MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2024, 3:00 P.M.

Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack brought the monthly meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Members and guests participated via videoconference.

Members Present:

Angeline, M.	Dilcher, B.	Hileman, S.	Tack, F.
Cottrell, L.	Elliott, E.	Lupo, J.	Trickett Shockey, A.
Davari, A.	Galvez Peralta, M.	Murphy, E.	Wayne, S.
Davis, D.	Gee, E.	O'Quinn, J.	
Di Bartolomeo, L.	Hauser, D.	Prinzo, L.	

Guests Present:

Becker, K.	Kearns, S.	Rinehart, L.	Taylor, S.
Congelio, P.	Kreider, P.	Shannon, R.	Thomas, R.
Debastiani, A.	Latimer, M.	Sharpe, L.	Veselicky, L.
Gavin, M.	McDiarmid, M.	Slimak, L.	Widders, E.
Hunt, C.	Morris, T.	Staples, C.	

1. For Approval – Minutes of the January 22, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting
    Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent.

2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack
    a. Welcome to Jessie O Quinn, new Executive Committee member and Senator representing Potomac State College.
    b. University Procedures workgroup has met three times and progress is being made. Intent to deliver a draft to Tracy Morris for an initial review in March.
    c. Constitution revisions workgroup has met three times and has begun a draft that will be sent to Shared Governance for further work.
    d. Tack noted that the Health Sciences Center is represented on the procedures workgroup, and that the work is using the revised procedures originally drafted by the Office of the Provost as the basis for further development.

3. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Eloise Elliott)
    a. DEI Bill (SB 870) rewritten as a committee substitute and placed before the Education Committee today at 2:15 p.m., which passed unanimously. Recent changes removed many of the references to medicine – specifics will be shared once available.
        i. Bill must be approved to the other house by Wednesday, crossover day.

Gee: We have to be careful about how we approach this, as we don't want to stir anything up. There were some negotiations over the weekend that Travis (Mollohan) made me aware of, and it seems that most of the more onerous aspects of the bill were taken out. I think it is best we wait to hear from Travis before we take any further steps.

Elliott: I agree. We will see what Travis advises us to do, which I think is the best course of action.

      b. HB 4654, the Library/Museum-related bill, has not had any action since reaching the Judiciary Committee.

      c. Hunger-Free Campus Act (SB 292) approved Feb 19 and sent to House. Currently sitting in House Education Committee.

Member: Has the institution made an official statement regarding the library bill?

Elliott: No, we have not done anything official though we did talk about it in our leadership meetings.

Tack: The advice from Travis was that he didn't think it was going to get much traction in the Senate, so it was best to avoid spending any political capital on this particular issue.

Member: was there an official University statement on the librarian bill?

Elliott: There was no official statement from the University on that.

Tack: Travis advised that he did not think it would gain traction in the Senate, and that it would not be worth spending the political capital on this bill as a result.

      d. The institution is also following the progress of HB 5105 regarding vaccinations.

Member: HB 5105 appears to have passed the house and moved to the Senate today.

Gee: I haven't talked to Travis about that, but I wasn't aware it had moved. Hopefully we can keep that from being introduced in the Senate.

Member: Can we get a summary of WVU's recommendations versus what was introduced for faculty reference?

Gee: Of course, I'll get with Travis, and we will provide that information.

4. Curriculum Committee Report (Cindi Trickett Shockey)
   For Approval – New Course Report – Annex I
   For Approval – Course Change Report – Annex II

   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: 2D Studio Painting, Photography, Print Media, Key: 1592
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: 3D Studio and Public Art, Key: 1583
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Aerospace Engineering, Key: 1595
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Biology Pre-Medical, Key: 1553
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Chemical Forensics, Key: 1566
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Global Health, Key: 1606
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Human Health, Key: 1605
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Integrative Biology, Key: 1608
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Mechanical Engineering, Key: 1594
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Multidisciplinary Studies, Key: 1598
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Robotics Engineering, Key: 1601
   For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Supply Chain Management Science, Key: 1571

