

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 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.	Hibbert, A.	Reed, M.
Davari, A.	Hileman, S.	Samuels, H.
Davis, D.	Hunt, C.	Sowards, A.
Di Bartolomeo, L.	Lofaso, A.	Tack, F.
Elliott, E.	Lupo, J.	Wayne, S.
Gee, E.	Martucci, A.	
Hauser, D.	Ogden, L.	

Guests Present:

Bachanna, S.	Heddings, P.	Shannon, R.
Becker, K.	Kelley, E.	Staples, C.
Beckley, T.	Kreider, P.	Stender, L.
Brugnoli, A.	Latimer, M.	Thomas, R.
DeBastiani, A.	Morris, T.	Veselicky, L.
Gavin, M.	Nyachae, J.	Widders, E.

1. For Approval – [Minutes](#) of the March 27, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting
Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent.
2. Report from President Gordon Gee
 - a. Most Big XII institutions are struggling with similar budget numbers that WVU is, resulting from similar circumstances in enrollment, pandemic.
 - b. Graduation rates up about 12%, while freshman classes have dropped from around 5,300 to 4,700 in the last 10 years.
 - c. Deficit would have been \$35 million, but PEIA changes that passed this year increased the deficit by ~\$10 million
 - d. Administration plans to follow three guidelines with the budget deficit: transparency, data-driven, and expedient.
 - e. RPK Group hired to consult regarding academic transformation
3. Report from Provost Maryanne Reed
 - a. Awards and Recognition Celebration Next Wednesday Blainey House
 - b. April 12 Benedum Distinguished Scholar Showcase available to view online.
 - c. 4/25 is WVU's Advisor Appreciation Day.
 - d. REACH program launching in Fall 2023

- a. Designed to provide support to vulnerable student populations.

Reed yielded floor to Evan Widders

- i. Fall 2021 class had around 500 full Pell students, 1,000 partial Pell students, totaling 25% of the freshman class.
- ii. Support intended to begin at the point of admission through the first day of class.
- iii. A REACH Coordinator position will be hired to manage program.

Reed reclaimed floor.

- b. WV Pledge Scholarship is being awarded in Fall 2023, designed to cover the gap between Promise, Federal Aid, and cost of tuition. 150 students were initially eligible.
- c. A number of programs will be recommended for discontinuation at the June BOG meeting
- d. Kayla Follmer hired as Graduate Student Ombudsperson
- e. Academic Transformation currently in year three.
 - i. Conducted review of graduate program review for non-terminal masters degrees and doctoral programs, examining enrollment trends over time, time to complete degree, and contribution of each unit to the research mission.
 - ii. Preliminary review completed and appeal deadline has passed. Several programs of concern and a number more are recommended for discontinuation.
 - iii. This information will be available on the [Provost website](#) for the remainder of the semester.
- f. Budget allocations have been received for FY2024. Budgets are much smaller than prior year, and many reductions will be felt immediately. Those budget cuts would have been worse if not for the one-time foundation funding. As this is a one-time withdrawal, there will be significantly more reductions next year.
- g. Board has instructed to take actions that will ensure long-term growth rather than short-term solutions.
- h. Timeline will be shared as soon as possible. Strategies will include mergers, consolidations, restructuring.
- i. The expected timeline will prevent a high level of engagement on decision-making.

Member: If faculty will be let go before the start of the new fiscal year, when will they know that?

Reed: The colleges are trying to achieve their own budgets for the next fiscal year. They may be making some decisions about personnel in the next month or so. We don't anticipate any mass personnel decisions before the next fiscal year. Our plan is to notify faculty as soon as possible in the fall so that they have time to prepare. We will share more information when we are able to. Does that answer your question?

Member: Somewhat. It sounds like these decisions are coming from the school level, meaning the timing of those decisions might vary.

Reed: Deans will be making decisions based on their FY2024 budget. There will be cuts, but not the severe cuts that are expected in 2025. Deans do not act without sharing their plans with us, so we do have some measure of oversight.

Wayne: You said you would be announcing in early fall. You are talking about the results of the position cuts associated with the summer transformation work, correct?

Reed: Correct, what it means is the results of the academic transformation process and any impacts or mergers that might result from that.

Wayne: And this is distinct from decisions that units might make?

Reed: There are two processes. One is for the upcoming fiscal year, and the other is long-term. The colleges are expected to make plans for the upcoming year. How the budget is addressed for the long term, FY2025 and beyond, is the other process.

