

Minutes  
Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
Monday, March 19, 2012

1. Chair Lesley Cottrell called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Bluestone Room, Mountainlair.

Members Present:

Bastress, R.	Elmore, S.	Mays, M.	Tuninetti, A.
Bilgesu, I.	Griffith, R.	Nutter, R.	Wheatly, M.
Cottrell, L.	Kershner, R.	Orlikoff, J.	
DiBartolomeo, L.	Kleist, V.	Stolzenberg, A.	

Members Absent:

Butcher, F.	Curtis, R.	Clements, J.	Strife, M.
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Guests:

Dooley, E.	Lang, A. (DP)	Lang, D.	Lee, P.
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2. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2012 meeting.  
Motion carried.

3. Provost Wheatly reported on the following issues:

- This is a busy time for the Provost's Office; hiring, leadership changes, promotion and tenure (90+ cases), as well as entering into the end of the academic year that is very exhilarating.
- Two finalists were on campus being interviewed for the dean's position in the College of Human Resources and Education. They are in the due diligence stage of this search. The Campus Provost search for Potomac State is going well. A number of candidates will be interviewed this week-end.
- Carolyn Long is working out quite well at WVU-Tech.
- The Provost's Office is looking at the cycle of students and faculty. Enrollment projections look very strong.
- A Council of Deans retreat will be held Wednesday, March 21. They'll discuss pinnacles of excellence – how do we grow the research stature of the institution.
- Fred King is serving as Interim Vice President for Research. He comes from the faculty and will add to the faculty discussion on some of the structures faculty would like to see changed in the OSP. He's been in several behind the scenes discussions about how research machinery can be positioned to better support faculty.

- There's a lot of international activity. The first roundtable to give a formalized report is the International Research Roundtable, Goal 4. There's been a number of recommendations made about how to structure the administration to best serve international programming and how to identify the kinds of student we should recruit as well as the kind of intelligent ways to do programming on an international basis.
- For the reaccreditation of the institution by the Higher Learning Commission, we've done a lot this past year to gear up the process to make this as painless as possible for faculty. The right people have been placed in the right places, they've identified areas they believe could be areas of concern, and they're now strategizing to make sure all bases are covered. Dates have been submitted for review, mid-November 2013 and mid-April 2014; HLC will choose which date they will be on campus.
- Last week Dr. Marcello Napolitano was named Professor of the Year.
- The Solar Decathlon is a wonderful example of how students led us to enter this competition. Students from all disciplines will be building a solar cabin. The competition will be held in California.

4. Chair Cottrell reported on the following issues:

- Today is the kick-off for the IT Strategic Planning meeting. Everyone should be thinking about changes, and strengths, to all campuses for when the comment period opens.
- Petra Wood, from DCANRD, will be presenting her research in April on her Marcellus Shale findings. The date has not been confirmed.
- The GEC sub-committee, chaired by Mark Tauger and Victor Mucino, asked that English courses, as well as some randomly selected courses from objective five, be used for information gathering. Particularly, what evidence are faculty collecting on student learning, not just that the course meets the objectives, but student learning as well; what do their assessment materials look like, and do GEC and individual course objectives match. The GEC application form will also be revised.
- Professor Elmore, WVU-Tech, asked if GEC objectives should be the same for the main and regional campuses. Professor DiBartolomeo, GEC Committee Chair, said yes, that all three campuses are expected to be the same. Professor Elmore asked that something be clarified in writing.
- The University Assessment Council met and discussed resources for faculty, including particular materials that are on-line, professional development, and teaching.

- The sub-group that defines credit hours will meet on Thursday. This committee will develop guidelines that will be incorporated into all the different types of courses and then figure out how to bring them under the appropriate definition of a credit hour.
- Oliver Luck and Mike Parsons will be making presentations to the Faculty Senate in May 2012. If anyone has questions for Mr. Luck, let her know and she'll forward them to him.
- At a future meeting, Chancellor Colenda will speak about Health Sciences, particularly about how student health might look related to the new building and will the same services be available when the building goes up.
- Nigel Clark is working on the Strategic Plan of which the Faculty Senate is an integral partner on goal one, which relates to the curriculum. There's a document in development that responds to: do you have a strategic planning goal and the particular action listed on-line, how would the Faculty Senate goals be related to that, and what are the Faculty Senate actions and timelines.

