MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024, 3:15 P.M.

Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack brought the monthly meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. Members and guests participated in person at the College of Law and by videoconference.

Members Present:

Abraham, J.	Demarco, F.	Hileman, S.	Milans, K.	Stueckle, J.
Adkins, B.	Di Bartolomeo, L.	Huber, S.	Miltenberger, M.	Swager, L.
Angeline, M.	Dickman, B.	Jaynes, M.	Murphy, E.	Tack, F.
Ballard, D.	Dietz, P.	Johnson, D.	Nguyen, J.	Terry, D.
Barnes, E.	Dilcher, B.	Kale, U.	Nix, A.	Thomay, A.
Beall, A.	Eades, D.	Kelly, C.	O'Quinn, J.	Titolo, M.
Beall, A.	Elliott, E.	Kent, A.	Palmer, A.	Totzkay, D.
Bhandari, R.	Elswick, D.	Kidd, K.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Trickett-Shockey, C.
Bianco, C.	Emerling, D.	Knuckles, T.	Phillips, T.	Unger, K.
Bolyard, J.	Emerling, D.	Labus, A.	Prinzo, L.	Valenti, M.
Bruyaka, O.	Fidelman, E.	LaRue, R.	Pyles, L.	Vance, B.
Bryner, R.	Field, J.	Lastinger, A.	Rinehart, L.	Watson, K.
Burt, A.	Fullen, M.	Leary, B.	Roberts, D.	Wayne, S.
Casey, R.	Galvez Peralta, M.	Li, H.	Rota, C.	Weislogel, A.
Celikbas, E.	Gosden Kitchen, S.	Liller, B.	Ruseski, J.	Woloshuk, J.
Chapman, K.	Graves, C.	Livengood, H.	Scaife, B.	Woodberry, K.
Cohen, S.	Gross, J.	Lucci, S.	Scally, J.	Woods, S.
Cook, A.	Haddox, J.	Lupo, J.	Siekmeier, J.	Wuest, T.
Corcoran, K.	Hamrick, A.	Martin, J.	Sizemore, J.	Zeni, T.
Cottrell, L.	Hanif, A.	Martin, E.	Smith, D.	
Crichlow, S.	Hatipoglu, K.	M'Bayo, T.	Sofka, S.	
Dahle, G.	Hauser, D.	Mccluskey, C.	Sowards, A.	
Davis, D.	Hedrick, J.	McGinnis, R.	Staniscia, S.	

Members Excused:

Dumitrescu, C.	Li, B.	Sherlock, L.	Vester, M.
Feaster, K.	Reece, J.	Szklarz, G.	Waggy, C.

Members Absent:

Bardes, J.	Dey, K.	Faber, T.	Murray, A.	Stephan, K.
Barghouthi, N.	Dimachkie, Z.	Floyd, K.	Nolan, K.	Vaddamani, V.
Battistella, L.	Dionne, C.	Hines, S.	Olgers, F.	
Bogdansky, K.	Donley, D.	Kearns, J.	Renzelli-Cain, R.	
Carducci, H.	Duenas, O.	Komisaruk, A.	Sims, J.	
Descoteaux, J.	Ellis, E.	Malarcher, J.	Sokos, G.	

1. For Approval – Minutes of the January 8, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting.
   Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent.

2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack

   a. The Board of Governors ad hoc presidential committee has begun meeting and intends to have information available for release in late spring. The next meeting is February 15.

   b. Scott Wayne will be reporting from Shared Governance at each Faculty Senate meeting this spring, with updates from the presidential search subcommittee expected.

c. University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Panel members will include Thomas Bias, Sheryl Chisholm, Mark Fullen, Stefanie Hines, Margaret Jaynes, Christopher Lituma, Kryzsztof Ciesielski, Cortney Menchini, Margaret Miltenberger, Scott Myers, Angela Peterson, Cindy Trickett Shockey, Lori Sherlock, David Smith, Kerri Woodberry, and Tom Zeni.

d. An Executive Committee workgroup has begun working on a draft revision of the proposed University Procedures document that failed to gain approval in Senate last year. That initial draft will be forwarded to the Faculty Welfare Committee for further work and feedback later this spring, with an ideal timeline of voting on a final document at Faculty Senate in spring 2025.

e. Senate leadership has begun an initial review of the Faculty Constitution for updates and revisions based on experiences from the past few years in what will be a four-step process. A subcommittee of the Executive Committee has begun work on an initial draft, which will then be sent to Shared Governance for review, feedback, and establishing a timeline, before eventually seeking broader faculty feedback for further refinement. This will also hopefully be brought to a vote next spring.

f. Board Chair Willis Miller and Tack heard the results of non-academic program reviews from 26 departments. These results will be presented to the Executive Committee in February and will be shown at the March 4 Faculty Senate meeting.