Member: We appreciate that you will share the process you will use for the larger process. What process will the colleges use? Some of the numbers I'm hearing, we've had hiring freezes and other measures for some time, I wonder what the process will be and if there will be any way to maintain a level of continuity.

Reed: They have an accelerated timeline, just as the administration does. We have to meet our budget for the upcoming year, and the Board expects us to have a plan before FY2024 begins. So there isn't a lot of time for an elaborate plan.

Member: But is there any process you are advising to the colleges?

Reed: I will invite Mark Gavin to speak on this, as he has been more directly involved than myself.

Gavin: We have a team with the colleges that includes a team from Legal, Provost, and HR, assisting them in this. I will defer to Tracy, as she has been more involved in the groundwork.

Morris: Chris Staples and I are meeting with each dean along with the referenced team. As you know the personnel decisions are in the scope of authority for the deans and chairs. The changes being considered run several options from nonrenewal decisions to better management of adjuncts.

Member: The reason I ask is that we are already receiving feedback about faculty being pressured to teach out of their college workload guidelines and other things.

Reed: I know where you are coming from. What we are hearing from our deans is that some of the workload guidelines – there may be some room outside of the administrative stipends and course releases that the colleges are exploring. [The Office of the Provost] does not enforce those, and the deans do have the authority to make those decisions. Our primary concern is making sure that classes are being covered and our students are being appropriately supported. As for each college and their budget decisions, we are working with the deans on these processes and how decisions will be made.

Member: I hope that we can continue to hold faculty mental health as a priority. I am highly concerned about faculty mental health.

Reed: I understand, and I care about faculty mental health as well. We are exploring ways to assist in mental health of our faculty, but beyond that I think the best thing we can do is be transparent

and move as quickly as possible. I know that being aware your position is being eliminated is a terrible feeling, but not knowing is an even worse place to be.

Latimer: I've been talking to T. Anne Hawkins and Janie Howsare about the FSEAP program, and they have worked out that, if Janie and her team are overrun or unable to meet people quickly, T. Anne's group, particularly in the summer, can work with faculty and staff.

Wayne: We do plan to invite Janie to the Faculty Senate meeting in May. Chris Schimmel is also scheduled to be at the May 8 meeting.

Latimer: We have expanded Chris Schimmel's contract so that she will be available all summer.

Member: Is there a way to know how much each college is responsible for?

Reed: That will be the deans' call, but I don't see a reason for that to not be shared for the sake of transparency.

Wayne: Many faculty have noted that they have not received any communication from their deans or directors.

Reed: I've seen some communication or drafts already, but we will speak to the deans on the matter.

4. Report from Lisa Stender, Assistant Director, Office of Accessibility Services – Course Material Accessibility, Ally for eCampus
 - a. [Office of Accessibility Services](#) provides a wide array of assistance and accommodations for students We have new alternative format support that will provide students additional options for material.
 - b. New electronic braille units are now available for students.
 - c. Instructors will receive course accessibility reports that will inform them on accessibility of documents and course overall.

5. Report from Tracey Beckley, Assistant Provost for Teaching and Learning, and Paul Hedding – ChatGPT/AI
 - a. <https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/ai>
 - b. Current literature recommends avoiding a general ban on this type of technology.
 - c. Evan Widders is leading the current group seeking to create a policy in response to the new technology.
 - d. Website is updated weekly as more information is available. This includes rubrics and best practices designed to help alleviate any concerns about the new technology.
 - e. Faculty across the institution currently draw the line for AI integration in different places depending on the purpose, use, and material used.
 - f. WVU uses TurnItIn for plagiarism, which has releases software intended to address AI generated text, though associated accuracy may be limited.

- g. ChatGPT is an information aggregate. It is not a substitute for subject matter knowledge or critical thinking on the part of the user. Introducing inaccurate queries will generate inaccurate responses.
- h. Academic Integrity Office saw less than 10 artificial intelligence cases this semester. Typically unauthorized use of a tool like ChatGPT was paired with other violations, such as plagiarism.
- i. ChatGPT regurgitates textbooks, discussions, and other information word for word without citations, meaning that it's use is often discovered through TurnItIn.
- j. TurnItIn has released software for artificial intelligence detection. This software is currently inconsistent in detection depending on how the material is generated.
- k. May 10th panel <https://celebrate.wvu.edu/sessions/2023/chatgpt>

~~6. Report from Janie Howsare, Faculty and Staff Assistance Program Director – Support Resources~~

7. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Scott Wayne

- a. Diana Davis elected as Chair-Elect, to serve as chair from July 1, 2024, until June 30, 2025.
- b. Election for the seven elected members of the Executive Committee have concluded.
 - a. Members elected: Lisa Di Bartolomeo, Asad Davari, Brian Dilcher, Joseph Lupo, Mary Moore, Emily Murphy, and Lauren Prinzo.
- c. Senate requested volunteers for the Provost-led summer workgroup volunteers, receiving around 20 in total. Senate will seek to select around 8 total individuals from that list.
- d. June 10 meeting will remain on the calendar
- e. Tentatively scheduled a July 10 meeting for an update on the budget review process

Member: Did I hear that the Board of Governors will be meeting monthly over the summer?

Gee: No, not necessarily. They will meet as needed. Once we develop our timeline, you will be able to see the timing of any special meetings.

8. Curriculum Committee Report (Lori Ogden)

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

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

Motion to approve all items carried with 10 in favor and none opposed.

9. General Education Foundations Committee Report (Lisa DiBartolomeo)

- a. Rubric created for internal use in the General Education Foundations Committee when determining course eligibility for the GEF program.
- b. Developing a survey with Tracey Beckley regarding the future of the GEF program.
- c. Currently evaluating courses for removal from the GEF program based criteria such as significant time since last offering.

For Information – General Education Foundations Definition – [Annex III](#)

For Information – General Education Foundations Rubric – [Annex IV](#)

10. Teaching and Assessment Committee Chair Diana Davis had no report.
11. Committee on Committee Chair Lesley Cottrell had no report.
 - a. Faculty Representative to State Government Eloise Elliot had no report and noted that the Advisory Council of Faculty will be meeting on April 29, 2023.
12. Board of Governors Representative Stan Hileman reported the following:
 - a. Significant time dedicated toward current affairs
 - b. Annual report from SGA with newly elected officers
 - c. Five rule changes finalized: 1.2, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 3.5 These were minor changes with no significant comments received for any change.
 - d. Next meeting scheduled for June.
13. Appointment of Faculty Representative to State Government
Candidate Statement – Eloise Elliott – [Annex V](#)
Candidate Statement – Sam Workman – [Annex VI](#)
 - a. The Representative to State Government represents WVU on the WV Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) which is governed by WV State Code Chapter 18B Article 6.2
 - b. ACF terms are two years, while Representative to State Government term is currently one year. There are plans to adjust the representative term to match that of ACF.

Elliott: Would you like me to leave the meeting?

Wayne: I'm not sure that is required unless you would like to leave.

Elliott: I'm okay with whatever you would like me to do.

Given Eloise's intense involvement and the fact that she has one more year on her ACF term, I would like to move that we appoint Eloise for the next year.

Motion to appoint Eloise Elliott as Representative to State Government (Tack). Seconded.

Member: Is Executive Committee able to decide before both nominations go to Faculty Senate? I wasn't sure if this was a point of order. I don't know if Anne Lofaso is still on the call.

Wayne: Traditionally the Executive Committee appoints the Representative to State Government and reported that appointment to the Senate. Senate can challenge any decision made by the Executive Committee.

Lofaso: Yes, that is what our precedent has been.

Member: Thank you.

Lofaso: I will say that I do think it would be better in terms of appearances if Eloise was not on the meeting right now, even though there doesn't seem to be any objection to her appointment. That is something that someone could get upset about.

Member: Eloise just left the meeting.

Lofaso: Otherwise, this has definitely been our procedure in the past.

No further discussion.

Motion carried with nine in favor and none opposed.

14. For Approval – Resolution to Create Faculty Research Committee – [Annex VII](#)

- a. Faculty Senate has two research-focused standing committees.
 - a. Research and Scholarship is charged with matters associated with maintaining and enhancing the University's environment for research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. It makes recommendations to the Senate as deemed appropriate, and reviews applications for Senate Research and Scholarship Advancement grants. This committee is typically only active in the spring.
 - b. Research Integrity is charged to serve on hearing panels to evaluate cases of research integrity violations. This committee has not been called to review a case since 2016.
 - c. Based on the above, it has been recommended to combine the two committees. The resolution would abolish the Research and Scholarship Committee and the Research Integrity Committee, and establish the a new standing committee combining the responsibilities of the two abolished committees.

Motion to approve the resolution (Di Bartolomeo). Seconded.

Motion carried with nine in favor and none opposed.

15. No new business

16. Chair Wayne adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m., to reconvene on May 22, 2023.

Corey Hunt
Faculty Senate Office Administrator