   For Approval – Program Change – ARHS_BA: Art History and Museum Professions, Key: 330
   For Approval – Program Change – BIOL_BS: Biology, Key: 75
   For Approval – Program Change – BIOL_CMB_AOE: Cellular and Molecular Biology, Key: 725
   For Approval – Program Change – BIOL_EEB_AOE: Ecology, Ecosystems, and Global Change, Key: 693
   For Approval – Program Change – BIOM_MIN: Biometric Systems Engineering, Key: 1596
   For Approval – Program Change – CIVIL_BSCE: Civil Engineering, Key: 482

For Approval – Program Change – CPE_BSCPE: Computer Engineering, Key: 483
For Approval – Program Change – CS_BSCS: Computer Science, Key: 484
For Approval – Program Change – CYBE_BS: Cybersecurity, Key: 983
For Approval – Program Change – EE_BSEE: Electrical Engineering, Key: 485
For Approval – Program Change – ELMED_BA: Elementary Education, Key: 591
For Approval – Program Change – HSML_BS: Health Services Administration, Key: 1189
For Approval – Program Change – INTST_SEC_BA Social Studies/Secondary Education, Key: 735
For Approval – Program Change – MDS_BMDS_14: Multidisciplinary Studies, Key: 150
For Approval – Program Change – MHAAS_BA: Mental Health and Addiction Studies Key: 1228
For Approval – Program Change – MUSCOMP_BM: Music Composition, Key: 347
For Approval – Program Change – PUBH_BS: Public Health Sciences, Key: 695
For Approval – Program Change – SPED_MIN: Special Education, Key: 274
For Approval – Program Change – SPRT_LDR_BA: Sport Leadership, Key: 1397

a. 36 new courses and 86 course changes reviewed and included for approval.

Motion to remove the Global Health program from the report for separate consideration. Seconded.
Motion carried with 13 in favor and none opposed.
Motion to approve all remaining for approval items. Seconded.
Motion carried with 13 in favor and none opposed.

Member: When looking through the programs, I was surprised to see that the courses listed in the Global Health AOE seemed to be biology only and did not include anything overly health or global studies focused.
Trickett Shockey: My committee has been cautioned not to be looking at content, so I will refer that to Lou Slimak.
Slimak: The term "global" intended more of a systematic approach to health, a wider spectrum rather than geographic. Now that you pointed it out, that might confuse some students and refining the name may be appropriate.
Member: I second that idea, as since we have Health and Well-Being already and this would be confusing to students.

Member: What is the difference between Human Health and Global Health?
Slimak: Human Health is focused on human components of health, while global is looking at health more globally, including marine, animal physiology, etc.
Widders: I also want to clarify that these are not programs, they are areas of emphasis in Biology.

Member: I have concern over moving this to Senate, as it would give less than a week to create a new name.
Member: I agree, I think it should be rolled back to the committee for further deliberation.
Slimak: This would hold back the program and other AOEs if rolled back. Could I request a couple of days to speak with the department on a potential name change?

Motion to postpone voting on the Biology Area of Emphasis in Global Health until March 4th, at which time an electronic vote will be held. Seconded.
Motion carried with 14 in favor and none opposed.

For Information – Deleted Course Report – Annex III

5. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Mary Beth Angeline)
    a. 74 courses have been removed from the GEF program.
    b. 15 courses were kept, as they were being used by PSC, reached an agreement to be offered on a rolling basis, or were reorganized to no longer be 300 level courses.

6. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Marina Galvez Peralta)
   Slidedeck - PDF
    a. The committee received feedback from Senators, Provost Faculty Advisory Group, and Student Council regarding the new student feedback instrument.
    b. The committee has already reached out to all faculty participating in the pilot program, but unfortunately received very little feedback in response.
    c. Updating student response options to instead include "to my learning" on each category, along with a N/A option.
    d. Reworded questions regarding adaptive teaching and course discussions to be more helpful.
    e. The committee intends to move the new instrument forward to the Faculty Senate for final approval at the March 4 Faculty Senate meeting.

7. Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies Report (Lesley Cottrell)
   For Approval – Committee Roster Updates – Annex IV
   Motion to approve Annex IV
   Motion carried with 13 in favor and none opposed.

8. Shared Governance Committee Report (Scott Wayne)
    a. The committee has finalized a list of 11 qualities for potential presidential candidates, which will be placed into a survey for faculty feedback. That will be sent first to the Shared Governance Committee, then Faculty Senate, and eventually all faculty.
    b. The next meeting agenda includes the development of questions probing some of these areas of emphasis that would ideally be provided to presidential candidates to answer, with the resulting information delivered to faculty.

Tack: We have not yet received specifics on the presidential search committee from the related BOG work group.

9. Service Committee Report (Lindsey Rinehart)
    a. Typically, the Service committee's main role is to review community engagement grant applicants. Grant funding was not available this year, so the committee intended to work on suggestions relating to the service mission of the university.
        i. Identifying projects that were funded in prior years.
        ii. Recognizing and identifying faculty that embody community and serve engagement.
        iii. Distribution of surveys to faculty that have received the grant in the prior years. Some of that information will be shared at the Faculty Senate meeting in March.
    b. Members highlighted community engaged programs at the WVU Research Day at the capital.

10. Board of Governors Report (Stan Hileman)
     a. Executive sessions at the meetings last week covering finances, IT, recruitment, and retention.
     b. Three UG students that participated in undergraduate research were highlighted and was very well received by the Board.
     c. Update on campus carry from Corey Farris and Sharon Martin.
     d. Two BOG rules are now out for comment. One is relating to campus carry, compliance, and associated resources. The second involves employee leave, which is to bring the institution into compliance with federal law.
     e. Evansdale street renamed after passed Women's Basketball Coach Kittie Blakemore.

11. Report from President E. Gordon Gee
     a. The WV Senate will unveil its finance bill tomorrow. Currently waiting to see if they will pursue the funding formula that WVU campaigned for.
     b. The increase in PEIA premiums are placing financial constraints on the institution, and we are making sure that legislators are aware.
     c. Campus Self Defense Act goes into effect on July 1. Related BOG rule entered 30-day comment period today, as noted by Stan Hileman.
     d. The net result of the campus carry bills in other states have not been as detrimental as originally anticipated, so there is hope that the institution will be able to collaborate with the state in implementation.
     e. A large emphasis is being placed on scholarships for the Day of Giving. Each dollar received for scholarships from outside doners results in a dollar less that would be withdrawn from central funding.
     f. April 20 Day of Service sponsored by the Alumni Office.
     g. Gee met with the superintendent of public schools for Mon County. They will have a $150 million bond issue up for vote that would go toward building a new school with a focus on higher level academics for grades 9-12.

12. Report from Vice Provost Paul Kreider
     a. Academic Transformation on regional campuses – self studies are due on March 2nd, intent to appeal deadline is April 19, and final recommendations will go to the BOG at the June meeting rather than the April meeting.
     b. PSC Leadership change – President Gilmer has resigned effective March 15, with Paul Kreider becoming interim campus president at that time. Kreider has relinquished most vice provost duties to other members of the Office of the Provost. The institution has contracted with a search firm to seek a new campus president at Potomac State.
     c. The provost reviewed development efforts at each college, donor prospects, strategies, and so on. For the first six months of this fiscal year, the university has met 81% of its $191 million goal. Individual college performances in relation to development goals to date are:
          i. Applied Human Sciences – 69%
          ii. Extension – 64%
          iii. Libraries – 73%
          iv. Chambers – 92%
          v. Statler – 96%
          vi. Pharmacy – 118%

vii.   Dentistry – 144%.

d.   Merger of Creative Arts and Media – workgroups met to provide updates on merger efforts.

e.   The combined faculty of Davis and Extension met on February 15th, established workgroups in (five workgroups), which will be constituted this week and will be launched in early March.

f.   The Mine Rescue Team won the International Mine Rescue competition for the second year in a row, winning four out of five categories along the way.

Member: Regarding the regional campuses – if the decisions will be in June, when will those that will be losing their positions learn of their termination?

