

MINUTES  
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE  
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024, 3:15 P.M.

Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack brought the monthly meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. Members and guests participated in-person at the College of Law and via videoconference.

Members Present:

Abraham, J.	Dumitrescu, C.	Li, B.	Smith, D.
Angeline, M.	Elliott, E.	Li, H.	Sofka, S.
Ballard, D.	Elswick, D.	Livengood, H.	Sowards, A.
Barnes, E.	Feaster, K.	Lucci, S.	Staniscia, S.
Bhandari, R.	Fidelman, E.	Lupo, J.	Stueckle, J.
Bolyard, J.	Field, J.	Martin, E.	Swager, L.
Bruyaka, O.	Fullen, M.	Martin, J.	Szklarz, G.
Bryner, R.	Galvez Peralta, M.	M'Bayo, T.	Tack, F.
Casey, R.	Gosden Kitchen, S.	Mccluskey, C.	Thomay, A.
Celikbas, E.	Graves, C.	McGinnis, R.	Totzkay, D.
Chapman, K.	Gross, J.	Milans, K.	Trickett-Shockey, C.
Cohen, S.	Haddox, J.	Murphy, E.	Unger, K.
Cook, A.	Hamrick, A.	Nguyen, J.	Valenti, M.
Corcoran, K.	Hanif, A.	Nolan, K.	Vance, B.
Cottrell, L.	Hatipoglu, K.	O'Quinn, J.	Watson, K.
Crichlow, S.	Hauser, D.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Wayne, S.
Dahle, G.	Hedrick, J.	Phillips, T.	Weislogel, A.
Davis, D.	Hileman, S.	Rinehart, L.	Woloshuk, J.
Demarco, F.	Huber, S.	Roberts, D.	Woodberry, K.
Descoteaux, J.	Jaynes, M.	Rota, C.	Woods, S.
Di Bartolomeo, L.	Johnson, D.	Ruseski, J.	Wuest, T.
Dickman, B.	Kelly, C.	Scaife, B.	Zeni, T.
Dietz, P.	Kidd, K.	Scally, J.	
Dilcher, B.	Knuckles, T.	Siekmeier, J.	
Donley, D.	Leary, B.	Sizemore, J.	

Members Excused:

Adkins, B.	Liller, B.	Nix, A.	Sherlock, L.
Burt, A.	Miltenberger, M.	Prinzo, L.	Waggy, C.

Members Absent:

Bardes, J.	Duenas, O.	Komisaruk, A.	Reece, J.
Barghouthi, N.	Eades, D.	Labus, A.	Renzelli-Cain, R.
Battistella, L.	Ellis, E.	LaRue, R.	Sims, J.
Bianco, C.	Faber, T.	Lastinger, A.	Sokos, G.
Bogdansky, K.	Floyd, K.	Malarcher, J.	Stephan, K.
Carducci, H.	Hines, S.	Murray, A.	Terry, D.
Dey, K.	Kale, U.	Olgers, F.	Titolo, M.
Dimachkie, Z.	Kearns, J.	Palmer, A.	Vaddamani, V.
Dionne, C.	Kent, A.	Pyles, L.	

1. For Approval – [Minutes](#) of the December 4, 2023 meeting of the Faculty Senate.  
Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent.

## 2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack

- a. Condolences sent to UNLV on behalf of WVU Faculty regarding the death of three faculty members and injury of another during a campus shooting.
- b. Board Chair Tanya Willis Miller has established an ad hoc governance committee of members who will, in part, prepare for the presidential search, given President Gee's retirement in June 2025. This is not the formal search committee, which will be seated at a later date, and has been charged with studying and providing guidance and recommendations to the Board on best practices relating to presidential searches, selection and evaluation, hiring, and transition.
  - a. Committee members are Dr. Patrice Harris as chair, Charlie Capito, Kevin Craig, Rick Pill, and Frankie Tack representing faculty. Tanya Willis Miller will serve as ex officio.
  - b. The Board Chair and members have been receptive to the concept that faculty input is critical in the presidential search.
- c. The Executive Committee has historically led faculty activities in a presidential search. However, as a sitting president is a member of the committee, Senate leadership with support from the Executive Committee has decided that the Shared Governance Committee, chaired by Scott Wayne, will take the lead with a subcommittee led by Stan Hileman. We anticipate that the subcommittee will focus on designing and coordinating methods for faculty input and to create a slate of potential members to serve on the formal search committee, which will be brought to the Senate for a vote.
- d. The Shared Governance Committee will be reporting at each Senate meeting for the remainder of the academic year.
- e. The Executive Committee is restarting work on revising the University Promotion and Tenure document, with Frankie Tack leading the initiative, which will be faculty-driven with additional feedback included from the Provost's Office. It will unfold in four stages.
  - a. Taking concerns and feedback from last spring, developing a new draft with focus on removing the two main areas of concern: required external reviews and non-continuation of tenured faculty.
  - b. Once developed, the new draft will be delivered to the Faculty Welfare Committee, currently chaired by Emily Murphy, which will review and provide the next round of feedback. (anticipated to be done by May)
  - c. Once any needed revisions are made based on feedback, solicit broad faculty feedback on the revised document.
  - d. Hold a special meeting of the University Assembly to vote on the new document, hopefully in spring 2025.
- f. Senate leadership has begun receiving detailed information on nonacademic area reviews of Strategic Initiatives, comprising of 11 units. Results, including associated recommendations, will be presented to the Board on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and then to Faculty Senate on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

