**Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, December 3, 2021**

**In-Person and Video Conference Call using Zoom at 1:30 pm**

*The following meeting was conducted by video conference call using Zoom and in person in Hamblin Hall, due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.*

*Attendance: L. Davidson, P. Carney, K. Steele, J. Barnes-Pietruszynski, J. Pietruszynski, T. Ruhnke, R. Ford, L. Good, M. Bhuiyan, M. Seyedmonir, B. Ladner, L. Lambert, M. Fultz, K. Toledo, E. Cage, T. Ruhnke, A. Bejou, M. Casey, T. Park, J. Martin, D. Williams, A. Tillquist, F. Vaughan, E. Lewis, S. Sanjaya, G. Paulabinskas, B. Liedl,*

The meeting was called to order by J. Barnes-Pietruszynski at 1:35 pm

**REVISIONS/SUGGESTIONS TO THE AGENDA AND MINUTES**

M. Fultz moved and K. Toledo seconded the approval of the agenda. Senate voted unanimously.

R. Ford moved and J. Pietruszynski seconded the minutes with changes to L. Davidson. Senate voted unanimously.

**REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTERIM PRESIDENT CAGE**

E. Cage thanked everyone for what they do every day. He also presented an idea for the upcoming commencement. The speaker will be Mayor Amy Goodwin, so the university is considering honoring the mayor with an honorary doctorate degree. It was E. Cage’s understanding that there was a history of these being done in the past. The library pulled a list of these recipients, so it was a very diverse list. The last honorary doctorate was conferred to Joe Manchin in December 2016. His understanding is that under the Jenkins administration this ended because we did not confer doctorate degrees. E. Cage would like to bring that back, since the mayor is very supportive of the university. He did review to see if there was a particular process, but he could not find anything.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said no president has ever asked the faculty, so he would be the first. E. Cage said he thought it was important to include the faculty.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she likes the idea because it helps build community. M. Fultz likes the idea, but if there is an issue in the future, we should have a small group of people who asks questions for each speaker. R. Ford said he was opposed to the idea itself because not everyone should receive an honorary degree. B. Ladner said any speaker in the future should be recommended and vetted to ensure the individual has nothing in their background that the university would not want to be involved. E. Cage said since the mayor is a public figure, she has plenty of vetting. T. Ruhnke said that this is a good idea.

**INTERIM PROVOST PAIGE CARNEY**

P. Carney thanked the faculty, staff and everyone for all their hard work this semester. She announced the opening week schedule will begin Tuesday, January 11 and they are hoping to get the schedule out next week.

Commencement will be Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 10:00am.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked about the Constitutional Summit workgroup being included in the opening week. P. Carney said it was on the list.

M. Fultz asked about retention numbers. P. Carney said next week the deans and faculty are doing outreach for students who have not registered. L. Good said the student success center has been reaching out to students, but for the most part, the students have not responded. P. Carney said the students are using social media. L. Good said W. Taylor provides that information, but it is just one semester to the next, but she will try and get the most recent data and share that with the faculty.

**BOG**

J. Pietruszynski said the most important thing is the presidential search. They have had three meetings so far. They had a meeting over thanksgiving break, looking at the advertisement. They received input from faculty, staff, community, etc. and it was revised by J. Pietruszynski, so that it is written better than the last. The goal is to have semifinalists by April and finalists by May. J. Pietruszynski said he stressed the importance of the interviews being done before the end of the Spring semester because faculty will not be on campus. J. Pietruszynski said the chairs of the committee said they want faculty and staff buy-in throughout the entire process. One of the things that have been suggested is for faculty senate to write a resolution to have more voting faculty on the BOG committee.

M. Fultz asked if there was R&D representation on the BOG. J. Pietruszynski said no. M. Fultz said so we are not considering their input even though we list the research and extension programs.

M. Bhuiyan said we still need faculty representation. J. Pietruszynski said he has made this argument so many times.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said they have been working on a resolution. J. Pietruszynski said he has research from other universities illustrating how they have conducted their past presidential searches and who was on those committees.

M. Fultz said we should vote from the general faculty, not just the senate. M. Bhuiyan said maybe the faculty senate needs to take something to the general faculty. F. Vaughan said having the general faculty vote on a statement is a good idea, but push gently. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said we tried gently, but that hasn’t worked.

T. Ruhnke said do the stakeholders know the importance of having faculty be a part of the process.

B. Liedl asked if Dr. Ami Smith was on the committee. J. Pietruszynski said no. B. Liedl stated she along with Naveed, Robin and Crystal Walker were asked to gather input from faculty, staff, etc. and give feedback to the BOG.

B. Ladner asked if Chair Jones provided information on why faculty was not included. J. Pietruszynski said he was told Chair Jones looked at past committees and based it off that.

M. Fultz moved that the faculty senate of WVSU write a resolution for voting among the general faculty about faculty representation on the presidential search committee R. Ford seconded. Senate voted unanimously.

M. Fultz moved to accept the BOG report, B. Ladner seconded. Senate unanimously voted.

**ACF**

B. Ladner said they found out that HEPC will not have a higher education day during the legislative session, which is normally when they focus their efforts with the legislators. Right now, they are trying to find a time to present this information, but are hoping the new chancellor will help with the efforts.

R. Ford asked about the legislators coming to our campus. B. Ladner said they have a new legislative director, but with COVID, it is a little different. But she will put that out for next year.

E. Cage said he had a meeting earlier this week and on February 16, 2022 WVSU day will be at the capitol. He said that may be an opportunity since there are legislative meetings occurring at that time. B. Ladner said she wanted to talk to him about the funding model.

E. Cage said the council of presidents have been working with HEPC and as of today, WVSU is supportive of the model, but the caveat is that there is potential for amendments, so they will be watching it closely because if it goes off the rails, WVSU may change its position.

M. Fultz moved to accept the ACF report. K. Toledo seconded. Senate voted unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CONSTITUTIONAL SUMMIT**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said we are looking to make updates to the constitution during opening week, so faculty may volunteer to work on certain sections.

**INSTRUCTIONAL & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said they sent her the data Tuesday morning, but she has not had the chance to review. Once the data is analyzed, they could put together a rotation schedule.

M. Fultz asked about the oldest computer. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said the average is 7-8 years. M. Bhuiyan asked about library computers getting updated, so students can use software.

**FACULTY MORALE SURVEY**

J. Pietruszynski said there were 54 responses to the survey. He will provide a full breakdown at the general faculty meeting. It will be color coded and graphed. The list looks like a fire instead of prairie. He will illustrate the areas of concern at the general faculty meeting.

J. Pietruszynski said historically there has been some hostility between faculty and the BOG, so there are some good ways to change this place for the better as for morale. First, more representation on the presidential search.

M. Fultz said if we are taking surveys, we have to use the data. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said there are small things there that we can start with.

R. Ford asked if the surveys would be the same for staff. J. Pietruszynski said he could send Robin Tabor a copy, so they could revise for staff.

M. Bhuiyan said we need better communication with Ferrell Hall about data. J. Pietruszynski said it addresses these issues, so now we have data to back up the complaints. M. Fultz said this semester has been the best as far as communication. M. Fultz said we need to talk to administration and show up at the meeting, so we need to be vocal and let our voice be heard by the BOG representative. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said it will be good to have the data to explain the hierarchy issues, so we have a plan to present to administration.

K. Toledo said we would need to include R&D staff with the general staff for that survey as well.

M. Fultz said he is not sure if Chair Jones knows that the faculty senate meetings are open to the public. J. Pietruszynski said he will make sure they understand that point. F. Vaughan said he has extended that invitation but those guys are busy, but there is a definite lack of interest. M. Fultz said at least one of them could be available once a month.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if the task force is a good idea. B. Ladner said yes, when the time comes. M. Fultz said it is a good idea.

M. Fultz asked if the third party survey was still happening. E. Cage said yes, that would kick off in January. M. Fultz asked if they would like the other data to review. E. Cage said he would have E. Jackson reach out to them.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION – PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH**

Attached to the Minutes

**FACULTY AND STAFF MORALE – TASK FORCE**

J. Pietruszynski said once the data is collected, we will analyze the data. So the next steps would be gathering a group to analyze the information. The best areas are departmentally, so that would be a good place to start.

**AGENDA ITEMS – GENERAL FACULTY**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced the items currently on the agenda. L. Good said she would like to present data for student retention at the January meeting.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked about agenda items for the general faculty meeting and said to email them to her if anyone things of anything.

**OTHER**

M. Bhuiyan asked about the fall schedule ending before Thanksgiving since a lot of students leave for home and do not want to come back for a week due to flight costs, gas prices, etc.

B. Ladner said her understanding is that Marshall has gone to 15 week semesters and counting finals as part of the semester. D. Williams said that would mess up the 8-week classes.

M. Fultz moved to adjourn and L. Goodseconded the motion at 2:31pm.

Motion from the General Faculty of West Virginia State University to the West Virginia State University Board of Governors and Presidential Search Committee Co-Chairs

WHEREAS the hiring of a University President is one of the most important positional hires in higher education as he/she/they represent the person in charge of the mission and vision for the university, and;

WHEREAS one of the most directly impacted stakeholders in day to day operations of the university mission, specifically education, is the faculty, and;

WHEREAS WVSU faculty members, through the university’s shared governance model must have a close working connection with the president in order to help ensure successful navigation of any future vision / direction of the university, and;

WHEREAS identified best practices in a presidential search, such as in a study by the American Association of University Professors, emphasize a primary role of university faculty in the search for a president due to conditions listed above as well as the institutional knowledge they can provide to the committee, and the expertise in higher education that they bring. This same sentiment can be found in several other research on presidential searches, a sample of which are listed in this motion under REFERENCES, and;

WHEREAS other institutions generally have a faculty representation of at least 45% of the membership in recent presidential searches (i.e. Marshall University (5/11), SUNY (6/12), University of Iowa (10/22), etc.). however, our current representation consists only of one (1) faculty member on the WVSU Presidential Search Committee, and;

WHEREAS past administrative failings may have been avoided or lessened with more faculty buy-in, and;

WHEREAS successful faculty buy-in is incumbent on representation, and;

WHEREAS the sole voice of the committee is ALSO a member of the BOG, creating a possible conflict of interest between the will of the general faculty and his duties as a member of the board. This possible conflict could also cause mistrust and animosity between the Faculty and the BOG, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that the West Virginia State University Faculty in a formal vote taken during the 12/8 General Faculty Meeting request to Co-Chairs Governor Mark Davis, and Dr. Lateef Saffore as well as the general Board of Governors of West Virginia State University, two additional members of the faculty be added to the Presidential Search Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty would recommend the following two members: Dr. Naveed Zaman (Dean Mathematics and Natural Sciences) and Dr. Barbara Leidel.

Signed,

Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski, Ph.D. Date

Chair, WVSU Faculty Senate

on behalf of the WVSU General Faculty.

REFERENCES

Haley, Katherine. An Insider’s Guide to Presidential Search. https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2020/01/16/10-recommendations-successful-presidential-search-opinion. Jan 16, 2020.

Poston Muriel E. Presidential Search Committee Checklist. (American Association of University Professors, 2020)

McLaughlin, Judith B. and David Riesman. Choosing a College President: Opportunities and Constraints (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1990).

Leondar, Barbara and Charles B. Neff; Presidential Search. (Washington, D.C.: Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, 1992).

Ferrarre, James & Theodore Marchese "Increasing the Odds for Successful Presidential Searches,", in "Trusteeship", September/October 2010, collected in "Trusteeship Portfolios: Finding a New President: Advice for Boards," AGB Press.