

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

Faculty Senate Chair Scott Wayne brought the monthly meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Members and guests participated via video conference.

Members Present:

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

Guests Present:

Becker, K.	Kiger, T.	Shannon, R.
Beckley, T.	Kreider, P.	Slimak, L.
Brugnoli, A.	Latimer, M.	Staples, C.
DeBastiani, A.	Lofaso, A.	Thomas, R.
Gavin, M.	Morris, T.	Widders, E.
Hunt, C.	Robinson, S.	

1. Chair Wayne presented the [Minutes](#) of the January 23, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting for approval.
Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent
2. Report from President Gordon Gee
 - a. Creating and delivering programs and initiatives that help our students is our number one priority
 - b. Financial situation will warrant a very close look at operations over the next several months
 - i. Recruitment, retention, persistence, and innovation are the four areas of focus
 - ii. Roughly a \$20 million dollar deficit in an overall \$1.2 billion dollar budget
 - c. Legislative session
 - i. Received additional resources in support of our research programs and support of small communities
 - ii. Signs are indicative of financial support for deferred maintenance
 - iii. \$50 million to support creating a nationally recognized cancer center
 - iv. \$125 million for two years toward consolidation of state labs and building them on our campus

Member: Considering the budget situation, is it realistic to expect the raise promised by the Governor?

Gee: We won't be able to implement a 5% raise, as the funding only supports state employees. Many, many employees of WVU are not state employees. WVU only receives about a third of the funding needed for the proposed raise for state employees. Administration will

attempt to determine how to best distribute that funding, but the focus will be on promotion, retention, and equity issues.

3. Report from Provost Maryanne Reed

- a. [Email on Friday](#) detailing how the budget situation is impacting academic operations
- b. Working with deans to identify what positions are crucial for this year, knowing that next year might be even more difficult
- c. Institution has lost around 5,000 students over the last 10 years.
- d. Interviews have concluded for the graduate student ombudsperson

Member: Limitations on faculty travel have created roadblocks for faculty to present at national conferences, network, and so on. Do we have any expectation of those limitations being lifted in the future?

Reed: It is going to be another hard year next year. We have to get our enrollment up to subsidize our research before we are able to do anything. I understand the importance of the matter and we can consider what can be done related to promotion and tenure, but with the budget situation we will need to be realistic.

Member: Eberly faculty have reporting feeling extremely limited in a professional capacity due to the roadblocks just mentioned. Is there any way to communicate with academic departments to ensure that everyone is briefed on the situation at hand?

Gee: That is exactly what we just did, in terms of a broader communication of the issues. But I recognize the concerns that you have expressed, and we will need to spend a little more focus on determining what travel is absolutely necessary, as well as opportunities for professional networking.

Member: Please keep faculty in mind as we seek solutions to the problems the university faces. I know the faculty in my department have acknowledged the budget issues and expressed a desire to help with activities that can improve recruitment and retention. There is a persistent question, though, as to if faculty will see benefit from those efforts when it comes time to cut budgets.

Gee: We cannot cut our way to prosperity, we understand this. We need to invest, but we will also need to make strategic cuts. I fully believe in shared governance and that we will all need to work together to solve the current situation that faces us.

4. Report from Todd Kiger, Director of Procurement – Textbook and Bookstore Updates

- a. There was some concern over the availability of course material for our students, so we have devised a plan to allow procurement to be more involved. We aim to collaborate on implementing strategies to address potential issues before they affect students.
- b. We will be receiving weekly reports from Barnes and Noble indicating which course materials are running low on inventory, with particular comparison to the number of seats in a course.
- c. We will also receive in-semester reports from Barnes and Noble on materials they may be unable to provide at the beginning of classes the next semester, which will allow us to collaborate with faculty to seek alternatives.
- d. Faculty are encouraged to contact Mr. Kiger if they have any issues with the bookstore, availability, or material in general.

- e. We have created a quarterly review team that will evaluate bookstore performance and associated metrics and will report to faculty on findings. A faculty member has been placed on this committee to assist in facilitating communication to and from faculty

Member: What are your plans for communicating to faculty that you are the single point of contact?

Kiger: I'm open to direction on that, but I will be relying on faculty and leadership to help me get this word out. We know there will be some growing pains, but we are prepared to adjust as needed to ensure that you receive better service.

5. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Scott Wayne

- a. University does not currently have a formal policy on degree revocation
 - i. Patrick Kerr has agreed to represent Faculty Senate on the workgroup aimed to write a new policy
- b. Faculty Senator nominations closed on February 15th. Voting ballots will be distributed within a week, and the results will be announced at the April meeting of Faculty Senate.
- c. Nominations for Chair-Elect and Representative to State Government will be accepted from the floor at the March 6, 2023, Faculty Senate meeting.
- d. The survey to populate Faculty Senate committees will be distributed in March
- e. A Shared Governance activity will follow the March 6 Faculty Senate meeting
- f. Wayne opened the floor for discussion on the question of Faculty Senate pursuing additional work on the promotion and tenure document that failed the University Assembly earlier this year.

Member: The current document is nearly 10 years old and needs attention to try reaching some modernization. If there is a need for someone to lead at this point, then I feel that we should take that role.

Member: I agree, and I think that the framework from the work already performed is a really great place for us to start. I think we need to consider what part of Faculty Senate should take primary lead on the issue.

Wayne: There seems to be enough individuals supporting Faculty Senate taking a position on the document for us to begin some work on it. Should we begin work focusing on the two main controversies, with those being the non-continuation clause and the external reviews?

Member: That might be a good start, but I think starting from a clean slate and asking faculty to come in with their ideas would be preferred. We could ask what they believed was good from the new document so that we can identify the key areas of concern.

Member: I agree with starting from the document as it existed. I will note that we cannot assume that there are only two areas that were controversial, we would need to seek input to confirm what needs worked on.

Reed: There would have to be representation from the Office of the Provost for anything to be accepted, and there would be parameters and limitations on what changes would be accepted. We don't want to lead the effort, but we must be involved. We won't go back and eliminate some of the provisions in the document around external reviews. I don't want to put a damper on this, but I think that, at the start, you should know what items are not up for

consideration so that you don't waste anyone's time. There must be a dialogue, and we are willing to entertain that with you.

Member: I don't think that we should start from scratch. I think we should use the data on hand regarding the document and work on creating a document that benefits the whole. A massive amount of time and effort was spent on it, and it was presented before faculty numerous times and modified based on feedback. We need to collaborate with each other and with the Provost on this, as this isn't something for one side to win, but a but for us to work together and create a thoughtful document that benefits the whole.

Member: I agree that there are thousands of hours dedicated to the document that currently exists. There is a large investment in it and faculty have contributed significant feedback.

Member: In terms of a committee, the representatives, at least to start, should be individuals that were highly involved in the process involving the document.

Member: I think it could start in the Shared Governance Committee. We have members from each college and with the required perspective.

Member: I think that if the regional campuses could develop versions based on the new document, it would be beneficial to them.

Wayne: We will work on a process and will bring it back at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Member: I think that putting together an ad hoc committee might be more beneficial for progress than the Shared Governance Committee.

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: GERO_MIN: Gerontology, Key: 730)

For Approval – Program Change (Program Code: IMMUN_MED_BS: Immunology and Medical Microbiology, Key: 410)

For Approval –Program Change (Program Code: MECH_BSME: Mechanical Engineering, Key: 493)

For Approval –Program Change (Program Code: SOCIALWK_BSW: Social Work, Key: 158)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Design Thinking, Key:1338)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Dynamics & Control, Key:1486)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Energy Systems, Key:1488)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Esports Business and Entertainment, Key:1482)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Esports Business Development, Key:1520)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Esports Marketing, Key:1521)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Materials Science, Key:1485)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Philosophy: 1230)

For Approval – New Program (Program Code: NEW-TBD: Robotics, Key:1487)

Motion to approve all items carried with 11 in favor and none opposed

7. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Lisa Di Bartolomeo)
 - a. All actions in CIM will be associated with comments to ensure an audit trail is provided
 - b. Working on communication to faculty so that deadlines and requirements are more transparent
 - c. Preparing to contact faculty regarding GEF courses that have not been taught or offered as a GEF course for several years
 - d. Ongoing project to define general education and associated aspects
 - e. For Approval – GEF Actions – [Annex III](#)
Motion to approve carried with 11 in favor and none opposed
 - f. For Information – GEF Honors Fellow Courses – [Annex IV](#)

Member: Could you clarify what you mean about comments in CIM?

Di Bartolomeo: There is a place in CIM where comments can be left by reviewers and initiators. We want to leave comments as a means of showing when we reviewed, who reviewed it, etc.

8. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Diana Davis)
 - a. Continuing Student Perception of Teaching pilot
 - i. Survey sent to faculty that closed last week
 - b. Resolution from SGA regarding the LiveSafe app expected to be voted on tomorrow
9. Committee on Committee Chair Lesley Cottrell had no report.
10. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government (Eloise Elliot)
 - a. Solicited feedback from faculty regarding the campus carry legislation to ascertain the general attitude and anticipated response
 - b. The campus carry bill did pass 84-13 and is with the governor
 - c. PEIA Bill will result in an increase to premiums
 - d. DHHR Bill, currently with the governor, replaces the DHHR with three separate divisions

Gee: I wanted to mention that Eloise went before the Senate Finance Committee and represented the institution extremely well.

Member: There was a letter passed around and was intended to be presented to the governor. Do you know what happened to that?

Elliott: Yes, that was initiated by two faculty members and distributed to college campuses across the state. I believe it had around 600 signatures on it in total. It was sent to the governor last weekend and Travis Mollohan made sure that he received the letter, the Faculty Senate resolution, the SGA resolution, and the join letter from President Gee and President Smith.

11. Board of Governors Report (Stan Hileman)
 - a. The board met on February 16 and 17
 - b. Significant time dedicated to budget discussion

- c. Several changes are open for comment until March 20
 - i. 1.2 Facility naming practices
 - ii. 2.2 Creation and review of programs to bring in line with WV state code
 - iii. 2.3 Modifying undergraduate admissions requirements
 - iv. 2.4 Regarding residency status
 - v. 3.5 Provides leave for fellows and residents
 - d. Next meeting on April 21
12. No new business.

Chair Wayne adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m. to reconvene on March 27, 2023.

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.