

Minutes
West Virginia University Faculty Senate
Monday, November 9, 2020

1. Nathalie Singh-Corcoran, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. The Senate met by videoconference.

Members Present:

Anderson, K.	Cui, A.	Goodykoontz, E.	McCrary, J.	Sims, J.
Angeline, M.	Davari, A.	Graziani, G.	McCusker, B.	Singh-Corcoran, N.
Arthurs, J.	Davis, D.	Gross, J.	Mucino, V.	Soccorsi, A.
Benedito, V.	DiBartolomeo, L.	Grushecky, S.	Murphy, E.	Squire, D.
Bernardes, E.	Dotson, S.	Hardy, S.	Myers, S.	Steele, J.
Bernstein, M.	Downes, M.	Harmon, I.	Nguyen, Y.	Swager, L.
Bhandari, R.	Eades, D.	Hatipoglu, K.	Nutter, R.	Tack, F.
Billings, H.	Elliott, E.	Hauser, D.	Ogden, L.	ter Haseborg, H.
Bragg, R.	Ellison, M.	Hessl, A.	Olfert, M.	Toppe, M.
Bravo, G.	Elswick, D.	Hibbert, A.	Olson, K.	Tu, S.
Bresock, K.	Eubank, T.	Hileman, S.	Orr, E.	Valentine, K.
Bryner, R.	Evans, J.	Hodge, J.	Phillips, T.	Vanderhoff, J.
Butina, M.	Evans, K.	Honaker, L.	Rakes, P.	Vercelli, M.
Casey, R.	Famouri, P.	Kitchen, S.	Reddy, R.	Watson, J.
Celikbas, E.	Feaster, K.	Law, K.	Reece, R.	Wayne, S.
Chantler, P.	Fleming, S.	Leary, M.	Rice, T.	Welsh, A.
Cohen, S.	Fullen, M.	Li, H.	Sabolsky, E.	Woloshuk, J.
Costas, M.	Funk, A.	Mallow, J.	Samuels, H.	Woods, S.
Cottrell, L.	Galvan-Turner, V.	Marra, A.	Sand-Jecklin, K.	Young, S.
Crichlow, S.	Galvez, M.	Martucci, A.	Scaife, B.	Zegre, N.
Cronin, A.	Gilleland, D.	McCombie, R.	Schimmel, C.	

Members Excused:

Bonner, D.	Dilcher, B.	Jaczynski, J.	Momen, J.	Nix, A.
Burt, A.	Hamrick, A.	Miltenberger, M.	Morris, T.	Rogers, T.

Members Absent:

Bastress, R.	Geldenhuis, W.	John, C.	Peckens, S.	Sealey, V.
Burnside, J.	Germana, M.	Kelly, K.	Perhinschi, M.	Sedney, C.
Chisholm, S.	Holbein, M.	Klein, A.	Petrone, A.	Shrader, C.
Clemmer, M.	Hornsby, G.	Kupec, J.	Renzelli-Cain, R.	Willard, M.
Corio, E.	Hudgins, C.	McGinnis, R.	Ryan, E.	Williams, D.
Donley, D.	Hutson, Z.	Morgan, J.	Schaefer, G.	

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, October 12, 2020 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
3. President Gordon Gee reported the following:
 - We have just been through a very brutal and bruising election and he is hopeful that the university itself will start leading the way toward more civil discourse.

- He is uncertain about whether Congress will move quickly towards a new CARES Act stimulus. In all of the proposals that have existed our university would have received \$42 - 49 million, which of course closes a lot of gaps.
- Both the House and the Senate in this state have veto-proof Republican majorities now. That does not present a challenge because we have great friends in the Senate and in the House, and certainly our governor is a strong supporter of the university. But it does mean that we are going to have to continue to make our case for investment.
- We are starting to see our numbers spike in West Virginia and in Morgantown. We are monitoring those very carefully and are hopeful that we can keep them within a range that will allow us to continue our plans as we have outlined.

4. Provost Maryanne Reed reported the following:

- The university made a decision in June not to bring students back after the Thanksgiving holiday. So, we will have a week of online classes after Thanksgiving and then finals. Students will return on the 19th of January.
- We saw an uptick in cases at WVU, and in Morgantown, beginning on November 6. Those are predominantly student cases, but we had a total of six employee cases as well. Our evidence strongly suggests that our classrooms are safe and that these transmissions primarily occurred off campus.
- We believe that our contact tracing teams are managing this very well. Cases are being assessed very quickly. We have a great deal of availability in Arnold Hall should we need to isolate students on campus and we have many hospital beds remaining if it should come to that. If students test positive prior to the 24th of November, they will be allowed to isolate here. They can isolate in Arnold Hall and services will be provided to them. Should they choose to quarantine off campus, we will determine where students might live and how we would provide services to them.
- We are now of course looking ahead to the spring 21 semester, which will provide students with a mix of instruction similar to what we did this fall, but with a small increase of in-person classes. Our goal, again, is to preserve as much as possible the on-campus experience for freshmen and graduate students and, whenever possible, to offer our capstone experiential courses to graduating seniors. Prior to registration, 57% of course seats were designated as online, 10% as hybrid, and 30% as in-person. In addition, 54% of online courses will offer synchronous or real-time instruction, which is an increase of nearly 8% from fall. The majority of complaints from students and parents are that we are offering too much asynchronous online instruction.
- We are hearing from the care team that our students are under a great deal of stress, beyond anything that that we have seen before. She thinks it is important for faculty to be gentle and supportive of students. Faculty who want to discuss the possibility of a pass/fail option should communicate with the Office of the Provost.
- We are already planning for fall 2021. The tentative schedule based on last year will be circulated to the academic units over the next week or so for changes and adjustments. Right now, we are planning for a typical fall, meaning a return to mostly on campus instruction. We are not making a statement about fall yet, but it is much easier to change the schedule from on campus to online than it is to do the reverse.
- At this point, we are also looking at a normal summer. The bulk of our summer instruction is already offered online and there will be plenty of room and classroom spaces to socially

distance. We have not made a decision yet about summer abroad or faculty-led trips, but we hope to be able to make that decision as soon as possible. The majority of countries where our students and faculty travel are not accepting Americans at this point because of COVID-19.

