

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023, 3:15 P.M.

Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack brought the monthly meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Members and guests participated in person at the College of Law event hall and via video conference.

Members Present:

Abraham, J.	Dumitrescu, C.	Kelly, C.	Ruseski, J.
Adkins, B.	Elliott, E.	Kidd, K.	Scaife, B.
Angeline, M.	Elswick, D.	Knuckles, T.	Scally, J.
Armour-Gemmen, M.	Faber, T.	Labus, A.	Sherlock, L.
Ballard, D.	Fidelman, E.	LaRue, R.	Siekmeier, J.
Barnes, E.	Field, J.	Leary, B.	Smith, D.
Bhandari, R.	Floyd, K.	Kent, A.	Sofka, S.
Bolyard, J.	Fullen, M.	Li, B.	Sowards, A.
Bruyaka, O.	Galvez Peralta, M.	Li, H.	Staniscia, S.
Bryner, R.	Gosden Kitchen, S.	Livengood, H.	Stueckle, J.
Burt, A.	Graves, C.	Lucci, S.	Szklarz, G.
Celikbas, E.	Gross, J.	Lupo, J.	Tack, F.
Cohen, S.	Haddox, C.	Martin, E.	Totzkay, D.
Cook, A.	Hamrick, A.	M'Bayo, T.	Unger, K.
Corcoran, K.	Hanif, A.	Milans, K.	Valenti, M.
Cottrell, L.	Hatipoglu, K.	Murphy, E.	Vance, B.
Crichlow, S.	Hauser, D.	Nguyen, J.	Waggy, C.
Dahle, G.	Hedrick, J.	Nix, A.	Watson, K.
Davis, D.	Hileman, S.	Nolan, K.	Wayne, S.
Demarco, F.	Huber, S.	Olgers, F.	Weislogel, A.
Di Bartolomeo, L.	Jaynes, M.	Pena-Yewtukhiw, E.	Woloshuk, J.
Dickman, B.	Johnson, D.	Rinehart, L.	Woods, S.
Dilcher, B.	Katz, J.	Roberts, D.	Wuest, T.
Donley, D.	Kearns, J.	Rota, C.	Zeni, T.

Members Excused:

Reece, J.	Eades, D.	Feaster, K.
Casey, R.	Swager, L.	

Members Absent:

Bardes, J.	Duenas, O.	Moore, M.	Sokos, G.
Barghouthi, N.	Ellis, E.	Murray, A.	Stephan, K.
Battistella, L.	Feaster, K.	Palmer, A.	Swager, L.
Bianco, C.	Kale, U.	Phillips, T.	Terry, D.
Bogdansky, K.	Komisaruk, A.	Prinzo, L.	Thomay, A.
Carducci, H.	Lastinger, A.	Pyles, L.	Titolo, M.
Casey, R.	Malarcher, J.	Reece, J.	Trickett Shockey, C.
Chapman, K.	Martin, J.	Renzelli-Cain, J.	Vaddamani, V.
Dietz, P.	McCluskey, C.	Sakhuja, A.	Woodberry, K.
Dimachkie, Z.	McGinnis, R.	Sims, J.	
Dionne, C.	Miltenberger, M.	Sizemore, J.	

1. For Approval – [Minutes](#) of the November 6, meeting of Faculty Senate.

Constituencies for Jay Badenhoop and Cynthia Hall were switched and need corrected.
Motion to approve amended minutes carried by unanimous consent.

