

MINUTES
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023, 3:00 P.M.

Faculty Senate Chair Scott Wayne brought the monthly meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Members and guests participated via video conference.

Members Present:

Bastress, R.	Gee, E.	Samuels, H.
Cottrell, L.	Hauser, D.	Sowards, A.
Davari, A.	Hibbert, A.	Tack, F.
Davis, D.	Martucci, A.	Veselicky, L.
Di Bartolomeo, L.	Ogden, L.	Wayne, S.
Elliott, E.	Reed, M.	

Guests Present:

Becker, K.	Latimer, M.	Thomas, R.
Brugnoli, A.	Morris, T.	Widders, E.
Gavin, M.	Shannon, R.	
Hunt, C.	Staples, C.	

1. Chair Wayne presented the [Minutes](#) of the February 27, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting for approval.
Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent
2. Report from President Gordon Gee
 - a. Presented the State of the University today, which discussed the budget situation and ongoing focus on unique programs, land grant mission, and student success.
 - b. Emphasized that the transformation process would be data driven and as transparent as possible.
 - a. Confirmed that there will mostly likely be programs and employees terminated in the process.

Wayne: How confident are we in the \$35 million budget deficit that you presented today?

Gee: I know many were shocked by that number and it was a shock to me, but after examination it is a very confident number.

Member: I think it would be beneficial for faculty to work within departments and promote better awareness of budget situations, including the impact of travel and things like printing. Maybe that will allow greater understanding of the challenge that faces us. Is this budget shortfall something you believe we can overcome in the near future?

Gee: I appreciate that, but I believe that we don't hire faculty with the expectation that they will be knowledgeable on internal budgets. We have many individuals that are hired to be experts on the matter and who will need to inform units on that information. I really feel that we need to get ahead of this before the situation becomes more dire. I do believe that if we follow the outlined steps that we can come out ahead.

Member: You said to move quickly, but is there a timeline yet?

Reed: First I want to add regarding the deficit that, in the scheme of things, \$35 million doesn't sound like a lot. Everyone should understand that it is significant because there isn't anywhere to trim or reserves to cover this. This is why we need to take a serious look at some hard decisions so that we can continue to function as the university needs to. As to when, the answer is "soon." I don't mean to be vague, but we only just recently came up with the deficit that we are confident in, and we have created projections for the next ten years. I will bring Rob Alsop with me to the next meeting so that he can provide greater detail on that. We need to accelerate our Academic Transformation efforts, but I do not know what exactly that is going to look like. Any actions we take will be data driven. We will continue to provide updates in faculty meetings as we have them.

Some of the work will need to happen over the summer. We did not initially have the information to see the cost of instruction for a program when performing a review, and we now have access to that. We will be determining our approach over the next several weeks.

Member: Will you publish data on programs, which was removed in the prior transformation?

Reed: We did post the information in the prior reviews, but it was taken down due to internal requests. We do plan to post that information, especially if the changes will result in people losing their jobs.

Member: Will this be a Provost led effort?

Reed: I can only speak to our piece, but for academics I have to assume that it will need driven from our office. I don't want to commit to anything specific this early.

Member: In our school we were told which graduate programs would be cut. Is that true across the university, that faculty will be aware of which graduate programs will be cut?

Reed: This is related to our graduate portfolio review efforts. We are making recommendations that are more aggressive than what we did with the undergraduate review, but this is not related to the new budget efforts.

Member: Is there a way for us to put the data behind our SSO so that it does not impact enrollment, but is still available for faculty review?

Reed: I think that is a great idea.

Member: I understand that faculty can't know everything, but we are data driven individuals and would like to see pieces of the narrative. What order of magnitude are we looking at here to close a \$35 million gap?

Gee: I don't believe that system-wide efforts like cutting budgets or decreasing compensation are effective, as they impact the culture to a severe degree. We are trying to strengthen the university, enhance our portfolio, and these efforts will be geared toward that idea. This isn't a resource problem, but instead a resource allocation problem where we have spread ourselves too thin.

Member: We had been informed last fall that the budget deficit would not impact the Beckley campus. Is that still true?

Gee: We are approaching this problem as a system, which includes all campuses. Beckley will be involved in some pruning, but will also be invested in given its influence in the southern part of the state.

Member: Is the philosophy aimed more at removing entire units, or trimming from academic areas?

Gee: We plan to avoid the "nickel and diming" approach, instead exploring fundamental changes to the institution. We need to make bold changes which will involve combining, reconfiguring, and playing to our strengths.

Member: Do we have any plans regarding PEIA and replacing it?

Gee: There is much discussion on that topic. We run a medical center that loses millions of dollars because of PEIA. I would like to get everyone in the university onto Peak Health, our insurance, but we must get state approval for that. PEIA is not a sustainable system, and state officials are aware that these changes will not save it. We have a long term goal, influenced by expanding our medical care to be state-wide, and I feel that we are close to it.

Wayne: You mentioned that you have never been a fan on strategic planning exercises. What is the plan then to meet the demands on our students and the programs they want to see?

Gee: Planning is a speedbump to success. If we spend too much time considering what we need to do, it will only restrict our ability to make the changes truly required. I believe we have been restricted by convenience and complacency.

Reed: We do know some things. We have our recruiters and our consultants, so we know the trends and opportunities. The challenge that we have is that there are not a lot of resources available to direct toward those opportunities.

Member: How will this impact the perspective of student success versus research?

Gee: I think the two are symbiotic. I also think that our rewards and recognition process is very screwed up. One of the reasons we reached R1 status is because of our teaching faculty. The only way putting students first will place us in jeopardy, is if we do not recognize that we need to reward people in different ways.

3. Report from Provost Maryanne Reed

- a. Noted that most of her report was covered by the prior discussion
- b. Long-Form Scholarship Celebration first week of April.
- c. Benedum Distinguished Scholars on April 12th
- d. Yielded floor to Melissa Latimer to speak on the Culture and Engagement Survey

Latimer: After about a week, faculty have 14% response rate, classified staff 21%, non-classified staff 36%. The survey is very brief, so please encourage colleagues to participate.

- e. Reed reclaimed the floor and ended her report.

4. Report from Evan Widders, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education – TorchStar Survey Results

- a. AI Taskforce had its first meeting last week. Encouraged faculty to visit openai.com and familiarize yourself with what ChatGPT is capable of.
- b. ChatGPT will be integrated into Microsoft Office in the near future
- c. Survey distributed to juniors and seniors asking why they stay, why they contemplate leaving, what impacts their success, and the perception of their experience
- d. 2890 total responses
- e. Academic programs were identified as the most important to both students and parents.
- f. Full presentation will be provided at the April 10th meeting

5. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Scott Wayne

- a. Considering the decision to combine the Research Integrity Committee with the Research and Scholarship Committee. A resolution will likely be presented at the next Senate meeting.
- b. Several emails received regarding the managed printing program. Jeff Pratt and Bryce Knotts will provide and update at the April 10th meeting

6. Curriculum Committee Report (Lori Ogden)

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

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

For Approval – Program Change (Program Code: ARHS_Min: Art History, Key: 275)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Climate & Environmental Services, Key:1338)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Earth and Environmental Sciences, Key:1439)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Environmental Engineering, Key:1383)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Environmental Studies, Key:1475)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Geoscience & Sustainable Energy, Key:1461)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: GIS Methods, Key: 1463)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Health Policy and Healthcare Navigation, Key:1505)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: LPN to BSN Program: 1468)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Public Health, Key:1506)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Sustainable Development, Key:1470)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Sustainability Studies, Key:1437)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Wood Science & Technology, Key:1356)

Motion to approve carried with 10 in favor and none opposed

For Information – Course Deactivations – [Annex III](#)

7. General Education Foundations Committee Chair Lisa DiBartolomeo had no report.
8. Teaching and Assessment Committee Chair Diana Davis reported the following:
 - a. BLUE system scheduled for an upgrade on May 6th and 7th
 - a. New system will be mobile friendly, which is intended to promote student completion of SEI surveys
 - b. New system will be in effect for Maymester and summer courses
 - b. Committee continues to support and direct faculty involved with the Student Perception of Teaching Pilot.
For Information – Teaching and Curriculum Updates – [Annex IV](#)
9. Committee on Committee Report Chair Lesley Cottrell had no report and noted that the committee volunteer survey has been distributed and committee population will begin soon.
10. Faculty Representative to State Government Eloise Elliot had no report and noted that the legislative session is over.

Gee: I'd like to state that Eloise did a fabulous job, and our government relations team really appreciated her work.

11. Board of Governors Report (Ashley Martucci)
 - a. The board met briefly to review the finance information that Gee presented on at the State of the University address.
12. For Information – Faculty Senator Election Results – [Annex V](#)
13. For Approval - Resolution to Create a Special Committee of Student Recruiting and Retention – Annex VI

Motion to move to faculty senate for consideration (D. Davis). Seconded
Motion carried with 10 in favor and none opposed.

14. New Business
 - a. Senator suggestion to modify the Inclusion and Diversity Committee title to match the WVU Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office
Referred to committee
15. Motion to adjourn (Martucci). Seconded

Chair Wayne adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m. to reconvene on April 24, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

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.