Minutes  
Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
Monday, September 28, 2020

1. Chair Nathalie Singh-Corcoran called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Committee members and guests participated via videoconference.

   Members Present:
   Atkins, C.  Elliott, E.  Murphy, E.  Steele, J.  
   Bastress, R.  Gee, G.  Nutter, R.  Vanderhoff, J.  
   Chisholm, S.  Hauser, D.  Reed, M.  Veselicky, L.  
   Cottrell, L.  Hileman, S.  Singh-Corcoran, N.  Wayne, S.  
   DiBartolomeo, L.  Martucci, A.  Sowards, A.  

   Guests:
   Becker, K  Kelley, E.  Neidermeyer, P.  Staples, C.  
   Brugnoli, A.  Kreider, P.  Pfeifer, A.  Thomas, R.  
   DeBastiani, A.  Latimer, M.  Shannon, R.  Widders, E.  
   Gavin, M.  Long, D.  Slimak, L.  

2. Chair Singh-Corcoran moved for approval of the minutes from the August 24, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

3. President Gordon Gee reported the following:
   • He appreciates the good work everyone is doing. Based on his observations, students are wearing masks and social distancing.
   • We are being as data driven as we possible about the decisions we are making with respect to online versus in-person instruction. Our classroom protocols are working well for the health and safety of our community.
   • We achieved a record of nearly $200 million in external funding, which further solidifies our R1 ranking.
   • We raised almost $200 million in private giving in FY 2020.
   • A full report will be released soon from the diversity working groups.

4. Provost Maryanne Reed reported the following:
   • There are several new protocols in place, including regular, free COVID-19 testing for faculty and staff.
   • If we have to pivot back to online instruction because of an increase in cases, we would likely stay online for the remainder of the semester.
   • Spring 2021 registration has been delayed by two weeks. We plan to publish the schedule on October 20, with registration to begin on November 2. The goal is to return more ownership to colleges and academic units. The Office of the Provost is providing guidelines and guardrails, such as prioritizing face-to-face instruction for freshmen and graduate students.
   • Summer registration will be delayed until spring.
• Faculty Senate leadership presented her with a document containing several requests, including greater involvement in decision making around planning for COVID-19 and a review of the faculty governance structure.

5. Chair Singh-Corcoran reported that

• Stephanie Taylor and Ryan Watson will discuss intellectual property rights with respect to course materials at the November Faculty Senate meeting.
• Erin Kelley and Dan Long will give a presentation on ADA Compliance at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

6. Jennifer Steele, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee presented the following reports for approval. Motion carried.
   Annex I, New Courses Report
   Annex II, New Courses Report
   New Degree Program in Early Childhood Special Education
   New Major in PSC-Technical Studies: Carpentry Technology

7. Lisa Di Bartolomeo, Chair of the General Education Foundations Committee, reported that committee members have been looking into racial justice and diversity requirements at other universities. Their findings will be discussed at the next meeting, scheduled for October 5.

8. Jessica Vanderhoff, Chair of the Teaching and Assessment Committee, provided an update on the Early Semester, Teaching Assessment Survey.

9. Nathalie Singh-Corcoran, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies presented the following report for approval. Motion carried.
   Annex III, Committee Appointments

10. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, provided an update on the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) and Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) meetings that took place on September 18.

11. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported that the Board met on September 18. Topics included COVID preparedness, a WVU Foundation update, building project updates, and an extension to the special emergency leave program.

12. Chair Singh-Corcoran presented Annex IV, a Resolution to Create an Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Planning, for approval. Members will be selected from volunteers currently serving on other Faculty Senate Committees, with the intent of creating greater representation from academic units across campus and meeting the planning needs of the provost’s office. Motion carried.

13. New Business – Nathalie Singh-Corcoran presented a Resolution on ADA Accessibility Expectations for approval. Motion carried.
14. The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, October 26, 2020.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator
West Virginia University Faculty Senate
Proposed Resolution on ADA Accessibility Expectations

Background

When West Virginia University students request accommodations through the Office of Accessibility Services, instructors are contacted individually and asked to make specific adjustments to their course content and/or mode of delivery. However, there is a sizable gap between the number of students who request accommodations and the number of students who would benefit from greater accessibility. By some estimations, only 17% of all college students who need ADA accessible course content receive it (see “Accessibility Considerations for Higher Education,” https://www.timely.md/accessibility-considerations-for-higher-education/).

Currently, there is no university policy on ADA accessibility expectations for a course, and because there are no expectations, the university has been reactive rather than proactive in responding to student needs. This reactive stance has led to increased stress on the institution in the form of formal complaints or litigation, increased stress on the faculty who, due to formal complaints or litigation issues, are being asked to adapt their content without the necessary resources, and increased stress on our students who need accessible content sooner rather than later.

Senate Resolution on ADA Accessibility Expectations

WHEREAS, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, universities must provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities;
WHEREAS, all students should have equal opportunity to be successful in their courses;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT West Virginia University establish the following minimum expectations for ADA accessibility:

1. All course syllabi should be accessible and available in an electronic format within a WVU-authenticated Learning Management System;
2. All course videos should be captioned if the videos are going to be reused in future course deliveries;
3. All documents should pass the relevant program’s accessibility checker (e.g., Word, PowerPoint);
4. All images and media (e.g., charts, graphs, diagrams, maps, animations) should have text alternatives.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS REQUIRES that faculty have access to the support and resources they need such as mentors, videos and tutorials, and captioning and alternative text services and tools.