- In addition to seeing adverse impacts on our students, we continue to recognize the stress that the COVID-19 crisis is having on our faculty and staff. Our faculty emergency childcare fund has not seen a lot of takers, but there has been a tremendous demand for paid tutoring services for the children of faculty and staff. In fact, there has been a far greater demand than supply of available tutors. We are working on this for spring and hope to be able to accommodate the need. The Office of the Provost has partnered with Talent and Culture to launch several new parenting discussion boards for employees. This will provide a platform that faculty and staff will manage, to swap strategies, pool resources, and come up with shared solutions to the shortage of childcare. This came directly out of a conversation that the provost's office had with Faculty Senate leadership about something that we could do to support faculty with childcare needs.
- There has been so much demand for mental health services that the university has hired another full-time counselor for the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program.
- The retention rate of first-time freshmen increased more than 3% between fall 2019 and fall 2020. We know that some of that was due to a one-time relaxation of our academic policies, but we also know at least 1% of that was due to our increased focus and effort on this topic. So, to continue the momentum we are again working with the academic consultant TorchStar. They have provided us with a three-year retention roadmap which identifies several concrete actions that we can take, such as addressing courses with high DFW rates, developing realistic paths for struggling students, and strengthening and further professionalizing our academic advising and support services. Associate Provost Evan Widders has created a committee consisting of 27 people, about half faculty and about half relevant academic administrators, that will be tackling this effort in the coming year.
- The search for the new dean of the College of Law is well underway. The committee has identified five finalists who they want to bring to campus for a series of virtual interviews and presentations. The next step would be to have one or two top candidates come to campus for a more selective set of interviews and meetings.
- She introduced Annex IA, which is a statement created as a direct response to concerns around COVID-19 raised by Faculty Senate leadership. It is the result of a collaborative process to identify those areas of concern and represents what the university could commit to at this time. Central administration commits to adding faculty to key COVID-19 planning committees, even those that are not primarily academic in nature, but which impact faculty. And they affirm that there is a formal process if, for any reason, there would be a reduction in force. Finally, she thinks the most exciting part is that her office commits to a collaborative process to review and possibly revise our faculty governance model with the goal of strengthening and improving faculty governance at WVU.

5. Ryan Watson, Senior Associate General Counsel, gave a presentation on Intellectual Property Rights.

6. Faculty Senate Chair Nathalie Singh-Corcoran reported the following:

- At the January Faculty Senate meeting, Rob Alsop will talk about the legislative agenda and what we might expect from the Republican-dominated state legislature.
- The statement on and faculty governance came about because of concerns brought to the attention of Senate leadership. It outlines the current freedoms in the classroom with respect to modality and provides some clarity on how SEIs will count over the next few semesters. It is also meant to reassure faculty that there is a process for a reduction in force and, should that become necessary, WVU will make every effort to retain faculty. Lastly, the statement is a commitment to strengthen and improve our structure of shared governance.
- The ad hoc committee on third party tools should have their recommendations ready to present at the March senate meeting.
- Karen Diaz, the dean of the libraries, will share the library's new vendor policy at the February Senate meeting.

7. Jen Steele, Chair of the 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.

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

Annex IV, GEF Transition Review.

9. Jessica Vanderhoff, Chair of the Teaching and Assessment Committee, reported the following:

- The committee is working to finalize the report on the early semester teaching assessment survey, as well as the post-assessment instructor survey. They hope to have a final report for the December Faculty Senate meeting.
- A subcommittee is working on an inventory of all the professional development activities surrounding teaching and assessment. In conjunction with the Office of the Provost and the Teaching and Learning Commons, they hope to compile a comprehensive calendar of those professional development activities.

10. Ann Marie Hibbert, Chair-Elect of the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies, presented the following report for approval. Motion carried.

Annex V, Committee Appointments.

11. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, reported the following:

- Some of the two-year schools are closing programs and have given notice of layoffs. In addition, the Board of Governors at West Virginia State University has reportedly put reduction in force rules in place and announced layoffs of 16 faculty and staff.

- He has heard speculation that, because of COVID-19, the legislature will deal with the budget and have no other business or bills until later in the year.
12. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported that the Board of Governors met on November 6, 2020. The Board:
- Approved Governance Rule 1.6 (Rules Regarding Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Misconduct, Stalking, Retaliation, and Relationships) and Student Life Rule 6.1 (Student Rights and Responsibilities; Student Conduct). These amendments were proposed to comply with the most recent Title IX regulations.
 - Received the annual Classified Staff report from Lisa Martin.
 - Received an “unmodified” audit opinion, the highest possible, from the auditing firm of Clifton Larson Allen. The auditors were very, very complimentary about the job our financial folks have done.
 - Heard updates on COVID-19 preparations for spring.
13. New Business: Lisa Di Bartolomeo passed along a request from the Office of Student Conduct that faculty respond to emails from Carrie Showalter or Amanda DeBastiani inquiring whether a particular student is attending class. Your response will allow them to determine whether the student is following sanctions and is in compliance with COVID-19 regulations. This only pertains to a small number of students.
14. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, December 7, 2020.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator