

MINUTES  
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023, 3:15 P.M.

Faculty Senate Chair Scott Wayne brought the monthly meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Members and guests participated in-person at the College of Law event hall and via video conference.

Members Present:

Armour-Gemmen, M.	Dumitrescu, C.	Kent, A.	Sherlock, L.
Ballard, D.	Eades, D.	LaRue, R.	Smith, C.
Barghouthi, N.	Elliott, E.	Leary, B.	Soccorsi, A.
Battistella, L.	Evans, K.	Leary, M.	Sofka, S.
Bhandari, R.	Faber, T.	Leight, M.	Sowards, A.
Bolyard, J.	Feaster, K.	Lupo, J.	Staniscia, S.
Bonner, D.	Fullen, M.	Marra, A.	Stueckle, J.
Bresock, K.	Grushecky, S.	Martin, J.	Swager, L.
Bruyaka Collignon, O.	Haddox, J.	Martucci, A.	Szklarz, G.
Casey, A.	Hamrick, A.	Miltenberger, M.	Tack, F.
Celikbas, E.	Hatipoglu, K.	Moore, M.	ter Haseborg, H.
Cohen, S.	Hauser, D.	Murphy, E.	Titolo, M.
Cook, A.	Heady, M.	Myers, S.	Totzkay, D.
Cottrell, L.	Hedrick, J.	Nix, A.	Utzman, R.
Crichlow, R.	Hessl, A.	Ogden, L.	Valenti, M.
Cui, P.	Hibbert, A.	Olfert, I.	Waggy, C.
Dahle, G.	Hileman, S.	Olgers, F.	Watson, J.
Davari, A.	Hodge, J.	Orr, E.	Wayne, W.
Davis, D.	Honaker, L.	Phillips, T.	Weislogel, A.
DeMarco, F.	Huber, S.	Prinzo, L.	Williams, D.
Dey, K.	Johnson, D.	Rinehart, L.	Woloshuk, J.
Di Bartolomeo, L.	Kale, U.	Roberts, D.	Woodberry, K.
Dickman, B.	Katz, J.	Ruseski, J.	Wuest, T.
Dilcher, B.	Kearns, J.	Sabolsky, E.	Zeni, T.
Donley, D.	Kelly, K.	Sakhuja, A.	

Members Excused:

Barnes, E.	Knuckles, T.	McGinnis, R.
Graziani, G.	Malarcher, J.	Morgan Paternostro, J.

Members Absent:

Bernardes, E.	Elswick, D.	Lorenze, S.	Rogers, T.
Bianco, C.	Floyd, K.	Momen, J.	Rota, C.
Burke, R.	Gross, J.	Mucino, V.	Samuels, H.
Carducci, H.	Grossman, D.	Murphy, T.	Shrader, C.
Cronin, A.	Hanif, A.	Murray, A.	Sims, J.
Dimachkie, Z.	Hines, S.	Nguyen, J.	Sizemore, J.
Dionne, C.	Holbein, M.	Peckens, S.	Sokos, G.
Downes, M.	John, C.	Petrone, A.	Stamatakis, M.
Duenas Garcia, O.	Klein, A.	Reece, J.	Woods, S.
Ellis, E.	Law, K.	Reece, R.	
Ellison, M.	Li, B.	Renzelli, R.	

1. Chair Wayne presented the [Minutes](#) of the March 6, 2023, meeting of Faculty Senate for approval Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent.
2. Budget Discussion Q&A – Provost Maryanne Reed and Rob Alsop, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives – [Presentation Slides](#)
  - a. Fiscal year 2024 will have \$21 million in budget cuts and \$24 million from WVU Foundation in a one-time transfer.

Wayne: How do you plan to engage with the faculty during this process, and how do you plan to inform faculty of the specifics?

Reed: Our leadership team is developing an approach. The challenges that we anticipated are no longer theoretical and are here now. We must have a more aggressive approach to academic transformation. I cannot tell you what that looks like now, but I hope to be able to share that timeline within the next few weeks. We will look at our academic program portfolio, look at the success of academic programs, and bring more data to the process. When we first began that process, we looked mostly at enrollment data. Now we need to begin looking at things like cost to deliver. We need to look at program portfolios, instruction efficiency. We will be looking at combining departments, programs, and any kind of restructuring that we can do both for cost saving, as well as areas where it makes academic sense. We will not be able to make the same transfer from the foundation next year, so we will need to move quickly. We are still working on gathering the data we need, and the financial information takes time to collect, and we may hire a consultant to assist the process. This work will continue into the summer. We expect to share the results of our data gathering process in fall. Because of the budget situation within each college, some changes may happen sooner depending on the decisions of each dean.

Alsop: In the next 4-6 weeks we will announce what the \$21 million cuts will look like. We will likely be moving from the \$21 million FY24 cuts to the \$45 million FY25 cut over the next 12-18 months. None of us want to change the institution, and we all hope that we can recruit new students and maintain enrollment, but the board has asked us to stabilize the budget based the worst case situation so that we are prepared for it.

Member: Looking at the latest public advisory from the fall gives a positive financial rating, with some events that could negatively impact our rating. Is there concern of being downgraded and what could result from that?