Tack recognizes SGA representative Garrett Oursler.

g. The Student Government Association will hold a roundtable discussion event on February 19 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. This event has been created as a way for leaders in student government, Senate, Staff Council, and Graduate Council to engage on a variety of institutional topics.

3. Curriculum Committee Report (Cindi Trickett Shockey)
   For Approval – Program Change CAPS_BS Coaching and Performance Sciences, Key: 462
   For Approval – Program Change WT_CRIM_JUS Criminal Justice, Key: 811
   For Approval – Program Change WT_HLTH_SRV Healthcare Administration, Key: 806
   For Approval – Program Change WT_PSYCH Psychology, Key: 803
   For Approval – Program Change SAM_BSJ Sports and Adventure Media Key: 849
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD – Environmental Microbiology, Key: 1545
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD – Respiratory Therapy, Key: 1479
   For Approval – New Course Report – Annex I
   For Approval – Course Change Report – Annex II

   a. Most program changes are resulting from Academic Transformation
   b. 24 new courses and 53 course changes reviewed.
   Motion to approve all items. Seconded.
   Motion carried by unanimous vote.

   For Information – Deleted Course Report – Annex III

4. General Education Foundations Committee Chair Mary Beth Angeline had no report.

5. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Marina Galvez Peralta)
   Student Perception of Teaching Instrument – Slides - PDF

a. Decision to remove evaluation from the name, as students do not have the experience needed to evaluate instructors.
b. Answer scaling is different, with students being asked about how beneficial certain aspects of the class were and answering if it was beneficial, neutral, or not helpful.
c. Instrument divided into four categories to provide varied, beneficial feedback to the instructor from different aspects of the class.
d. Elective questions may be used, and responses may need to be modified to instead ask the student to agree or disagree.
e. When the University of Oregon shifted from a 5-category response to a similar three categories, the rate of personal comments in feedback dropped from 21% to 1.5%.
f. The university framework and use of course feedback will need to change, as the numerical rating of courses will no longer be applicable. Examples and guidelines will be posted on the TACo website.

Member: Are there questions specific to online teaching, or engaging students specific to online teaching?

Galvez: This is the reason we are having these sessions, receiving this kind of feedback. I'll reach out to you after the meeting to discuss these types of questions further.

Member: The presentation you showed did not display the number of responses. How are you showing or accounting for the students that did not respond?

Galvez: We understand and have discussed this, and it is a challenge we are facing, as obviously you want the feedback to be representative of the whole. When you see the percentages, you will be able to see how many students out of the total class enrollment responded.

Member: Some of the mandatory questions may need a response of NA, not applicable. If students don't see that, they may default to a neutral response.

Galvez: I can take this back to TACO for us to discuss further and will report back.

Member: When guiding the students by saying that the response is anonymous, but if they say something that is a personal attack it is not. How would students not assume that it isn't anonymous at all?

Galvez: The student integrity office, through a process that I do not know, is able to analyze the feedback and reach out to the student regarding any personal attacks. I understand that it needs to be fair – if you have suggestions on our approach, we are open to feedback.

Member: I think we just need to be careful about the wording.

Member: Is student evaluation required through state code or other requirements/

Slimak: It is a HLC requirement for us to collect broad student feedback, though it is vague on how we are required to accomplish that. It is in our BOG code that we need to collect that student feedback.

Member: I want to reiterate the need for a NA box, as in some courses class discussion isn't a practical element to include. I'm also concerned on it students would need to complete

multiple surveys for courses where multiple faculty may be lecturing at different points of the semester.

Galvez: My understanding is that for courses with different faculty, we will have the flexibility of having multiple instructors in the survey so that it all comes together logically.

Member: Are these questions pre-scripted? Can faculty create custom questions?

Galvez: The challenge is that, allowing custom questions may open the door for student interpretations that aren't what was intended by the instructor, or may create leading questions.

Member: (Agreeing) My concern is that faculty can write custom questions to attempt to influence the narrative. I don't think we should have that ability unless there is some form of quality insurance.

Tack: You will be reporting on the pilot data next month, correct?

Galvez: Yes, we will be reporting on data next month. We are also asking for feedback on how faculty feel about the new instrument. One of the biggest challenges we are having is student participation.

