

Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Monday, April 26, 2021

1. Chair Nathalie Singh-Corcoran called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Committee members and guests participated via videoconference.

Members Present:

Atkins, C.	Elliott, E.	Murphy, E.	Vanderhoff, J.
Bastress, R.	Gee, G.	Nutter, R.	Veselicky, L.
Chisholm, S.	Hauser, D.	Reed, M.	Wayne, S.
Cottrell, L.	Hileman, S.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	
Di Bartolomeo, L.	Martucci, A.	Steele, J.	

Members Absent:

Sowards, A.

Guests:

Becker, K	Grushecky, S.	Neidermeyer, P.	Soccorsi, A.
Brugnoli, A.	Kearns, S.	Pfeifer, A.	Staples, C.
DeBastiani, A.	Kreider, P.	Shannon, R.	Thomas, R.
Gavin, M.	Latimer, M.	Slimak, L.	Widders, E.
Germana, M.			

2. Chair Singh-Corcoran presented for approval the minutes from the March 22, 2021 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
3. President Gordon Gee reported the following:
 - We have experienced a number of manifestations of the pandemic, including the virus itself, racial and social justice issues, financial concerns, political division, and mental health challenges as exacerbated among college-age students nationally. Prior to the start of the pandemic, we made a major financial investment in our mental health program to increase access to care, to promote resiliency, to focus on higher-level coping skills, and to increase student support. We are instituting an even more focused program in the fall, Healthy Minds, which will offer numerous long-term counseling and health care opportunities.
 - We are also working to improve investigative and disciplinary procedures in order to prevent sexual violence on campus. To reach that goal, we have joined with 20 other colleges and universities in the Culture of Respect Collective, an initiative of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators in Higher Education Administration.
4. Provost Maryanne Reed reported the following:

- There are currently two student petitions underway. The first is asking for improvements at the Carruth Center as well as our process for handling student mental health. The second is asking that we institute a pass/fail option for spring. After careful consideration, her team is thinking of extending the deadline to withdraw to May 3.
- We will be administering about 3500 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines at 3 separate clinics this week. We do not anticipate offering any more first-dose clinics at the university through the rest of this semester.
- Summer school registration is down about 3 percent. Over 400 students have registered for Maymester. Summer school will include about 50 percent online and 50 percent in-person instruction. We will be requiring seating charts and taking rolls so we can continue to contact trace.
- We do not anticipate requiring vaccines for fall. Our plan is to incentivize students and employees to get the vaccine. A survey has gone out to students and employees to assess comfort levels with returning to a relatively normal on-campus fall. The results of the survey will help to shape an upcoming campus conversation. A second survey to be sent out next week will ask people to self-identify as to whether they have received the vaccine.
- Amber Brugnoli, Associate Vice President and Executive Director of the Office of Global Affairs, provided an update on international travel. At the beginning of April, about 80 percent of embassies and consulates around the world were closed; that number is increasing. Inbound students and new hires are not able to get visas to travel to the United States.
- We are slowing down the academic transformation process a bit to engage others and to adhere to BOG Rule 2.2 (Program Creation and Review). Currently there are three areas of consideration. Program portfolio review is a process designed to evaluate the health of our academic programs based on a number of performance metrics and to identify which programs that we want to create, grow, or reconfigure and which programs we may need to reduce or sunset. Academic restructuring is a process designed to identify possible academic mergers or consolidations that may result in a reduction of administrative costs and redundancies in curricula and course offerings; more importantly, we are looking at restructuring opportunities that can lead to new academic programs, research, and outreach that will attract potential new students to the university as well as funding. Instructional efficiencies is a process designed to reduce instructional costs by reducing the number of unfilled course sections, increasing class size where appropriate, and ensuring that faculty teaching assignments are consistent and appropriate across the university. We have been gathering and analyzing a significant amount of data over the last few months, and have received feedback and guidance from EAB, as well as great input and suggestions from the Academic Advisory Committee and from our academic deans. Over the next 3 weeks, we will be notifying academic units whose programs have been identified for deeper-level review. These are program that the data has shown us may be candidates for growth and investment or for possible reconfiguration if there is a market for these programs, reduction, and/or eventual elimination. A report from unit chairs will be due September 1, 2021. Final recommendations will be made to the Board of Governors in October.

- Three other groups, the Student Success Committee, the Faculty Rewards and Recognition Committee, and the Graduate Education Task Force, are working on other areas of academic transformation.
- Research Week was very successful. The virtual long-form scholarship celebration still lives at provost.wvu.edu/research-week.
- We are starting to roll out awards for outstanding teaching, research, and service. Eloise Elliot received the Heebink Award for Distinguished State Service. The first annual WVU Advisor Appreciation Day took place on April 20. MVP awards will be going out for outstanding research related to COVID-19. Recipients of the Transform This! Challenge Grants will also be announced.

5. Chair Singh-Corcoran reported the following:

- Scott Wayne won the election for Faculty Senate Chair-Elect. Dr. Wayne has been involved with Faculty Senate for a number of years, starting with the Faculty Welfare Committee. He brings years of experience to the role. His term as Chair-Elect will begin on July 1, 2021.
- Committee chairs will present their annual reports at the May Executive Committee meeting. Those reports will be delivered to the Faculty Senate in September.
- Evan Widders, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, along with Serena Matsunaga and Sally McMillan from Torchstar Education, will be presenting at the May Faculty Senate meeting on student success initiatives.

6. Jennifer Steele, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee, presented the following reports for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 13-0.

Annex I, New Courses Report
 Annex II, Course Changes Report
 Annex III, Capstone Courses Report
 New Program in Surgical Technology at PSC

The following reports were submitted for information. Reports filed.

New Minor in Cybersecurity at WVUIT
 New Minor in Teaching Interdisciplinary STEM
 Annex IV, Graduate Programs Report

7. General Education Foundations Committee – no report.

8. Jessica Vanderhoff, Chair of the Teaching and Assessment Committee, presented the following reports for approval.

Annex V, eSEI Workflow. Motion carried by a vote of 13-0.
 Annex VI, Recommendation to Establish eSEI Panel. A motion was made and duly seconded to amend the document to indicate that the review panel will reside with the Office of the Provost. Motion carried by a vote of 10-0. A subsequent motion was made and seconded to approve the annex as amended. Motion carried by a vote of 12-0.

Annex VII, eSEI Complaint Form. A motion was made and duly seconded to amend the form to indicate that normal remedies to any complaint filed would include redaction of the Digital Measures qualitative statement and/or an intervention with the student on behalf of the Office of Student Conduct. Motion carried by a vote of 13-0. A subsequent motion was made and seconded to approve the annex as amended. Motion carried by a vote of 13-0.

9. Shawn Grushecky, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, presented the following report for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 12-0.

Annex VIII, Resolution to Increase the Use of Renewable Energy Sources for West Virginia University

10. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, reported that HEPC will meet on Friday, April 30, 2021. ACF will meet that same afternoon. The interim legislative session is scheduled for May 10; we can expect to hear more about taxes.
11. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported that the Board of Governors met on April 22-23, 2021. The Board received updates on academic transformation, plans for fall, finances, athletics, and the legislative session. They toured construction and renovation projects at Reynolds Hall, the Athletics Performance Center and Milan Puskar Center, and Hodges Hall. They approved several items, including a School of Mathematical and Data Sciences within Eberly College and a new Mental Health and Addiction Studies BA degree program. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2021.
12. Faculty Representative to State Government: A motion was made and duly seconded to appoint Eloise Elliott as the Faculty Senate Representative to State Government. Motion carried by a vote of 12-0.
13. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, May 24, 2021.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator