

Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Monday, August 24, 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.
Di Bartolomeo, L.	Martucci, A.	Sowards, A.	

Guests Present:

Becker, K.	Kreider, P.	Shannon, R.	Widders, E.
Debastiani, A.	Latimer, M.	Slimak, L.	
Gavin, M.	Neidermeyer, P.	Staples, C.	
Germana, M.	Pfeifer, A.	Thomas, R.	

2. Chair Singh-Corcoran moved for approval of the minutes from the May 18, 2020 meeting.
Motion carried.
3. President Gordon Gee reported the following:
 - We are well-prepared for the start of classes. We have programs in place that immediately advance the cause of the university in dealing with issues facing our students. Having a major academic medical center on campus provides flexibility.
 - We are devoting a lot of effort to making sure our students live within the boundaries we have outlined, including wearing masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene. We have had to deal with a few parties, and we will continue to do so in cooperation with University Police, the Morgantown Police Department, and the Office of Student Life.
 - He has been encouraged by the behaviors, including compliance with wearing masks, that he has seen on campus. This is a challenging time for them, but our students are delighted to be back or to be here as first-time freshman.
 - He appreciates faculty and staff working hard during this difficult time while dealing with uncertainties surrounding childcare, public schooling, and issues of family life, in addition to preparing for classes.
4. Provost Maryanne Reed reported the following:
 - She gives an enormous amount of credit to faculty, who have pivoted once again. She also recognized the team in the provost's office for their incredibly hard work. Within the past 3 weeks, we have switched from 70 percent face-to-face and 30 percent online to 70 percent online and 30 percent face-to-face or hybrid instruction. Within the past few months, faculty have been asked to adapt to a lot of change, including teaching modalities, classrooms, testing, PPE, student conduct procedures, the health and wellness survey, and assigned seating.

- We have tested almost 26,000 students and employees to date. The positivity rate is below 1 percent.
- Full-time student enrollment is down approximately 3%. (NOTE: Enrollment numbers depend on which population of students you consider – fee-paying versus total headcount – and the number will change after classes start.) The registered but not paid process starts on September 2. Retention for first-time freshmen is up to almost 84 percent, but she thinks that may be inflated due to the pass/fail option and the pause on suspensions that were in place during the spring semester.
- The Teaching and Learning Commons has seen an uptick in the number of faculty participating in training, including institutes, seminars, one-on-one consultations, and accessing training materials on the web site. She knows the TLC has done a terrific job helping faculty.
- We have had some examples of student misbehavior. A number of students will face sanctions as a result.
- Messages concerning childcare should be going out on Friday, August 28.
- Forty-five students have been isolated as a result of COVID-19 testing, only 3 of whom are being housed in Arnold Hall, and 186 students have been quarantined.

5. Chair Singh-Corcoran reported the following:

- The medium in which we will be conducting our Senate meetings this year, Zoom, lends itself to the possibility of multiple interruptions and even multiple, simultaneous conversations. While the possibility of many, simultaneous voices can be a benefit of Zoom, the technology also poses challenges – especially when it comes to running a Senate meeting – one that is supposed to be efficient, orderly, and democratic. At our July meeting one of our senators interrupted another senator who, at the time, had the floor. The senator who did the interrupting was out of order. In order to prevent a repeat of July, there will be a stricter adherence to Robert’s Rules of Order at future Senate meetings.
- After the last Senate meeting, the faculty at Potomac State informed her that they needed to modify the COVID-19 Syllabus Statement to address their specific context. They have added an asterisked comment at the end of the policy statement that says, “On the Potomac State Campus, PPE will be available in the following locations, Mary F Shipper Library, Church McKee Art Center, Service Center located in the Administration Building, and the Student Union.”
- At the July meeting, faculty posed several questions that WVU’s leadership has endeavored to answer. The Q & A list was shared with senators on August 24, and she has encouraged them to share the Q & A document with their constituents. She needs to find a site for the document to live and be updated.
- Based on some of the questions posed, namely intellectual property and who owns course content, she has asked Ryan Watson from General Counsel to come to a Senate meeting to address the question directly. He and Stephanie Taylor are able to present at our November 9 meeting.
- She and Emily Murphy fielded a number of faculty questions about the Wellness Check. They reached out to WVU’s leadership and had a brief meeting with Rob Alsop and Erin Newmeyer (Director of Projects for Strategic Initiatives). It is their understanding that

Erin's office was putting together an FAQ regarding the Wellness Check, and that was shared on E-News on August 24. There is also additional information about the Wellness Check posted on the Return to Campus website.

- She, Emily Murphy, Ashley Martucci, and Dave Hauser have a meeting scheduled with Erin Newmeyer to get a sense of her and her team's role in the institution's COVID-19 response.
 - We continue to make headway on improving communication between Senate and the faculty. We are looking for a tool or platform that faculty can use to post questions as they arise or even post information about news or events. She, Emily, and Ashley met with Kim Becker who is helping us investigate communication platforms such as Teams. She has also reached out to faculty senate chairs at other institutions to see what platforms they use. She has a meeting scheduled on August 26 with the chair of Penn State, Altoona's faculty senate. At Penn State Altoona, they use a faculty senate message board.
 - Finding a platform is one challenge. Another challenge will be managing, archiving, and making messages searchable, and so she has reached out to our librarians, Kelly Diamond, Ian Harmon, Emily Fidelman, and Jane LaBarbara. Ian Harmon runs WVU's research repository. Jane LaBarbara has been working to archive a number of university documents, and Emily Fidelman works with metadata and cataloging. She has asked them if they might help us think through information management. They might also be able to provide some insight that would benefit WVU's broader leadership team when it comes to information dissemination, categorization, and archiving.
 - Since we will not be having any Senate meetings face to face, we have cancelled our reservations at the College of Law through December.
6. Jennifer Steele, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee, reported that the committee will meet on August 27 to review procedures, set goals for the year, and to provide training for new members. The committee will meet again on September 3 to begin reviewing proposals.
 7. Lisa DiBartolomeo, Chair of the General Education Foundations Committee, reported that the committee will meet on August 31. She will request an update from the university general education task force.
 8. Jessica Vanderhoff, Chair of the Teaching and Assessment Committee, reported that over 16,000 syllabi have been uploaded into the institutional repository. About 70 faculty opted out. Lou Slimak will send a reminder to faculty of how to opt out.

The early semester, teaching assessment survey includes 11 questions. TLC requested that an additional 2 questions be added to the instrument. TACO met on August 20 and voted no on that request. The committee is currently voting on email language. The survey window will be September 14 through October 1. Faculty who opt in will be able to set a shorter window to receive their reports in a more timely fashion.
 9. Michael Germana, Chair of the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies, moved for approval of the following report. Motion carried.

Annex I, Committee Appointments

Dr. Germana will be unable to attend Faculty Senate meetings this fall because of a teaching commitment, so Ann Marie Hibbert, Chair Elect, will introduce committee business on his behalf.

10. Roy Nutter, Faculty Representative to State Government, reported that most of the comments he has received concern furloughs and faculty layoffs, primarily at 2-year institutions. Four-year institutions have been warning their faculty and staff that they may see furloughs later in the year.
11. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported that the BOG held a special meeting on August 14. They received updates on COVID-19 and on athletics. The Board voted to amend BOG Governance Rule 1.6 and BOG Student Life Rule 6.1 to reflect new Title IX guidelines. Those emergency rules will be in effect for 90 days and will go out for the normal comment period so that we can adopt them permanently. The Board also approved the transfer of some property associated with the former WVU Tech campus in Montgomery. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for September 18.
12. Chris Staples, Special Assistant to the Office of the Provost, reported that nominations are needed for approximately 10 faculty members to serve on the University Promotion and Tenure Advisory Panel. You are not eligible to serve if you or someone you are related to is up for promotion, or if you are serving on a department or college level Promotion and Tenure committee. Please contact him or Presha Neidermeyer if you have questions.
13. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, September 28, 2020.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator
Faculty Senate Office