Kreider: If there are any reductions in force, those would not be announced until fall at the earliest and would not be subject until the end of the next academic year.

13. Report from Stephanie Taylor, Vice President and General Counsel – Non-Academic Program Review Updates

a.   Reviews have included Auxiliary and Business Services, ITS, Strategic Partnerships, Legal, Student Life, Finance, Real Estate, Talent and Culture, Corporate and Government Relations, Research Office, University Police, Central Administration, Shared Services, and University Relations.

b.   The Deans Offices, Provosts Office, and Presidential Office are still under review and are expected to be completed by April.

c.   Sought benchmarks where applicable for best practices and full-time equivalents with respect to the non-academic and support units.

d.   Primary considerations: Is the unit effective, organized appropriately, and appropriately funded?

e.   1–2-page summaries will be provided at the March Faculty Senate meetings.

f.   Resulting from the nonacademic reviews, Talent and Culture reorganization updates were announced last week, which included a reduction of 11 positions in Talent and Culture and Shared Services.

g.   Some savings realized in facilities will be reinvested to raise the pay of the lowest earning workers in that unit.

Member: Did you look at these programs as a whole, or did you also look at individual departments or units within each area?

Taylor: We looked at each department.

Tack: I can attest, we sat through a couple of five-hour meetings where these units were reviewed in great detail. There will be a tremendous amount of data published from these reviews that faculty will have access to. I wanted to note my sincere appreciation for the effort put into this review. Reviews for the Office of the President, Provost, and Deans Offices are expected to be presented at the March Executive Committee meeting and April Senate, correct?

Gee: Correct. I also wanted to respond and say that these reviews will be part of a regular process to ensure that we are functioning appropriately as an institution. This will be a three-year cycle, meaning that 1/3 of the non-academic and support programs will be reviewed each year, similar to how academic programs receive periodic review.

14. Report from Mark Gavin, Associate Provost for Academic, Budget, Facilities and Strategic Initiatives, and Paula Congelio, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer – University Budget Update

    a. Clarification regarding the mention of $24 million and if it was a new or old figure at the last Senate meeting, and if it would be impact on budget actions moving forward. That figure was related to the one-time withdrawal of Foundation funds used to help meet the $45 million total deficit that the institution was facing.

    b. There is still an open item on governance in the new budget model, which will be brought back to the Executive committee at the March meeting and Senate in April.

    c. At this time last year, a $45 million deficit was recognized (for the FY23 budget). The FY24 budget was balanced and was not forecasted to end with a deficit. We are currently projected to be ending this year on a balanced budget.

    d. The first six months of the fiscal year had variances in the positive and negative that were offsetting.

    e. Some of the stringent measures on approval of hiring new positions and expenditure approval appear to have been successful.

    f. Regarding FY 25 and the new budget model: In January, reports were produced for all budget leaders across the institution using the budget model for FY 24. We took those numbers and placed them into the new budget model, allocated tuition, revenue, support unit expenses, and other detailed reports, so that leaders could see how the new budget would function if implemented in the current year.

    g. The enrollment modules for next year have been rolled out to deans already, who have provided feedback on enrollment and tuition rates.

    h. Expenses that were covered by the one-time foundation withdrawal are now being added back into the budget model to aid leaders in building their budgets for the next fiscal year.

Member: At the college and department level, spending restrictions seem to have reached some extremes, and it has impacted the ability for some faculty to do their jobs.

Congelio: We do meet regularly to try clarifying expectations when someone seems to have a level of control over what was expected. While schools and departments may implement their own budget restrictions, we try to make sure that they understand the university-led expectations. Just last week we discussed some issues relating to strict review of grant-related spending.

15. Call for Nominations – Faculty Senate Chair-Elect

    a. Nominations for chair-elect will be accepted from the floor at the March Senate meeting.

16. No New Business

17. <u>Motion to adjourn carried</u> by unanimous consent.

    Chair Tack adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m. to reconvene on March 18, 2024.

Corey Hunt

Faculty Senate Office Administrator