2. Report from Faculty Senate Chair Frankie Tack
 - a. Acknowledgement of the deaths of two WVU faculty members, Dr. Travis Stimeling, professor from the College of Creative Arts; and Dr. Leo Johnson Jr., assistant professor of Business at Potomac State College.
 - b. Library Committee has been briefed on the Library's process of streamlining our institutional subscriptions, and recognize that they may have removed some subscriptions that certain faculty may have a need for. They invited faculty, if it is discovered that they have removed a subscription that is needed, to use the [link on their website](#) to request reinstatement of that subscription.
 - c. Courses and Programs currently under review with the Curriculum Committee may now be viewed from the Curriculum tab on the Faculty Senate website.
 - d. Tack has been working with Procurement and the Bookstore regarding ongoing challenges with books running out before the beginning of the semester. The bookstore is taking this very seriously and intends to make some shifts from using history toward using upcoming semester enrollment.
 - e. Made a statement at the PEIA public hearing regarding concerns over rising premiums and associated budget constraints.
 - f. The University Promotion and Tenure Panel now has enough volunteers to perform the designated function. Thanks were given to those participating or who helped identify additional volunteers.
 - g. January meeting agenda will have the order modified, with Senate business occurring before any reports from guests and administrators.
3. Report from President E. Gordon Gee
 - a. November BOG meeting included a presentation from auditors regarding higher education trends and associated challenges. WVU will continue to follow auditor recommendations.
 - b. WVU received \$7 million investment from the Hardy family and Nemaquin Resort that will open the doors for students majoring in Hospitality and Tourism Management in Chambers in the form of internships, scholarships, and experiential learning.
 - c. WVU received a \$1.8 million gift from the family of longtime Biology Professor Earl Core to support the study of nature and history in his memory. Dollars have been divided to support the libraries and the Core Arboretum.
 - d. Frontier Communications has donated high speed fiber service to Jackson's Mill to improve educational and programming activities for youth guests and the greater community. Gift includes labor and cost to install.
 - e. New Academic Programs Launching:
 - i. New Robotics Engineering major is on the agenda for approval today.

- ii. Esports Major, which just launched this fall, is the first of such majors in the country available at an R1 institution. The Esports team just won the national championship over the weekend.
 - iii. New Environmental Engineering major launching.
 - iv. Potomac State College adding cybersecurity and a new LPN to BSN program, with cybersecurity receiving a \$750,000 grant from the USDOE.
 - f. Capitol Christmas Tree (DC) from WV Monongahela National Forest. Extension and 4-H worked statewide for selection and crafting of ornaments, totaling 5,400.
4. Report from Provost Maryanne Reed
- a. Program portfolio review process finishing on the main campus and office is working with deans on teach out programs.
 - b. Working on debuting a more robust annual review process that will be discussed later in spring.
 - c. Data on unit level costs to be made available when available.
 - d. Provost goal of having more intensive annual review so that adjustments can be made in real time where needed, as opposed to relying on institution-wide changes.
 - e. Program portfolio process for regional campuses in January. Lou Slimak will lead the team and has already begun meeting with campus leaders and faculty. The process and timeline for regionals will largely be focused on making program improvements.
 - f. The review of WVU Extension has been postponed until after the merger of WVU Extension and Davis.
 - g. Academic Support Unit reviews will be finalized over the next few weeks, specifically addressing changes to TLC and Libraries.
 - h. Continuing to work with deans on the merger of CAC and Media, and Extension and Davis. In January there are plans to announce the names of the new units, how they will be structured, and plans for leadership.
 - i. Review of the General Education Foundations program planned for the spring, cooperative effort between the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate.
 - i. Board of Governors has approved a more intensive review and overhaul of the general education program.

Member: Special circumstances relating to this years transformation efforts has impacted faculty productivity and efforts. What guidance may you to provide how to document in writing that achievements may have been impacted by ongoing events.

Reed: As with COVID, we stress the importance of narrative. When we review promotion and tenure files, we look at them in context.

Member: Regarding the merger of Davis and Extension, faculty do not have any information and have not been involved in the process.

Reed: I will ask Paul Kreider to speak on this, as he has been working with both colleges.

Kreider: We have working groups in both mergers. CAC and Media work started earlier than the Davis and Extension groups. The deans got together and constituted those committees. They emailed Greg Dahle, who sent out an email requesting information prior to Thanksgiving. They are reaching out to faculty for broader input. How that is happening, I'm not sure, but we are in the process of working out those details.

Member: There hasn't been any follow up to the email you sent to us in response.

Kreider: I can do an urgent follow up with the deans tomorrow to see what actions have been taken since that email.

Member: It would be great if faculty could be more involved in the process, at least so that we are aware of what is happening.

Kreider: The deans constituted those committees, though it was the intent all along to include more faculty as we got further into the process. I will ask them to speed that up a little bit and include more faculty on the front end.

Tack: Please encourage them to also provide regular updates to the faculty.

Member: Three faculty emailed me regarding a line in the Academic Transformation FAQ regarding additional reductions. The statement about there being no plans for further reductions has been removed and replaced with a new statement. Who is making these revisions, and are there expected reductions in the future?

Reed: I'm uncertain about FAQ phrasing, and I'm not sure who wrote that or that it was changed. We are still reviewing our budget and we are getting close to sharing that. We have no intention of doing a wholesale program review like we did this year. There may be additional cuts, but they will be in a targeted way and not through the formal program review process.

Member: Would it be possible to have the two deans of Davis and Extension get together and hold an open forum for faculty?

Kreider: I was told this morning that both deans will be meeting with their faculty regarding the changes very shortly.

Member: Those are separate meetings?

Kreider: Correct.

Member: What is the timeline for providing additional resources for languages that students will have access to?

Reed: we are working on it. We will get through this semester and understand what our needs are in terms of demands from students. I've met with colleagues in the Big12 to see what opportunities there are with curriculum sharing. I think when we look at the demand in the foreign language department, we can identify at least one of those members to help us understand demand and our approach.

Member: Is the intention for this to be available to students in fall 2024?

Reed: I cannot say.

Member: The tenure track faculty hired before COVID could not use their startup funds. During academic transformation, those funds were frozen. Is it possible to receive an extension on those?

Reed: Yes, we will speak with the dean of Eberly regarding that. We have made an effort toward fulfilling the obligation toward all of the startups and the deans have matched that.

Member: Our department in Davis has been reduced. Should we begin working on modifying our curriculum now, or wait until the merger with Extension to see if there is a change in roles?

Reed: I think in January we will be able to share what the structure of that new unit will be. I think following that, there will be time to discuss the framing of what you want to do and to see where it fits.

5. Report from Mark Gavin, Associate Provost for Academic, Budget, Facilities, and Strategic Management – New University Budget Model Updates
 - a. Implementation of the new budget had been delayed due to the transformation efforts and everything else happening. We are ready to deploy the new budget for FY2025.
 - b. Collaborative effort with leaders Lisa Sharp and Paula Congelio.
 - c. As we approach implementation, we will continue to release additional details.
 - d. The current model is known as an incremental model. The new budget model is known as an incentive-based model.
 - e. Budget involves primary and secondary units, with primary units being colleges and secondary units being those that support.
 - i. Primary units have direct revenue and direct expenses.
 - f. Direct revenue will now, rather than being held centrally, be pushed out directly to the primary units. Those costs will now follow where the revenue goes. Accordingly, the primary units will need to support the cost of running the university (direct expenses).
 - g. A central fund will be generated out of the direct revenue to be used to create a subvention pool for two things:
 - i. Support units that do not operate in the black.
 1. There is not expectation that every college will operate in the black. There are things that will not operate at a profit, and we must have a way to carry the cost and use revenue as strategically as possible.
 - ii. Create an investment fund for various strategies.
 - h. Currently considering a model where 25% of state allocations will be pushed out to the colleges for research funding.
 - i. Each primary unit will not pay the same amount toward support pools but will depend on a certain set of measurements relative to the support unit.
 - j. Currently close to mapping out the new budget model to provide a parallel year until FY25. That information will be available to the colleges within the next 2-3 weeks.

Member: You say that tuition will be broken down by credit hours. Undergraduate students only pay for the first 12 credit hours – how will that math break down?

Gavin: Correct, undergraduate max out at 12 and graduate at 9. Tuition will be divided by hours taken, not by hours paid.

Member recognized Deana Morrow (Eberly) to ask a question.

Morrow: You talked about distributing funds to the primary units. What metrics will be used to distribute funds from the college to the subsidiary units and departments?

Gavin: That is a work in progress. This budget model really stops at the dean's office. There is certainly interest that is emerging that puts some guard rails on how the deans will look at those resources and how they go out. We know we cannot leave that unaddressed.

Member: As this model is bringing in a lot of incentives for colleges to reduce expenses and increase revenues, it seems that everyone has skin in the game except support units. This sets the allocations for units but does nothing to limit the expenses of those units.

Gavin: There is a governance structure that underlines this model. We are still working out the details, but that governance involves academic oversight and participation in the budget. There is intent for support and administrative budgets to be scrutinized once they are developed. In my own words, I don't believe there is, within this budget, a way for primary or support units to develop budgets unchecked.

Member: There is a lot of governance that exists at the university level, but not at the college level. It seems that pushing a lot of the decisions to the college level seems risky.

Gavin: We will be working with the deans to establish guidelines on what can happen regarding those decisions. The Provost has heard feedback on that topic and is aware.

Member: How much information will be publicly available for the colleges?

Gavin: I think it will be pretty public. I'm not ready to commit to how much will be line by line, but it will be pretty public.

Member: Will the first year be a hold harmless year?

Gavin: We don't have an answer on that yet. A lot of that depends on nailing down exactly where we are financially, and we are still working on those numbers.

Member: Will colleges be able to negotiate their own facilities and administrative costs?

Gavin: The new budget model doesn't really address that. It does address F&A when it comes to the university, but rates and those who manage them are not really under our purview.

Member: Will colleges be able to make decisions on the use of physical space as a means to control expenses?

Gavin: It would have to be a more involved process than simply deciding to abandon a space.

Member: How will you address course redundancy and similar issues created as a result of colleges seeking to increase revenue?

Slimak: Curricular flexibility is a goal. At WVU Tech this has become a goal, as several majors have 90 credit hours, which creates issues with students changing majors and students transferring in. We will revisit at the institutional level what the expectations are at the undergraduate level. We will have more on that in the spring.

Member: We sort of have three budgets going on right now: current fiscal year, the new budget model, and the new state funding model. Could we get updates on how we currently stand financially?

Gavin: We are tracking fine for meeting FY24 budget. We are working on FY25 projections presently and are not ready to present on that. The state is implementing its funding formula, and that will go active in FY25 as well. The numbers we most recently have seen is that we are holding flat with allocations, while institutions across the state seem to be faring worse. WVU Tech, WVU, and Marshall appear to be flat. I would also like to clarify that the state budget model is a recommendation and not a mandate, so the legislature and governor can choose to follow it but are not required.

Tack: We will post those slides on the website. There is also a link to the new funding model.

6. Curriculum Committee Report (Cindi Trickett Shockey)
For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Adventure Recreation Management, Key: 1525
For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Real Estate, Key: 1564
For Approval – New Program – NEW-TBD: Robotics Engineering, Key: 1526
For Approval – Program Change – FAMYOUTH_MIN: Youth and Family Sciences, Key: 271
For Approval – Program Change – SPRT_MGMT_BS: Sport Management, Key: 465

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

Motion to approve both items. Seconded.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

For Information – Deleted Course Report – [Annex III](#)

7. General Education Foundations Committee Chair Mary Beth Angeline had no report.
8. Teaching and Assessment Committee Report (Marina Galvez Peralta)
 - a. Updates to committee charges are requested for approval. These updates are intended to match the efforts that the committee has been focused on over the past two years.

For Approval – TACO Committee Charge – [Annex IV](#)
Motion to approve the updated charges as written. Seconded.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

9. Committee on Committees Chair Lesley Cottrell had no report.
10. Report from Faculty Representative to State Government Eloise Elliott had no report.
11. Board of Governors Report (Stan Hileman)
 - a. Board met on November 17.
 - i. Received a clean audit, capital expenses update, transformation timeline, and outlines of support unit evaluations.
 - ii. A second meeting was held last week to continue discussion on several items, most of which was held in executive session.

12. New Business

- a. The Faculty Representative to State Government, Eloise Elliot, has been elected the lead the ACF (Advisory Council of Faculty) for a two-year term. The normal term, per the Faculty Constitution, for this position is just a year, though the Constitution allows for exceptions. To facilitate Eloise's leadership and allow her, and ACF, to better prepare for the current legislative session, I make a motion to extend Eloise Elliot's term as Faculty Representative for an additional year,

ending in the summer of 2025. Practically, this would mean that if this motion passes, the Senate would not accept nominations for State Representative in the spring of 2024 but would again look at who is interested in the spring of 2025.

Motion to extend Eloise Elliott's term as the Faculty Representative to State Government for one additional year. Seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

13. Chair Tack adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m. to reconvene on January 8, 2024.

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.