

Minutes of the WVSU General Faculty Meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 Wallace Hall 122 at 10 a.m.

1. The minutes of the August 9, 2016, were perused, and M. Workman moved, with R. Baker's second, to approve those minutes. The motion carried.
2. The agenda was approved, with one addition: Dr. Schedl added an issue about purchasing supplies.
3. The first order of business was the issue of tuition breaks for dependants of staff and faculty. Dr. Ford, Chair of the Faculty Senate, suggested a survey be administered to faculty and staff to find out how many would take advantage of this benefit, and from that figure estimate the cost to the University. Dr. Magan noted that this was a benefit many years ago for faculty and staff themselves, not their dependants. Ms. Squirts asked if there is a tuition break for all employees, and do we know if other schools in WV are offering similar programs. Dr. Baker asked about the possibility of swapping tuition breaks with other state colleges. That seemed unlikely. Dr. Pietruszynski "volunteered" to create a survey of faculty and staff to determine interest and preferences. Likely questions include the following:
 - Would this be for one course a semester or a full 12-15 credit hours per semester?
 - Would graduate classes be considered as well as undergraduate classes?
 - Would the program also allow part-time instructors to get tuition breaks for themselves or their dependants?
 - Would there be a limit on the number of dependants who would get the tuition break—ever? per semester?
 - How many employees—staff and faculty—have dependants who might take classes with this tuition break? next year? in five years? in ten years?
4. It was noted that high school students are only charged \$25 per credit for their "early enrollment" classes at state colleges.
5. Provost Jayusariya then spoke about the trend for "Competency-Based Education" (CBE), acknowledging that he attended a meeting of provosts where everyone was talking about it and 250 schools expressed interest. He said over one thousand colleges have got CBE programs.

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example, the Univ. of Wisconsin and Southern New Hampshire Univ. have implemented it, as well as schools in Texas and Arizona. He is conscious that WVSU was behind the trend to offer on-line education and wanted us to consider CBE in a timely way. Most likely programs in the Arts and Humanities are not well suited to it, but Information Technology, Business, and Health Sciences may be suited. Initially the Higher Learning Commission stopped approving such programs, since they were not prepared for the volume or nature of the proposals, but now it is considering them again. One big problem with CBE is determining faculty load, since unlike semester-based courses, individual students may take widely variable times to complete the material: CBE students can take any amount of time to pass with the cut-off of 80% competency. Academic coaches supplement the input of professors. The "credit-hour based" system is very preferable to the "direct-assessment" version, because the latter is less popular and less valued. Dr. Shafer asked about "prior learning assessment." The Provost suggested we try implementing this with one program. Dr. Baker suggested that our pilot of CBE might work better first with a certificate program rather than a bachelor's degree program. Dr. Barnes-Pietruszynski volunteered to convene a meeting of faculty interested in CBE.

6. Dr. Schedl raised the purchasing issue, namely that professors in the sciences need equipment, supplies and software constantly and are having trouble getting what they need. In particular, his new course, Physics 299 Geographical Information Systems, needs ArcGIS software which

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approved last May and purchased supposedly in June, but no payment has been made by now,

and so he and the students don't have the necessary software for the course, part of the Energy Management option in Business Administration, with requirements in Physics. Dr. Guetzloff, faculty representative to the Board of Governors, noted that academic departments seem to be unable to spend their allotted budgets, whereas other programs get to *over-spend* their budgets. Dr. Ruhnke noted that this was not a new problem at WVSU. Dr. Guetzloff added that the school has less than 28 days of cash on hand to pay bills. Part of the problem seems to be that previously Enrollment Management made errors/miscalculations in projected enrollments and fees, and used total enrollment (counting "early enrollment," which is growing) in the figure, when the full-time enrollment (which is not growing much) really determines the likely fees to be paid, and so it overestimated available funds. Dr. Ford asked if there is a way to make academic affairs come before other programs/offices at WVSU in terms of budgets. Dr. Zaman suggested that the University have one person in charge of all budgets, rather than some sources (e.g.,

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III income) handled in one office and other income sources in other offices. Dr. Magan suggested, with Prof. Martin's endorsement, that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee find who knows what's going on with budgets and purchasing and prepare a resolution for the General Faculty meeting on January 10, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at about 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Timothy C. Alderman

Dr. T. Alderman, Secretary to the Faculty Senate