3. Report from Kayla Follmer, WVU Graduate Ombudsperson and Associate Professor of Management
  - a. Has met with 20 graduate students from several programs at the institution concerning issues such as grade disputes, funding issues, finding graduate assistantships, relating to fears of discrimination or retaliation following conflict.
  - b. Mediated conversations between an advisor and student following interpersonal conflict.
  - c. Advised students on initiating conversations with faculty or for raising concerns.
  - d. One of the most impactful services has been offering a place for students to contact when they don't know where else to find assistance.
  - e. Faculty are welcome to refer students to Kayla Follmer's office if they believe it may be beneficial or to initiate a conversation regarding support.

4. Curriculum Committee Report (Cindi Trickett Shockey)

For Approval – Program Change BUSM\_BSBAD - Human Resource Management, Key: 43

For Approval – Program Change CPS\_CL\_AOE - Coaching and Leadership, Key: 1170

For Approval – Program Change CPS\_SC\_AOE - Strength and Conditioning, Key: 1171

For Approval – Program Change ENGR\_CYBE\_AOE - Cybersecurity, Key: 893

For Approval – Program Change HTM\_BSBAD - Hospitality & Tourism Management, Key: 25

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD - Dance, Key: 1472

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Key: 1509

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD - Engineering Leadership, Key: 1570

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD - Legal Studies, Key: 1508

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD - Physical Education and Kinesiology, Key: 463

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD - Physical Education Teaching Licensure, Key: 1573

For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD - Sport Pedagogy, Key: 1574

For Approval – New Course Report – [Annex I](#)

For Approval – Course Change Report – [Annex II](#)

Motion to approve all items. Seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

For Information – Deleted Course Report – [Annex III](#)

5. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Mary Beth Angeline)

For Approval – GEF Course Removal Report – [Annex IV](#)

- a. The Office of the Provost will review these courses with deans and chairs before they are removed.

Motion to approve courses for removal from GEF. Seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Marina Galvez Peralta)

- a. The new instrument, designed to replace the eSEI with a tool built around best practices, will be presented to Faculty Senate in January to refresh senators on the details of the tool. This tool was initiated in 2021-22 with initial results reported to Faculty Senate in May 2022, after which we

were asked for more data via pilot program. We will be presenting that data over the next few months.

- b. The new tool has been created to address the varying biases toward faculty depending on gender, countries of origin, ethnicity, etc. The TACO had been asked to take on a task like this for several years.
- c. Development of the instrument involved collaboration with TLC and the Office of the Provost. Committee consulted literature and practices at other institutions to aid shaping the instrument in an effective way.
- d. The mission of TACO is more than the eSEI. We are looking at tools to help with professional development. We also address early student feedback, as well as a mechanism for removing inappropriate feedback in the eSEI.

Member: Can you tell us more about what the final product will comprise of? Will it be uniform across all colleges, will it involve peer to peer evaluation or be more about self-evaluation?

Peralta: The issue this is addressing is the substitution of the student evaluation system with a new tool. This is one tool that TACO is working on, but my understanding is that we will be providing more feedback on colleague assessment, portfolio review, and so on. That has been addressed in prior years, but we are happy to revisit those. Student feedback is something that we were aware was not working as effectively as desired, so that is our current focus.

Tack: The Promotion and Tenure document also have a variety of things about a broader focus on teaching evaluation, and what I believe the new TLC will be doing is a more focused effort on things of that nature.

#### 7. Committee on Committees Report (Lesley Cottrell)

For Approval – Committee Roster Updates – [Annex V](#)

- a. Approval document includes one member added to the General Education Foundations Committee. Motion to approve. Seconded.  
Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### 8. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Eloise Elliott)

- a. The legislation starts on January 10 and ends on March 9. WVU day is January 30<sup>th</sup>, and Undergraduate Research Day is February 22.
- b. Contact Tara Curtis in Extension to inquire about eligibility.

Member: Are you able to speak about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion legislature that is slated for the current session? Does the university know of measures that are currently in place to protect academic freedom and WVU from such legislation?

Elliott: I have not been informed of what the legislation is at this point. We believe that it will mimic the legislation we have seen in other states. At this point, we have discussed what we can do to prepare for any potential legislation that may be passed, and the provost has distributed information to the deans regarding related action and programs that would potentially be impacted. ACF meeting on January 19, with one objective being a unified front against potential DEI legislation.