6. Committee on Committees Chair Lesley Cottrell had no report.

7. Shared Governance Committee Report (Scott Wayne)
   a. Three primary activities:
      a. Presidential Search Subcommittee – Led by Stan Hileman
         i. Developing a list of qualifications that faculty would like to see in any potential presidential candidates.
         ii. Currently developing a preliminary list of questions from faculty that candidates would be asked to answer.
         iii. Determining rationale for how faculty will be selected and represented on the search committee.
      b. Revising the Faculty Constitution
         i. Originally established a workgroup within the committee before the decision to move that work to the Executive Committee, which will then move to the Shared Governance Committee once a draft has been completed.
      c. College Shared Governance Workgroup – Led by Emily Murphy
         i. Chaired by Emily Murphy, this group is tasked with improving shared governance at the college level. We are currently uncertain what those recommendations will look like.

8. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Eloise Elliott) deferred report until after Travis Mollohan has presented. Elliott noted that SB 269 passed on Friday, so drug test strips are no longer considered drug paraphernalia.
9. Board of Governors Representative Stan Hileman no report.

10. Report from President E. Gordon Gee
   a. WV Day at the capital was well represented by WVU faculty, staff, and students.
   b. Note of appreciation to Travis Mollohan for his work in Charleston and with the legislature.
   c. Working to implement policies regarding the Campus Carry legislation that passed last year. Travis Mollohan is chairing the campus safety subcommittee charged with that process.
   d. WVU certified as a pollinator friendly institution, thanks to efforts from the Office of Sustainability and students.
   e. FAFSA issues persist, originating with the federal financial aid office. We may not know what our enrollment may look like until some of those financial aid-related issues are resolved.

11. Report from Provost Maryanne Reed
   a. Beginning July 1st, the College of Creative Arts and Media will be established with Keith Jackson serving as dean of the new college for two years. The College of Media will become the School of Media and Communications. Diana Martinelli will serve as school director and vice dean of the new college for one year to help with the transition.
   b. The Division for Land-Grant Engagement will be established on July 1, 2024. Davis will remain a college with a name change to the Davis College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Jorge Atiles will serve as Associate Vice President for Land Grant Engagement, and as Dean of the WVU Extension and Davis College.
      a. Paul Kreider is overseeing the above mergers.
   c. Potomac State President Gilmer has announced that he is stepping down as president on March 15, which was entirely his own decision.
   d. Faculty and leadership at both regional campuses have asked for a delay in the program portfolio review process to allow them more time for self-studies. We have agreed to this, meaning self-studies will be due on March 22nd with preliminary recommendations being released on April 12th, and recommendations to the Board of Governors on April 12. This will not impact the overall transformation timeline.
      a. Any related RIF process will not take place until the fall.
   e. WVU Foundation recently contributed $400,000 to undergraduate research for summer undergraduate research experiences.

Member: Are there any updates regarding startup funds? I'm hearing some confusion and there seems to be some inconsistencies between the units.

Reed: If it wasn't budgeted for this year, we cannot spend it. For startup funds, we were able as a provost unit to meet our obligation. My understanding is that, for colleges, most but not all were able to meet their obligations. So really, how that is being handled is going to vary from college to college.

Member: Regarding faculty and the RIF – the research incentive funds that were assigned to those faculty that were removed, what happens to those funds?

Reed: I think that the answer is that, if those funds were to be spent while you were at WVU, then those funds will not be available. I can follow up on this at the next meeting if needed. Email me and I will respond to it, and I will bring this to the next meeting.

12. Report from Karen Diaz, Dean of Libraries – Library Reorganization Report

[Slides - PDF](#)

a. The library received a 1.2m budget cut at the start of this fiscal year. This was met through $460,000 in personnel, which was met through vacancies and attrition. We also had a $740,000 reduction in collections.

b. Materials for review included research databases, journal bundles, individual journals, ebooks, and (missed)

   a. As of 12/31/23, we have cancelled 41 research databases, 351 journal titles, and 13 ebooks.

c. A feedback mechanism is available online regarding a need for cancelled materials. All impacted titles have been listed at library.wvu.edu/collections/faq

d. For the 2024-2025 budget, we were asked to reduce our personnel budget by $800,000. This did not impact the Law library or the regional campuses.

   a. Net loss of 11 actual positions, 12 state-funded positions, representing 10-15% staff reduction overall.

e. No libraries will close as a result, including the book depository.

f. Discussions regarding additional tenants in library spaces. No decisions have been made to date.

g. New mission is focused on becoming integrated, remaining impactful, and functioning in a sustainable way.

h. Each library currently has an access service and research service within each location. The new model will include:

   a. A centralized Access Services

   b. Research Support & Engagement

   c. Student Success & Engagement

i. Benchmarking

   a. WVU spends 5 percent more on collections, 5 percent less on personnel, and 3 percent less on operations compared to Big 12 peers.

   b. Total expenditure-wise, Big 12 peer median library expenditure is 20.1m, compared to 14.5m at WVU.

13. Report from Travis Mollohan, Assistant Vice President for Government Relations and Collaboration – Legislative Update, Campus Carry Update

   a. Budget presentation overview, based on a presentation that Gee and Congelio presented to the House Finance Committee.

      a. Included an update on the progress made resulting from the deferred maintenance funds received in the last legislative cycle.

      b. The governor's proposed budget includes an average 5% raise to state employees, with a little over $3 million contributed to WVU. This is only a

fraction of what is required to meet that pay raise, which would require an additional $16-17 million.

c. $11 million increase in university overhead due to insurance premiums last year, with an additional $5 million this year, along with an increase in BRIM, Board of Risk Insurance Management.

d. In partnership with Marshall, put forward a $5 million one-time ask for the First Ascent program that would spin off of the Ascend program.

e. Put forward 2 opportunities for one-time funding projects.

    i. RNI programs, specifically for a neuromodulation center

        1. $2 million was secured for a pilot program with FDA concerning PTSD.

    ii. $10 million in surplus funding requested for the new robotics engineering program.

b. SB 152 would require all k-12 schools and colleges to show the official motto of the United States in each classroom.

c. Student Government representatives were at campus to influence food pantry access and support on college campuses, HB 292.

d. SB 589 would permit campus police officers to go into one of the state pension plans.

e. HB 5038 would add economic development to the list of priorities for higher education research cooperations.

f. HB 5217 would include PSC as a permanent member of the Learn and Earn program.

g. Only one DEI bill was introduced with no further movement. Team is tracking any further action on associated legislation.

h. WVU Administration is working on pricing metal detectors, storage lockers for implementing Campus Carry, related to last year's bill that was signed into law.

14. Report from Fred King, Vice President for Research – OSP Improvement Plan

Slides - PDF

a. Office of Sponsored Programs experienced substantial personnel loss in 2022, which also represented a great loss in institutional knowledge. That has created a backlog that has persisted into the present.

b. Additional losses in the award negotiation unit have exacerbated the issue.

c. This loss of personnel has been experienced in research offices at many peer institutions following the pandemic.

d. Based on the nature of the work, it is difficult to temporarily shift employees onto projects in the backlog, as they lack the requisite training.

e. By mid-February there will be an ability for associate deans for research, deans, research administrative personnel, or in some cases the business office to go in and find out the status of an award and be able to report that back to the PI. That should streamline things in terms of communication and being able to check on status. The interface is being finalized now in collaboration with the IT office.

> f. The Huron module is being worked on and is expected to go live about a year from now, March 2025. This will allow faculty to follow awards and proposals from beginning to end, as well as any issues that may hold up processing.
>
> g. Additional modules will follow to add additional control, quality, and mechanism. The whole project is expected to be completed in three years.

Member: When do you anticipate faculty being able to train on the new module? And when does that pay increase for grant administrators take effect? We are currently hiring for those positions.

King: This process includes training faculty that will test the new software and provide feedback. Regarding pay, I recommend working with your HR partner.

15. Call for Nominations – Faculty Senators; Faculty Senate Chair Elect; Board of Governors Faculty Representative

> a. Senator nominations are going out this week, with voting in early March and results released in April.
>
> b. Nominations will be opened for Faculty Senate Chair Elect in March, and for BOG Representative in April.
>
> c. Chair-Elect must be serving or have served on the Faculty Senate within the past three years.
>
> d. BOG Representative must be a member of either Extension or Health Sciences, with at least 60% of their time assigned to one of those units.

16. New Business

> a. Daniel Totzkay noted that WVU had a $24 million budget shortfall when presenting at the House Finance Committee and inquired as to if it is a new or existing burden.
>
> Tack: We will be receiving a full financial report from Mark Gavin and Paula Congelio at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
>
> Gavin: The $24 million is the same amount we were dealing with last year, so it is not new.

17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn carried by unanimous consent.
Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m. to reconvene on March 4, 2024.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator

*You may access program proposals at https://futurecatalog.wvu.edu/programadmin/ by using your login credentials. Search for programs using the 3- or 4-digit key provided above.