

Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Monday, January 25, 2021

1. Chair Nathalie Singh-Corcoran called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Committee members and guests participated via videoconference.

Members Present:

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

Guests:

Becker, K	Diaz, K.	Latimer, M.	Staples, C.
Brugnoli, A.	Gavin, M.	Neidermeyer, P.	Thomas, R.
Crichlow, R.	Germana, M.	Shannon, R.	Widders, E.
DeBastiani, A.	Kreider, P.	Slimak, L.	

2. Chair Singh-Corcoran presented for approval the minutes from the December 14, 2020 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
3. President Gordon Gee reported the following:
 - The semester is off to a strong start. Our numbers look good.
 - Amelia Rinehart has been appointed dean of the College of Law. She currently serves as associate dean at the University of Utah College of Law. She is a patent law expert. We had very strong candidates for the position.
 - The United Way campaign raised over \$1.2 million, exceeding our goal by 108 percent. He believes this is a testament to our faculty and staff for responding to the immense need in our community. David and Susan Hardesty, who chaired the campaign, put their heart and soul into the effort.
 - Thanks to the Ruby Foundation, the university and the health system purchased the former Ramada Inn, now known as Mt. Hope, to bring community social service agencies together under one roof. Groups will include the Salvation Army and the Bartlett House.
 - President Biden has signed a number of executive orders; his nominee for Secretary of Education, whose background is in K-12 education, is awaiting confirmation.
 - We have great support from state legislators. Due to the pandemic, the legislature will meet less frequently in person. There is significant discussion taking place about moving away from the personal income tax.
 - West Virginia has consistently ranked number one in the country in terms of vaccine distribution.
4. Provost Maryanne Reed reported the following:

- Sixty-seven percent of our classes are online this semester. The remainder are in-person or hybrid.
- We had good retention from the fall semester. We lost about 5 percent of our students.
- Everyone had to demonstrate a negative COVID test before coming on campus for the semester. A relatively small number of students and employees tested positive. We have very good protocols in place for how we handle students who have tested positive.
- For the remainder of the spring term, instruction will automatically move online if the Morgantown campus is closed for any period of time due to inclement weather. The calendar does not allow for any additional non-instructional days due to HLC accreditation requirements and Department of Education guidelines.
- Faculty and staff have begun receiving vaccines, but the supply is still limited. Vaccinations were first being given to those people, based on age, who took the employee survey. Last week people in the 50-59 age group began receiving vaccines. The state is now providing vaccines for medical students and HSC students who work directly with patients.
- Our goal for the fall semester is to return to full capacity. Summer will include our usual mix of online and in-person instruction. Last year we canceled our inaugural 3-week Maymester term; we plan to launch Maymester this spring as a totally online offering.
- This semester, we should be able to meet the demand for tutoring for children of faculty and staff enrolled in K-12 schools.
- President Gee and the Board of Governors have issued the charge that we need to transform the university to strengthen student success, increase enrollment, and ensure that our academic offerings are both rigorous and relevant, while identifying new sources of revenue that will enable us to grow and prosper in an increasingly challenging higher education environment only exacerbated by COVID. The Office of the Provost is working with EAB to help us define our approach to this process. Faculty will be involved through an advisory committee comprised primarily of faculty members, with some professional staff who have expertise in areas such as enrollment management and student success. Other opportunities for engagement will include the student success committee, the graduate education task force, and the faculty rewards and recognition committee.

5. Chair 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.
- A meeting is scheduled for January 29 to follow-up with University Relations and Ian Harmon and Emily Fidelman from the Libraries. They have been working on university COVID-19 web pages to make them more user friendly.

- Senate leadership and members of the Office of the Provost will be holding informal lunchtime meetings with Faculty Senate committee chairs. The first meeting is scheduled for February 1 with the chairs of Curriculum Committee and TACO.
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
 7. Lisa Di Bartolomeo, Chair of the General Education Foundations Committee, reported that the committee will meet on February 1, 2021. Agenda items include a review of honors courses, a report of the results of the Area 3 assessment, and discussion of an assessment plan and a survey of content dedicated to social justice for Area 7.
 8. Jessica Vanderhoff, Chair, Teaching and Assessment Committee, reported that the committee voted to make the open-ended comment questions within the SEI optional.

A motion was made and seconded for TACO to find a way for faculty to request redaction of comments that do not rise to the level of a student conduct violations, but are still inappropriate or unhelpful, and to present the Faculty Senate with alternatives to the comment section of the eSEI. Motion carried by a vote of 13-0.

Instructors received an email on January 18 and a reminder on January 25 explaining how to opt-in and customize the early semester, teaching assessment.
 9. Michael Germana, Chair, Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies, presented the following report for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 14-0.
 - Annex III, Committee Appointments
 10. Scott Crichlow, Chair, Shared Governance Committee, summarized the committee's activities to date. After a lengthy discussion, the Executive Committee recommended that the Shared Governance Committee focus on faculty authority over curriculum, and that the committee invite members of administration into their discussions.

A motion was made and seconded that the Shared Governance Committee be reauthorized for the 2021-2022 academic year. Motion carried by a vote of 14-0.
 11. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, reported that ACF met last week. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided some insights into the legislature. 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. The legislature will hold virtual meetings, but voting must be conducted in-person. HEPC is receiving 1000 vaccines per week for faculty and staff, plus a total of 5000 vaccines for students in health care; HEPC will also funding surveillance testing beginning February 1. The number of FAFSA applications are down by 1800 and PROMISE applications are down by 4000 compared to last year.

12. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported that the Board of Governors has not met since he delivered his report to the Faculty Senate on January 11, 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021.
13. Karen Diaz, Dean of Libraries, discussed the WVU Libraries' vendor policy. The policy will be presented at the February 8 Faculty Senate meeting to request affirmation. The Faculty Senate will be asked to affirm its support of the policy.
14. The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, February 22, 2021.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator