

Minutes
West Virginia University Faculty Senate
Monday, October 12, 2020

1. Nathalie Singh-Corcoran, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. The Senate met by videoconference.

Members Present:

Anderson, K.	Crichlow, S.	Gross, J.	McCusker, B.	Scaife, B.
Angeline, M.	Cronin, A.	Grushecky, S.	McGinnis, R.	Schaefer, G.
Arthurs, J.	Cui, A.	Hamrick, A.	Miltenberger, M.	Schimmel, C.
Bastress, R.	Davari, A.	Hardy, S.	Momen, J.	Sealey, V.
Benedito, V.	Davis, D.	Harmon, I.	Morgan, J.	Sims, J.
Bernardes, E.	DiBartolomeo, L.	Hatipoglu, K.	Morris, T.	Singh-Corcoran, N.
Bernstein, M.	Dilcher, B.	Hauser, D.	Mucino, V.	Soccorsi, A.
Bhandari, R.	Donley, D.	Hessl, A.	Murphy, E.	Squire, D.
Billings, H.	Downes, M.	Hibbert, A.	Myers, S.	Steele, J.
Bonner, D.	Elliott, E.	Hileman, S.	Nix, A.	Swager, L.
Bragg, R.	Ellison, M.	Honaker, L.	Nutter, R.	Tack, F.
Bravo, G.	Elswick, D.	Hudgins, C.	Ogden, L.	ter Haseborg, H.
Bresock, K.	Eubank, T.	Hutson, Z.	Olfert, M.	Toppe, M.
Bryner, R.	Evans, J.	Kelly, K.	Olson, K.	Tu, S.
Burnside, J.	Evans, K.	Kitchen, S.	Orr, E.	Valentine, K.
Burt, A.	Famouri, P.	Kupec, J.	Peckens, S.	Vanderhoff, J.
Butina, M.	Feaster, K.	Law, K.	Perhinschi, M.	Vercelli, M.
Casey, R.	Fleming, S.	Leary, M.	Petrone, A.	Watson, J.
Celikbas, E.	Fullen, M.	Li, H.	Phillips, T.	Wayne, S.
Chantler, P.	Funk, A.	Mallow, J.	Reddy, R.	Welsh, A.
Chisholm, S.	Galvan-Turner, V.	Marra, A.	Rice, T.	Williams, D.
Clemmer, M.	Galvez, M.	Martucci, A.	Rogers, T.	Woods, S.
Cohen, S.	Geldenhuys, W.	McCombie, R.	Samuels, H.	Young, S.
Corio, E.	Gilleland, D.	McCrory, J.	Sand-Jecklin, K.	Zegre, N.
Cottrell, L.	Goodykoontz, E.			

Members Excused:

Costas, M.	Eades, D.	Nguyen, Y.	Reece, R.	Renzelli-Cain, R.
Dotson, S.				

Members Absent:

Germana, M.	Holbein, M.	Klein, A.	Ryan, E.	Shrader, C.
Graziani, G.	Hornsby, G.	McKibben, J.	Sabolsky, E.	Willard, M.
Hodge, J.	John, C.	Rakes, P.	Sedney, C.	Woloshuk, J.

Faculty Senate Officers Present:

Hauser, D.	Hileman, S.	Murphy, E.	Nutter, R.	Singh-Corcoran, N.
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2. Chair Singh-Corcoran presented for approval the minutes from the Monday, September 14, 2020 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
3. Provost Maryanne Reed reported the following:

- She provided an update on testing results and the numbers of individuals in quarantine and isolation. She also discussed the voluntary and mandatory testing programs currently in place for faculty.
- Spring semester planning is well underway. The provost's office is giving more control to colleges on how they approach the mix of face-to-face and online instruction, in recognition that academic units know the best way to deliver the curriculum. We want to preserve the on-campus experience as much as possible for freshmen, graduate students, and for graduating seniors who may need certain courses face-to-face in order to effectively finish their degree programs. Students and their parents are also asking to see an increase in synchronous online instruction. The provost's office set limits on class size based on social distancing requirements given the classrooms that are available. The schedule will be released on October 20.
- Faculty and instructors, including graduate assistants, with significant health concerns can continue to ask for accommodations. Requests and supporting documentation are due by Sunday, November 1 for the spring 2021 semester.
- We plan to start the semester on January 19 with our expected mix of teaching modalities. However, because of the additional time that may be needed to complete COVID testing, there is the possibility of starting the semester online. Those conversations are happening now and a decision will be made in consultation with our public health folks.
- We will have a web page that shows students how to identify and understand which teaching modalities apply to their individual schedules.
- We have a childcare emergency fund that provides financial support for those faculty who have significant financial impacts because of childcare. We have had a great deal of demand for tutoring for dependent children of faculty and staff and are recruiting for additional tutors.
- Faculty can apply for an extension of their tenure clock but can only have three extensions overall prior to going up for tenure.
- The demand for mental health services through the faculty and staff assistance program has been very high and we are going to be adding another counselor.
- We saw an increase in our first-time freshman retention from last year, up a little over 3%. Our retention from last year was almost 83%. We know that part of that was due to easing up on some academic policies, including offering the pass/fail option and suspending our academic suspensions. But even so, we know that we had an increase of at least 1%. That speaks a lot to the efforts of our faculty and our advisors.
- We have retained the services of Torch Star, the consultant that came last spring and worked closely with a WVU committee of faculty and administrators to develop a three-year retention roadmap. They offered several practical steps that we can take. We plan to charge a retention committee that will be again comprised of faculty and administrators, particularly those that are dealing with students through advising, to address a number of areas, including lowering DFW rates, streamlining scheduling and registration, enhancing academic services, and creating better pathways to graduation. Evan Widders will be reaching out to deans and associate deans and asking the colleges to identify faculty members who are engaged and interested in student support and the best practices and pedagogy. We should have a fairly large committee that will begin tackling some of these issues.
- She reminded everyone that the travel guidelines are still in effect. If you leave the country for any reason and return, you have to quarantine for 14 days. If you leave the state, except to commute to work, you are supposed to quarantine for 5 days.

4. Faculty Senate Chair Nathalie Singh-Corcoran reported the following:
 - The resolution and presentation on ADA Accessibility that had been scheduled for today will be postponed to the November or December Faculty Senate meeting.
 - A motion was passed at the September Faculty Senate meeting to form an ad hoc committee to investigate the use of third-party platforms. That committee has been formed and has met for the first time.
 - At the November Faculty Senate meeting, Ryan Watson and Stephanie Taylor from the Office of General Counsel will discuss intellectual property rights as they apply to course material.
5. Jen Steele, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, presented the following reports for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 92-0.
 - Annex I, New Courses Report
 - Annex II, Course Changes Report
 - New Degree Program in Early Childhood Special Education
 - New Major in PSC-Technical Studies: Carpentry Technology
6. Lisa Di Bartolomeo, Chair of the General Education Foundations Committee, reported that the committee will soon begin a survey of courses that have some social justice diversity or equity element to them.
7. Jessica Vanderhoff, Chair of the Teaching and Assessment Committee, provided an update on the Early Semester, Teaching Assessment Survey.
8. Ann Marie Hibbert, Chair-Elect of the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies, presented the following report for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 85-0.
 - Annex III, Committee Appointments.
9. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, reported that the two main topics from the most recent meeting were internet access for students and faculty, and student and faculty mental health needs. Corley Dennison, HEPC Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, noted that 29 percent of students who took the ACT indicated an interest in health sciences careers.
10. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported that the Board of Governors met on September 18. Topics included a WVU Foundation report, updates on the COVID response and on capital projects, transfer of property on the Montgomery campus, and a report on affordability of educational materials for students. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 6, 2020.
11. Ashley Martucci presented Annex IV, a Resolution to Create an Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Planning, for approval. Motion carried by a vote of 88-1.
12. New Business: None.

13. The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, November 9, 2020.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator