

Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Monday, February 27, 2017

1. Chair Lena Maynor called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. in the Bluestone Room of the Mountainlair.

Members Present:

Cottrell, L.	Gee, E.	Ibrahim, M.	Nutter, R.
DiBartolomeo, L.	Haines, K.	Kleist, V.	Stolzenberg, A.
Elmore, S.	Hauser, D.	Maynor, L.	Turton, R.
Fint-Clark, R.	Hileman, S.	McConnell, J.	Valenti, M.

Members Absent:

Merrifield, J.	Veselicky, L.
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Guests:

Campbell, J.	Karraker, K.	Proudfoot, C.	Wilson, C.
Day-Perroots, S.	Pfeifer, A.		

2. Chair Maynor moved for approval of the minutes from the January 23, 2017 meeting.
Motion carried.
3. President E. Gordon Gee reported the following:
 - He participated in a Campus Conversation on pending legislation. There are two pieces of parallel legislation that would be transformative to the University. One is a human resources bill which would provide us with greater flexibility and would be consistent with practices at almost every other university in the country. For example, he has never served at another institution in which employees have bumping rights, nor do any of our peer institutions offer bumping rights. The second bill, which has yet to be introduced, is the governor's bill to redefine the relationship between HEPC and WVU, Marshall, and the School of Osteopathic Medicine.
 - Thirty-three states are in deficit right now. In many of them, public universities are a primary target for budget reduction. West Virginia has a \$500 million deficit. President Gee expects to see a final budget that includes significant tax increases and budget reductions. We continue to make the case with the legislature that we are reducing our overall budget ourselves by \$45 million in anticipation of right-sizing. Moreover, WVU clearly provides the best return on investment in West Virginia.
 - Consistent with faculty concerns about department chairs, staff is concerned about whether supervisors are attuned to quality and fairness in staff evaluations rather than arbitrariness. Supervisors and department chairs are in the most powerful position to enhance and create quality, which requires them to be well-trained and focused on nurturing development.
4. Provost Joyce McConnell reported the following:

- The faculty senate at Marshall University is concerned that the HR bill strives to eliminate tenure. She and Rob Alsop analyzed the language of the bill and concluded there is nothing in that bill which would risk tenure. The concept of tenure is embedded everywhere, including in statute and HEPC policy. Furthermore, there is nothing we are thinking about instituting that would be disruptive of tenure. To the contrary, we are considering job security for teaching professors.
- She wrote an op-ed for the *Gazette-Mail* on government efficiencies. The piece grew out of the work being done on community reimagining by a WVU team that includes Chris Plein, John Deskins, Jesse Richardson, and the AmeriCorps volunteer from the Land Use & Sustainable Development Law Clinic.
- She and President Gee attended the Roads Scholar Academy in Naples, Florida. This year's academy focused on fulfilling the land-grant mission, so we had a panel on everything we did across campus on flood relief. There were also wonderful presentations by a number of faculty members and panel presentations by students. We are talking about doing something similar on campus, where we could have students and faculty engaged in conversation and allow participants to tour new facilities.
- Our campus response to the first executive order on immigration was powerful and timely. The newly formed Office of Global Affairs did an excellent job of responding quickly and supporting students and scholars. We are well-positioned to deal with any future executive actions.
- Results are available from the campus climate survey, which was a large and comprehensive survey on violence and bias issues on campus. The survey was conducted one year ago, prior to the implementation of several programs to address violence on campus. We have a full-scale program in place to address victimization and we are looking at what more we could be doing in terms of the bias issues.
- The Milo Yiannopoulos visit demonstrated our commitment to free speech on campus. Moving forward on civility issues, we have a faculty working group headed by Maryanne Reed addressing issues of diversity and inclusion. David Fryson is working with the group on how we make people feel, and actually be, safe and comfortable on campus.

5. Chair Lena Maynor reported the following:

- President Gee, Rob Alsop, and Cris DeBord were the presenters at the Campus Conversation on human resources legislation. Their discussion mirrored what was on the summary page of the February 21 issue of *Under the Dome*, WVU's weekly update on actions and activities of the WV Legislature.
- In response to the Faculty Senate volunteer survey, 15 individuals indicated an interest in serving as faculty secretary. The Executive Committee needs to appoint a faculty secretary who will then be approved by Faculty Senate, and to determine whether that person's term will be the remaining 2 years of the current secretary's term or a full 3 years. A motion was made and duly seconded to have the Committee on Committees, Membership and Constituencies come up with a short list of candidates by the next meeting, and that the Executive Committee will appoint someone to finish out the remaining 2 years of the unexpired term. Motion carried.

- She sent out a reminder to Faculty Senate committee chairs about providing information to the Committee on Committees about committee membership and the voting status of ex officio members. A response was requested by March 3.
- She met with Rob Lyons from the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion regarding civility initiatives that they are promoting on campus with students. He has been meeting with student groups and individual student leaders. She will ask a representative from the Division of Diversity to attend an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting to share their plans for working with students and faculty on issues related to civility.

6. Karen Haines, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee, moved for approval of the following reports:

Annex I, New Courses Report. Two concerns were addressed: a) LAW 665 was a late addition to the annex, but the course does appear on the annex currently posted to the Faculty Senate web site; and b) B&E offers a major and a minor in Entrepreneurship which includes courses that appear to be similar to ENGR 450, Technology Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development. The chair in charge of B&E's entrepreneurship program will speak with his counterparts in Statler College. Any proposed changes will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Motion carried.

Annex II, Course Changes Report. Motion carried.

Annex III, Capstone Courses Report. Motion carried.

Annex IV, Harmonization Report (Course Changes). Motion carried. Professor Haines confirmed that the catalog prerequisites for CE 361 should be "MAE 243. PR or CONC MATH 251."

Curriculum Changes to Major in Environmental, Soil and Water Sciences. Motion carried.

Minor in Medical Humanities and Health Studies was submitted for information. Report filed.

7. Lisa DiBartolomeo, Chair, General Education Foundations Committee, moved for approval of the following reports:

Annex V, GEF Actions. Motion carried.

Annex VI, GEF Transition Review, was submitted for information. Report filed.

8. C.B. Wilson, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, presented the following on behalf of the Faculty Incentives and Rewards Working Group:

Annex VII, Promotion from Tenured Associate Professor to Professor via Service, was presented for information. After discussion, a minor modification was made to the document for presentation to the full Faculty Senate. Report filed.

Annex VIII, Promotion from Tenured Associate Professor to Professor via Outstanding Achievement in One Mission Area. A motion was made and duly seconded to amend the language of the first sentence of the document to read as follows: "Under extraordinary circumstances, based on the needs of the unit, the appropriate balance of assignments within the unit, consultation with the unit, and

with the approval of the Chairperson, Dean, and Provost, a tenured Associate Professor could be considered for promotion to Professor if a memorandum of understanding allowing this option was developed and was subsequently in place for at least five full academic years prior to consideration.” Motion carried. A subsequent motion was made and duly seconded to approve the annex as amended. Motion carried.

9. Katherine Karraker, Associate Provost for Graduate Academic Affairs, presented Annex IX, Proposed Revision to Academic Standards Document for information. After it is presented to the full Faculty Senate, the document will be opened to campus-wide comment for 3 to 4 weeks before being recommended to the Provost’s Office for inclusion in next year’s catalog. Report filed.
10. Roy Nutter, ACF Representative, reported that the ACF network has been quiet. Most of the comments have reflected worry over tenure going away as a result of the HR bill.
11. Stan Hileman, BOG Representative, reported the following:
 - The Board of Governors met on January 27 to discuss University Place and its financial difficulties. A decision was made to close Arnold Hall and to offer those displaced students an opportunity to reserve space in University Place.
 - At its regular meeting on February 9-10, the BOG was informed that WVU finances were audited and given an unqualified, or clean, opinion. The BOG also celebrated the \$10 million gift from the Reynolds family.
 - The agreement with KVC Health Systems to lease-purchase the Montgomery campus releases us from some obligations at Tech and helps the Montgomery community as well.
12. New Business

Roy Nutter distributed a proposal to have new graduate programs and program changes flow through the Faculty Senate before being presented to the Board of Governors. The proposal will be added to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting agenda for March.

Lena Maynor distributed a summary document from the GPA ad hoc work group outlining the current issues, pros and cons of +/- grading, practices at peer institutions, and the impact on PROMISE scholars. WVU seems to be unique among our peer institutions in that we include +/- grades on the transcript but we do not incorporate them in the GPA calculation. The conclusion of the work group is that we either need to start counting +/- grades in the calculation or remove the ability to give +/- grades. This item will be added to the March Executive Committee meeting agenda.
13. The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, March 27, 2017.

Judy Hamilton
Office Administrator