5. Jennifer Orlikoff, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee moved for approval of the following reports:

Annex I, New Courses and Course Changes. Professor Orlikoff will check to make sure that there are sign-off's for the Nursing courses from the Statistics department, and in the rationale for SOWK 401, first paragraph, delete the wording after ....populations as it relates to sexuality. Motion carried as amended.

Annex II, General Business Degree. Professor Orlikoff will ask that BSBA be changed to BSGB. Motion carried, with correction.

Annex III, SM 487 Capstone, was removed from the agenda.

Annex IV, Alteration Report, was submitted for information. WVUe 191 was pulled from the report. Professor Orlikoff will contact Professor Jones asking her to make sure she is very explicit with students about the 1 or 2 credit hours taken in this course.

6. Lisa DiBartolomeo, Chair, General Education Committee, moved for approval of the following reports:

Annex V, GEC Actions. Motion carried.

Annex VI, The GEC Audits were submitted for information.

7. Associate Provost Dooley presented Annex VII, Proposed Academic Calendar for 2013-2014, for approval. Motion carried, with the following changes: change November 4 to November 5 and add "Recess" after Election Day. Annex VIII, Proposed Academic Calendar for 2014-2015, was suspended in order to revisit the option of a fall break and consideration of a later starting date.

8. Professor Stolzenberg presented a report from the Textbook Affordability Committee (TAC) outlining guidelines per BOG Policy 48 requiring guidelines for textbook selection. He said there are three things that might catch faculty's attention: 1) It's mandated in the Policy that if there is not a selection by the deadline that there has to be a default procedure in place to select textbook materials for the course. The TAC decided that since disciplines are different, each department could devise their own policies on how they want to handle this. 2) When faculty require a workbook and the student writes on one page to turn in to the instructor it can't be resold. These seem to be cases where the instructor is the author of the workbook and viewed to be profiting from this. The TAC allows this if it is a supplement, independent of the textbook. Workbooks, lab manuals, or similar material written jointly by the faculty of a course may be required. 3) The textbook publishers soliciting any employee of the board (any faculty member) to select textbooks or supplemental material must provide information in writing. The important word is solicit, if a faculty member is interested in a particular textbook and initiates a discussion then this does not apply.

David Lang, General Manager, WVU Bookstore, said that the deadline for faculty to let them know what textbook they'll be using is March 15 and October 15. He said they use these dates so they can try to source as many used books as they can from students and the used book market.

9. Professor Bastress said that he spoke to Steve Robinson, Registrar, about how plus/minus grading would effect his office. Mr. Robinson said "that with the HLC reaccreditation visit approaching, I'd prefer that we stayed away from any changes to grading on this scale during the next year. We just don't have the resources for awhile to approach such a major change to our processes." Mr. Robinson suggested that in the meantime that a committee undertake a study to include sampling of particular courses in several different colleges in terms of what would be the impact of going to a plus or minus scale on overall GPA's, what our peer institutions are doing, and to include students on this committee to get their input. There was a study done in 2003 that included sampling of courses in different colleges in terms of what would be the impact of overall GPA's and the results were not substantial, but consistent. Basically, only 20% of student's grades went up with the plus or minus and most grades went down slightly. This would be for undergraduate grading only. Professor Bastress moved, and it was duly seconded, to create a committee to look at the plus and minus issue. Motion carried.
10. There was no ACF report.
11. Robert Griffith, BOG representative, reported that:
- As BOG representative on the HEPC Tech Revitalization Committee, they had an open meeting at Tech on Thursday. It was to present to the public and faculty the data that Carolyn Long has accumulated on the situation at Tech. There was a lengthy report on

the state of their physical plant. It will cost millions to fix it. On the academic committee, enrollment has dropped but the number of faculty has not.

12. Annex X, 2012 Faculty Senate Election Results were presented for information.

15. New business:

At a future meeting, Professor Kershner would like to have a discussion about requiring people who serve on the Executive Committee have previous service on other Faculty Senate committees. Chair Cottrell said that issue has come up before and the problem is getting a slate of people for the ballot willing to serve on the Executive Committee.

16. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, April 23, 2012.

Linda Cunningham, Secretary