Alsop: I don't want to predict the future from our bond houses, but we currently estimate that our bond ratings will remain unchanged for the immediate future. If the enrollment trend isn't corrected, then we will be subject to a negative forecast or downgrading. That being said, our transparency and approach to deficits has reflected well with the bond houses, so I believe we will be looked at favorable so long as we are making evident progress in stabilizing our financial situation.

Member: Will the reductions impact all campuses or just the main campus?

Alsop: This challenge faces all campuses, and initiatives will be explored at all campuses.

Member: Does each college have a percentage of the \$21 million to cut? How is that being determined?

Reed: We are trying to implement some aspects of the new budget, for example we want to look at performance in enrollment, revenue, and research. We will differentiate somewhat based on that, but everyone is going to share in the plan.

Alsop: There will be some units that are exempt from the cut, for example enrollment management.

Member: What can we do to assist with the HLC site visit?

Reed: In general, we want to put our best foot forward. It does not help to share any concerns with an accreditor. My guess is that HLC will be familiar with this, as many other institutions are facing the same or similar situations.

Alsop: I agree, and I believe there will be many schools looking at similar situations, Penn State for example. I would ask that people maintain a healthy skepticism as opposed to crossing the line toward cynicism.

Member: Will athletics be impacted by the reductions?

Alsop: We are approaching athletics in many of the same ways, and we have had discussions about them being appropriate stewards of their finances. Success on the field results in success for the university from an advertising and enrollment standpoint.

Member: What specifically can we do other than wait as we approach these budget cuts?

Reed: The best thing I can say is to just focus on your duties, focus on research, instruction, retaining students. Ask how you can help with recruitment efforts. Look at your academic unit to see what the situation is. Are you losing or gaining enrollment? Is there anything that can create a positive flow of students? I also think you can just be aware of the environment, the financial environment in higher education.

Alsop: I encourage everyone to maintain the perspective that the budget situation isn't going to be resolved simply by cutting. The overwhelming majority of faculty and staff will remain here. There will be several strategies implemented in this process, and we are attempting to position ourselves for growth.

Member: Will we continue to invest in support from a mental health perspective? I know that many students are facing crisis, but that situation is being faced by faculty as well.

Alsop: We haven't lost that perspective and we have made many initiatives in the area of student mental health support. I'll get back to you on more specifics.

Reed: We have also taken several steps toward Faculty and Staff well-being, as we know this is a highly stressful time for you as well.

Member: Our freshmen aren't required to live on campus, correct?

Alsop: No, they are. It has been that if you lived within 50 miles you were exempt. During COVID, we relaxed those rules, and some students took advantage of that relaxed attitude. We are tightening up our policies going into Fall 2023.

Member: Is the data on budgets available for faculty to review?

Reed: We know the enrollment data is available, but we know we need to look at how it is shared and improve accessibility. Ideally, you should be able to look within your department and gain a picture of financial standing based on enrollment trends, research expenditure/revenue, and so on.

Also: I am aware that the current financial data lacks enough transparency to have the kind of conversations that we need, but I am hopeful that over the next couple years we will develop that transparency.

3. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Scott Wayne
  - a. The Committee on Committees has begun populating Senate committees for the 2023-2024 year. Faculty are encouraged to volunteer by completing the [Committee Interest Form](#).
    - a. Executive Committee statements of interest are currently being accepted. Only one candidate from each constituency may hold an elected seat.
4. Curriculum Committee Report (Lori Ogden)
  - For Approval – New Courses Report – [Annex I](#)
  - For Approval – Course Changes Report – [Annex II](#)
  - For Approval – Program Change (Program Code: ARHS\_Min: Art History, Key: 275)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Climate & Environmental Science, Key:1338)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Earth and Environmental Science, Key:1439)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Environmental Engineering, Key:1383)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Environmental Studies, Key:1475)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Geoscience & Sustainable Energy, Key:1461)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: GIS Methods, Key: 1463)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Health Policy and Healthcare Navigation, Key:1505)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: LPN to BSN Program: 1468)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Public Health, Key:1506)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Sustainable Development, Key:1470)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Sustainability Studies, Key:1437)
  - For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Wood Science & Technology, Key:1356)

Motion to approve all items carried with 65 in favor and none opposed.

For Information – Course Deactivations – [Annex III](#)

5. General Education Foundations Committee Chair Lisa Di Bartolomeo had no report and noted that the committee is working on a new definition of General Education, along with a new rubric for evaluating GEF courses.
6. Teaching and Assessment Committee Chair Diana Davis provided a for information item with updates on the BLUE system and SEI Pilot.
  - For Information – Committee Updates – [Annex IV](#)
7. Committee on Committee Chair Lesley Cottrell had no report.

8. Faculty Representative to State Government Eloise Elliot had no report.
9. Board of Governors Representative Stan Hileman had no report.
10. For Information – Faculty Senator Election Results – [Annex V](#)
11. Resolution to Create a Special Committee of Student Recruiting and Retention – [Annex VI](#)  
Motion to approve resolution (E. Elliott). Seconded.  
Motion carried with 71 in favor and none opposed.
12. Faculty Senate Chair-Elect Candidates presented statements of interest.  
For Information – Candidate Statements – [Annex VII](#)
13. No new business.
14. Motion to adjourn (D. Davis). Seconded.

Chair Wayne adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m. to reconvene on May 8, 2023.

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.