

Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Monday, December 18, 2017

1. Chair Matthew Valenti called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. in the Bluestone Room of the Mountainlair.

Members Present:

Atkins, C.	Gee, E.	Nutter, R.	Utzman, R.
Cottrell, L.	Hauser, D.	Singh-Corcoran, N.	Valenti, M.
DiBartolomeo, L.	Maynor, L.	Turton, R.	Veselicky, L.

Members Absent:

Hileman, S.	McConnell, J.	Murphy, E.	Proudfoot, C.
Kleist, V.	Merrifield, J.		

Guests:

Campbell, J.	Kreider, P.	Wilson, C.
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2. A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.
3. President E. Gordon Gee reported the following:
 - Provisions that would have been detrimental to higher education, most notably the tax on tuition waivers, have been removed from the federal tax bill. The exception is a 1.5 percent excise tax on private institutions with endowments in excess of \$500,000 per student. Senator Lamar Alexander was instrumental in negotiating these changes.
 - State revenues are much stronger compared to one year ago. The state currently has a budget shortfall of \$7-8 million, versus about \$90 million last year.
 - Our West Virginia Forward project is going very well. We just received \$2.1 million from a donor, which will allow us to develop the infrastructure needed to implement the project. We did not want to use any University resources for the project.
 - Our application numbers are very strong, particularly for honors students. If we reach the point where 20 percent of our incoming class is honors students, we will need to continue to raise our standards.
 - We are in great financial shape, and our cash on hand is very strong. We always want to make sure we have enough in a rainy day fund to make sure we can handle anything that may come along. We are going through the process of developing a unified budget strategy. Paula Congelio, who was the CFO for WVU Health Science, now serves as the University CFO. That allows us to have a 360 degree view of all of our budgets and to make use of all of our resources. The University side of the budget is just over \$1 billion, and with the academic medical center it is about \$3 billion.
 - WVU astrophysicists are part of a collaboration granted \$7 million to form a U.S. Department of Energy center of excellence, the Center for Astrophysical Plasma

Properties. Other collaborators include the Universities of Texas, Nevada, and Arizona, as well as Sandia Labs, Lawrence Livermore Lab, and NASA.

4. Vice Provost John Campbell reported the following:
 - The NRA intends to introduce a campus carry bill at the beginning of the legislative session. We continue to work on the issue with our government relations staff and to reach out to other university presidents.
 - The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the latest version of the travel ban to remain in place while appeals progress through the court system. Our Office of Global Affairs has been working with the 101 WVU students directly impacted by the ban.
 - The annual winter weather notice will go out in January to remind faculty of University practices with respect to inclement weather.

5. Chair Matthew Valenti reported the following:
 - Barbara Dunn will retire on January 2 after being with the Faculty Senate Office for 27 years. We are planning a retirement party for her at the Erickson Alumni Center immediately following the January 8 Senate meeting.
 - Our guest speakers for the January Senate meeting will include Barb Dawson, CIO; Ann Richards from Accessibility Services; and SGA President Blake Humphry, who will talk about textbook affordability.
 - We have formed an ad hoc committee on student response systems (like iClicker). The committee includes Dave Hauser, Ilkin Bilgesu, and Randy Bryner. We also plan on adding a student member.
 - The Ad Hoc Exec Academic Policy Review Committee met on November 27 to review the pass/fail grading option as well as several BOG rules. The committee has received revisions of most of the policies they have reviewed and will be conducting a second review over the next few weeks.
 - The Senate election process for will begin in early 2018. Nominations will be requested by February 1. Election ballots will go out on or about March 1. The deadline for electing new Senators is March 15, but since that falls during spring break we may need to make the deadline a little earlier this year.
 - To encourage Senators to be engaged by serving on committees, we could include a list of committee assignments in the election materials for Senators up for re-election. However, we may not be able to do that this year due to the tight timeline and short staffing. Since nominees have the opportunity to make a statement of their interest and qualifications, it could be sufficient for them to self-report their committee membership and leadership roles in their statement.
 - We have discussed making the Academic Policy Review Committee a standing committee. We need to decide if we want to do this and, if so, move forward with the process of making it a committee.
 - The Faculty Senate has not considered a formal resolution regarding campus carry. The Faculty Welfare Committee is considering a statement that would repeat what the Executive Committee put into the legislative information flyer.

6. C.B. Wilson presented faculty-related rules for discussion. He will accept comments and questions through January 4. The working group he leads has completed work on one final rule related to reduction-in-force, which has been passed on to Gary Furbee in Legal Affairs, to be followed by review by the University Planning Committee and the Faculty

Senate Executive Committee. The rules should all be ready to be presented to the Board of Governors on February 16, followed by a formal 30-day comment period.

7. Ralph Utzman, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee, moved for approval of the following reports:

Annex I, New Courses Report. Motion carried.

Annex II, Course Changes, Deletions, and Adoptions Report. Motion carried.

Annex III, Capstone Courses Report. Motion carried.

New Major in Adventure Recreation Management for WVUIT. Motion carried.

New Major in Organizational Leadership. Motion carried.

The following reports were submitted for information:

Annex IV, Graduate Programs Report. Report filed.

Program Changes to the Minor in Entrepreneurial Studies. Report filed.

8. Nathalie Singh-Corcoran, Chair, General Education Foundations Committee, moved for approval of the following reports:

Annex V, GEF Deletions. Motion carried.

Annex VI, GEF Transition Review, was submitted for information. Report filed.

Dr. Singh-Corcoran also reported that the deadline for GEC to GEF transitions is December 31. So far, she has only heard from one faculty member who has requested an extension.

9. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, reported that the December ACF meeting was canceled. A lot of discussion is taking place around the issue of campus carry.
10. Matthew Valenti, Faculty Senate Chair and BOG Representative, reported that the Board of Governors met on December 15 between the two graduation ceremonies. The Board received an update from Rob Alsop on the 2012-2022 Master Facilities Plan, which requires a report midway through the ten-year period. Dixie Martinelli announced her retirement; a special election will be held to replace the staff representative. The Board considered honorary degree candidates in executive session.
11. New Business – The Faculty Senate is going to begin using an attendance tracking system effective with the January meeting. We will adopt the system the University uses in classrooms.
12. The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, January 22, 2018.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator