antigen tests.
- We began vaccinating faculty and staff at the end of December. As of February 5, we have delivered first doses to 830 employees and second doses to 240 employees, as well as 697 doses to HSC students who are working directly with patients in clinical rotations. We have had a limited supply, although HEPC has increased its supply to us for this month to about 1500 doses. The plan is to deliver the first dose of the vaccine by the end of February to everyone 50 years or older who took the survey indicating that they wanted to be vaccinated. That would lead to second shots being delivered by March 26. At about that time, we will be finishing up our vaccinations. By the end of March, the State wants all vaccines to be delivered through large community sites which is why we asked everyone to also sign up through the new system.
- The research office announced that clinical trials, enrollment in trials, and human subject research are allowed to resume in person with COVID safety protocols in place.
- We will be launching our new Maymester at the end of the spring semester, which is a three-week accelerated part of term that is similar to winter intercession. Because we are not sure what the COVID situation will look like, the Maymester will be delivered completely online. We had a 33% increase from last year in the percentage of students enrolled in winter intercession, so we think Maymester may be equally popular.
- Many academic units in addition to extension have camps over the summer. We are working with our healthcare experts and our academic leaders to determine which camps will be able to take place this summer, and in what capacity. A group comprised of faculty and key staff is meeting this week to model what the guidelines and protocols may look like. She hopes to have a decision about summer camps by mid-March.
- Amelia Rinehart has been appointed dean of the College of Law. She comes to us from the University of Utah College of Law. She has a background as an engineer, as well as a patent

lawyer, and we think that she can contribute to our efforts in entrepreneurship and startups. She will be joining WVU on July 1.

- She provided an update on academic transformation. Her office will soon be announcing the membership of an advisory committee comprised primarily of faculty recommended or nominated by Nathalie Singh-Corcoran and Ashley Martucci, who will be chairing the committee. That group will be reviewing the data and analysis that the Office of the Provost will be generating, along with data provided by external sources, including the EAB, and they will be providing constructive feedback that will help to shape our findings and recommendations. They will be meeting twice a month with EAB analyst David Attis. Three other committees will also be addressing issues of academic transformation and those groups will include faculty. One is the student success committee, led by Evan Widders, that is going to look at both short-term and long-range plans to increase our student retention or persistence and our completion rates. There is a faculty rewards and recognition committee comprised almost entirely of faculty that is led by Presha Neidermeyer and a graduate education task force led by Richard Thomas that will be looking at doctoral programs. The goal is to present a first set of recommendations to the Board of Governors in June.
5. Karen Diaz, Dean of Libraries, discussed the WVU Libraries' Licensing Principles for Vendors. A motion was made and duly seconded that the WVU Faculty Senate endorse the Library Licensing Principles for Vendors and express its support for the efforts of the WVU Libraries to enhance faculty research, teaching, and service. Motion carried by a vote of 88-0.
  6. Faculty Senate Chair Nathalie Singh-Corcoran reported the following:
    - The classroom engagement panel that took place on January 12 was well attended. A second installment, focused on online courses, is being planned for before the midterm.
    - Faculty health and wellbeing continue to be a major concern. She expressed her appreciation to the provost's office for finding ways to support faculty, especially via mental health webinars and workshops. She has been meeting with campus mental health experts, as have Ashley Martucci and Emily Murphy, to determine what other kind of support we can provide and how we can continue to focus on faculty mental health concerns post-COVID.
    - Thanks to Ian Harmon and Emily Fidelman from the Libraries, with help from University Relations, more easily navigable COVID-19 web pages should be up soon.
    - Senate leadership and members of the Office of the Provost will be holding monthly lunchtime meetings with Senate committee chairs. The first one-time meeting was February 1 with the chairs of the Curriculum Committee and TACO and the next meeting is February 15 with Inclusion and Diversity.
  7. Jen Steele, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, presented the following reports for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 90-0.
    - Annex I, New Courses Report.
    - Annex II, Course Changes Report.
  8. Lisa Di Bartolomeo, Chair of the General Education Foundations Committee, reported that the committee met on February 1, 2021. They discussed plans for how to assess areas 4 through 7 and will be working on developing some sharper student learning outcomes for those areas.

9. Michael Germana, Chair of the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies, presented the following report for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 86-0.

Annex III, Committee Appointments.

10. Jessica Vanderhoff, Chair of the Teaching and Assessment Committee, presented Annex IV, which provides a summary of a discussion that was held at the January 7 meeting of TACO regarding a motion to request that the open-ended comments questions on the eSEIs be made optional for faculty members. That motion was voted down at the most recent Executive Committee, and TACO was charged with discussing other alternatives to the open-ended comments questions, as well as revisiting the complaint workflow for inappropriate student feedback to make that workflow more comprehensive.
11. Scott Crichlow, Chair of the Shared Governance Committee, reported that the committee is working on three different projects. One is the creation of a more detailed comparison of where WVU stacks up with other universities in terms of shared governance in various areas. They also working on a basic best practices document. And they are going to be working with administration to sort out what changes would have to take place if the faculty was given more authority over the university's curriculum.
12. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, reported on the most recent ACF meeting. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, gave a legislative report. In all likelihood, there will not be any significant higher education bills this year. The legislature is interested in exerting more control over K-12 education, which may impact teacher education and teacher pay versus performance. Tax reform initiatives include a push in the Senate to eliminate the state income tax. House and Senate sessions will be streamed. Committees will hold virtual meetings. The number of FAFSA applications and PROMISE applications are down substantially compared to last year, causing concern about fall 2021 enrollment.
13. Board of Governors – no report.
14. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, March 8, 2021.

Judy Hamilton  
Office Administrator