9. Board of Governors Report (Stan Hileman)

a. December 15 Meeting

- a. As Chair Tack mentioned, an ad hoc committee for governance is currently being organized. Hileman will reach out to faculty for input as that group's direction is further resolved.

10. Report from Provost Maryanne Reed

- a. Final recommendations were announced for the Libraries and TLC prior to the break. Dean Diaz will attend next month's meeting to present on changes to the Libraries.

Yielded floor to Mark Gavin to speak on changes to TLC.

- b. TLC was reviewed in spring/summer 2023.
- c. Recommendation letters are available on the transformation website.
- d. TLC has grown into a large unit with a very broad mission. It has been very positive in its impact, but we identified a problem of the loosely connected mission of TLC compared to the original request for the establishment of a center for teaching and learning from the Faculty Senate.
- e. Goal to broaden the impact across campus while more closely aligning with the original mission of TLC.
- f. The decision has been to deconstruct TLC and start anew, rather than attempt to modify the existing structure.

- a. Several functions have shifted to either WVU Online or to ITS, with related personnel switching to the relevant department.

- b. No positions will remain in the existing TLC as of the end of this fiscal year, impacting 9 nonrenewed individuals.

- c. Planning for 4-6 positions in the new TLC. An open search will be held for those new positions.

Yielded floor to Melissa Latimer to speak on the new positions and reconstruction plan.

- d. Working with remaining staff to ensure services remain accessible.

- e. Committee established to answer the questions of what the unit vision is, what the essential services are, what the role of positions within the unit will be, and more. First meeting on January 22.

- f. It has been identified that many peer institutions staff similar units with individuals possessing prior faculty experience.

Maryanne Reed reclaims floor.

- g. PSC and Tech program review process is under way, led by Lou Slimak. The team is currently gathering relevant program data to begin the process, with preliminary recommendations expected on Feb 26, with final recommendations made to BOG on the April (date) meeting.

- h. Name and leadership plans for the WVU Extension and Davis merger will be announced in the new few weeks.

- i. Finance team, in partnership with the Provost's Office, is developing the budget for the new fiscal year and will present at the February or March Faculty Senate meeting.
- j. Intent to return to some semblance of normality in the coming academic year, though it cannot be promised that there will be no cuts. Intent for funds to be available for things like startups, growth opportunities, and travel.

Yielded floor to Lou Slimak to speak on the University Testing Center.

- k. Located in Hodges Hall and coordinated by Beth Bosley.
- l. Projected 82k exams in AY24, with 11.5k finals.
- m. Increase in flexible exam dates, availability of exam retakes observed, with a decrease in academic integrity issues.
- n. Possibility of a new testing center on the Evansdale Campus.
- o. While academic dishonesty cases have gone down, it is expected that cases involving unapproved devices and AI may increase.

Maryanne Reed reclaims floor.

- p. Note of appreciation to the new Graduate Ombudsperson, Kayla Follmer.
- q. Reminder of the ability for graduate students to request a modification of duties relating to life circumstances.
- r. Dr. Rezai, from RNL, identified for groundbreaking Alzheimer's Treatment and will be featured on 60 Minutes.
- s. More information will be available regarding potential DEI legislation in the coming days.

Member: Question for Lou, adjacent to testing. You mentioned there was an increase in unauthorized usage and AI. At the college level we have had discussions about the use of AI in papers and so on, but has that conversation been initiated at the university level?

Slimak: There has been an AI focused workgroup that has been working on the AI issue. Evan Widders is the individual in charge of academic integrity, so I yield to him.

Widders: We do have a Faculty Senate approved syllabus statement on the use of AI. The AI task force meets once a month on a Friday, with the next meeting being this week, and I'd be happy to invite you if you would like to join that discussion. We are still looking at the ramifications, and we don't currently have software that can reliably identify the use of AI in the classroom. The most important thing for faculty is to have some form of statement in your syllabi related to the use of AI so that, if it does become an issue, the Office of Academic Integrity has something to point to so they can interact with students appropriately.

Member: Considering that the vast majority of HSC students continue on to some form of national licensure, and building capacity in testing facilities may be helpful for that, is there work moving forward on the Health Sciences campus to model that?

Slimak: There has been discussion regarding a testing center specific to Health Sciences. The current center is not really built for licensure/certified testing of that nature. Louise Veselicky has been in contact with Mark Gavin about a pro fora for a testing center specific to Health Sciences.

Member: I had intended is there a way to have a center prepare students for those type of exams.

Slimak: Yes, that is part of what Louise has requested and what is in discussion for the HSC center currently under consideration.

Tack: For awareness, I have been advocating for some mechanism for administration to ask faculty what growth opportunities might be available related to the programs and areas of expertise. Of particular interest would be those that cost nothing or next to nothing to initiate.

11. No new business.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Chair Tack adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m. to reconvene on February 5, 2024.

Corey Hunt

Faculty Senate Office Administrator

\*You may access program proposals at <https://futurecatalog.wvu.edu/programadmin/> by using your login credentials. Search for programs using the 3- or 4-digit key provided above.