

Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Monday, October 26, 2020

1. Chair Nathalie Singh-Corcoran called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Committee members and guests participated via videoconference.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Hileman, S.	Veselicky, L.
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Guests:

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

2. Chair Singh-Corcoran presented for approval of the minutes from the September 28, 2020 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
3. President Gordon Gee reported the following:
 - He feels very good about where we are right now. COVID infections continue to be very low and we have very few hospitalizations. Students are taking the protocols seriously.
 - We are in the middle of a recruiting season and are unable to tell where we stand. Students are applying late and trying to decide whether to take the ACT or SAT.
 - He hopes that after the election we will see another attempt to get a CARES Act passed, which would be very helpful to the University. We are running a deficit but are not in a panic situation by any stretch of the imagination.
 - He believes there are some upsides to the world we are living in, including less time spent traveling and in meetings. We are learning some lessons that will influence how we continue to run the University and our personal lives.
 - We have worked closely with the public schools in support of faculty and staff with young children.
4. Provost Maryanne Reed reported the following:
 - She presented a Statement on COVID-19 and Faculty Governance.
 - The spring schedule has been posted. More latitude was given to colleges to schedule for spring, with the recommendation that as much on-campus instruction as possible

be provided to freshmen, graduate students, and graduating seniors who need to complete coursework that should be delivered face-to-face. 57% of the seats we have scheduled are for online and 43% are in-person or hybrid. 54% of the online courses are scheduled as synchronous.

- About the same number of faculty are applying for accommodations for spring as in the fall.
- We plan to test everyone or require students to submit a negative test result prior to returning to the classroom.
- We need to be realistic about the possibility of another spike in the spring. She thinks it is important for faculty to consider the possibility of a 2-week period of online instruction and building that contingency into their syllabi.
- Talent and Culture announced that the University has created discussion boards where faculty and staff with children can talk about childcare issues and share resources.
- There is a session for faculty and leaders scheduled on November 10 from 1:00 to 2:30 on self-care in the time of COVID. Janie Howsare from the Department of Behavioral Medicine & Psychiatry will run the session.
- Malayna Bernstein will lead a session on November 17 from 1:00 to 2:30 on how to write narratives for your annual files.
- We have an active search underway for the new dean of the College of Law. The committee has met a couple of times and is working on narrowing down the list of candidates.
- Stephanie Taylor, General Counsel, will be meeting with Meshea Poore to determine how to react to the executive order combating race and sex stereotyping. DEI had paused all of their trainings in response to the order.

5. Chair Singh-Corcoran reported the following:

- The ad hoc committee on third party vendors has met twice. They expect to submit a recommendation to the Faculty Senate by March.
- Karen Diaz will be attending the January Exec and February Senate meetings to share the University Libraries' new vendor policy.
- Stephanie Taylor and Ryan Watson will discuss intellectual property rights with respect to course materials at the November Faculty Senate meeting.

6. Jennifer Steele, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee presented the following reports for approval. Motion carried.

Annex I, New Courses Report
Annex II, Course Changes Report
New Certificate in Behavior Analysis

The following report was submitted for information. Report filed.

Annex III, Graduate Programs Report

7. Lisa Di Bartolomeo, Chair of the General Education Foundations Committee, submitted the following report for information. Report filed.

Annex IV, GEF Transition Review

8. Jessica Vanderhoff, Chair of the Teaching and Assessment Committee, reported that:

- There was a motion made at the February 2020 Faculty Senate meeting for TACO to investigate faculty's ability to do away with plus/minus grades. TACO investigated that during the spring semester and voted in favor of removing the option of assigning plus/minus grades. She will present that recommendation at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- ITS requested that TACO identify a more regular interval to archive SEI reports. TACO voted to keep the most recent three semesters of SEI reports on the active dashboard and archive anything that is older than that.
- The early semester, teaching assessment has closed. TACO also distributed a post-assessment survey to inquire why instructors chose to adopt or not adopt the assessment; the survey closes on October 30.

9. Carolyn Atkins, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies, presented the following report for approval. Motion carried.

Annex III, Committee Appointments

10. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, provided an update on the October 8 Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) meeting. Topics included:

- Lack of broadband across the state for faculty and students.
- Faculty and student mental health needs.
- Textbook costs and legislators' push for OER (open educational resources).
- COVID-19 discussions, including how better infrastructure could help faculty adapt even more successfully than they already have, and whether more could be done to keep our campuses safe.

11. Board of Governors Report – None.

12. New Business – None.

13. The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, November 16, 2020.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator

Statement on COVID-19 and Faculty Governance

WVU Office of the Provost

October 26, 2020

- 1) Faculty have representation on new and existing University committees & task forces that are working to resolve COVID-19 issues impacting teaching and learning.
- 2) Faculty have the freedom to determine if their in-person classes should meet online in the short term, when the learning objectives cannot be met in a face-to-face setting. In the context of COVID-19, this shift might occur when a faculty member is ill and cannot be present, or when a large number of students are absent due to quarantine or isolation. In such situations, the faculty member should always consult the department or division chair
- 3) Faculty cannot change their modality for a class currently in session for an extended period of time, but a change of modality may happen if a chair agrees to a shift in modality. For the duration of COVID-19 pandemic such changes should be **approved by the** dean or designee.

Note: Public health emergencies impact 2 and 3.

- 4) Faculty Evaluation Committees treat eSEIs as formative assessment for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. **In addition** to eSEIs, a faculty member may choose to upload other evidence of teaching effectiveness to their Digital Measure file. Examples include but are not limited to teaching observations, evidence of professional development undertaken to improve teaching, demonstrated efforts to provide support to students in multiple modalities, and new or revised course content. If a faculty places additional content in the files, evaluation committees must consider that content.
- 5) During this time of COVID-19, the administration recognizes the centrality of faculty to the academic enterprise, and therefore, we reaffirm BOG Rule 4.7, 3.1.1-3.1.3.
(<https://policies.wvu.edu/finalized-bog-rules/proposed-bog-faculty-rule-4-7-reduction-in-force>)
- 6) The office of the Provost commits to work with the WVU Faculty Senate during and beyond COVID-19 in a collaborative process that comprehensively reviews and recommends changes to the faculty governance structure with the goal of strengthening and improving shared governance and shared responsibility.