**Minutes from the WVSU General Faculty Meeting**

**on Wednesday, January 12, 2022**

*The following meeting was conducted by Zoom.*

*Attendance:* J. Barnes-Pietruszynski, J. Pietruszynski, R. Ford, M. Pennington, T. Ruhnke, M. Bradley, T. Reed, E. Waugh, M. Ranasinghe, L. Lambert, L. Good, A. McConnell, T. Kiddie, A. Ziyati, J. Eya, K. Steele, H. Southall, C. Whyte, B. Whyte, W. Stroupe, Z. Fitchner, S. Burdette, R. Mutepa, C. Walker, M. Kane, A. Schedl, B. Ladner, H. Wu, D. Taylor, A. Bejou, D. Williams, J. Martin, D. Johnson, M. Sizemore, A. Seybert, C. Taylor-Johnson, S. Molnar, E. Lewis, M. Carroll, M. Addesa, M. Fultz, G. K. Cobb, P. Wilson, M. Wilson, R. Harris, I. Wang, D. Huber, G. Palubinskas, N. Zaman, B. Liedl, B. Hauser, M. Ray, L. Wang-Hiles, G. Hankins, J. Collins, C. Susman, M. Blackwell, X. Zhang, P. King, S. Kelly, M. Seyedmonir, A. Cardenas, E. Sekabunga, A. Tillquist, M. Lewis, M. Young, A. Wylie, C. Arnold, A. Malkaram, M. Krasnansky, K. Seybert, S. Gilliland, M. Anderson, R. Ovrebo, T. Park, K. Anderson

The meeting was called to order by J. Barnes-Pietruszynski at 11:20 am

Revisions/Suggestions to the Agenda and Minutes

T. Ruhnke moved and E. Lewis seconded the approval of the agenda with additions. Faculty voted unanimously.

T. Ruhnke moved and E. Lewis seconded the approval of the minutes with corrections sent to L. Davidson. Faculty voted unanimously.

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONSTITUTIONAL SUMMIT**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said after discussions with delays in testing and positive COVID cases, the summit is moved until early February. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said when they reviewed the information, it did not look like it was a big job, so they are going to try and update handbook as well.

**CONSTITUTIONAL VOTE RESULTS**

R. Ford announced 23 votes for and 0 vote against for the constitutional vote to increase the number of representatives for the College of Professional Studies to 3 instead of 2.

**BOG – PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH**

J. Pietruszynski said HEPC still has to meet to vote, but did allow the BOG to go ahead and submit the advertisement. The goal is to have a list of semi-finalists by February. Other than that, nothing happened during the break.

B. Ladner said she has not received an official letter, but Chair Jones sent an email giving her access and informing her she has been added to the search committee. C. Taylor-Johnson announced she was also added.

**ACF**

B. Ladner said they are meeting this Friday to regroup after the death of the chair. She told them she would go meet with the legislature more since she is closer to help out.

**FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP**

A. McConnell said nominations are open for the scholarship. Nominations will be open for a few months. She will send out instructions as well as how to make a donation.

**FACULTY AWARDS**

M. Fultz announced he sent out the information to the Executive Committee for proofreading, it will go to the Faculty ListServe.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

L. Good said she just wanted to give faculty an update. The Academic Advising Center has 2 academic advisors and will be working with freshman, transfers under 29 hours, and students with GPA below 2.4.

The office surveyed students and the students biggest concern is Communication. Students stated they do not use their email because they get too many. 76% of students would like to meet directly with their advisors. L. Good said ACHIEVE portal will help with these communications issues.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she was confused about the student responses, are they checking email or not. L. Good said some students were saying they get too many and other students were saying professors do not email or communicate well.

T. Ruhnke asked if a student sends a message through ACHIEVE, will they get an email. L. Good said yes, it can be setup so that emails are only sent once a day or each time a message is sent. B. Ladner asked if there was an app or used in the browser. L. Good said it would be used in the browser.

L. Good said she piloted direct scheduling through ACHIEVE this past fall and had 17 students use that method to sign up for advising.

L. Good provided a breakdown for the Fall 2021 semester. There were 517 flags not including no-shows for Fall 2021 and 3 were students raising their hand because of a question or issue. 616 tutoring sessions scheduled, 540 were attended. A. Dorsey said she loved the fact that the Kudos were doubled compared to Flags and encouraged faculty to continue using those for students.

L. Good said the ACHIEVE virtual training will be Thursday at 1pm with an Open ACHIEVE Q&A following from 2:30-5.

L. Good reported we lost 200 students from Fall 2020-Spring 2021. 112 reported no plans to attend elsewhere---44.6% personal reasons; 82 reported plans to attend elsewhere---28% personal and 22% said it was academic issue. L. Good said addressing customer service and communication will assist with the issues brought forward by the students.

B. Ladner asked if this was all levels. L. Good said this overall information is all levels, but she can provide specific data if needed. B. Ladner asked if the survey gave students the opportunity to be specific about not offering a certain program. L. Good said yes, it was listed as changing degree.

G. Palubinskas said the wording about major/degree might be important since students may think it is just switching from a BA to BS.

N. Zaman asked if faculty can receive a list of who is being advised by the Advising Center, so that chairs can confirm the schedules are accurate and will keep the students on track. N. Zaman also asked about an email received 3 days ago including a list of students needing schedules from Quintin in Admission. B. Ladner said it is possible that he did not know where to send this information because she has been receiving emails directly from students. L. Good said the issue was that advisors did not begin actual work until this week, so hereafter, new students will be advised through their office.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said faculty need to find ways to use better communication tools and ACHIEVE. She also indicated that L. Good is doing a great job keeping everything organized. L. Good said she will send out updates on usages.

D. Williams said she found that there is transfer coursework that is not being reported in MyState, so she asked L. Good if they are checking that information. L. Good said they are trying to be in open communication with the students, including asking for unofficial transcripts, so they can use that for advising as well. Right now, L. Good said they are trying to get everyone registered and then revise the schedules as needed. D. Williams said she would like to get to the point that transfer students’ transcripts are evaluated to eliminate repeated coursework.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESSES**

**FACULTY TECHNOLOGY INVENTORY**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said they did receive the numbers right before break, so they will be doing analysis and creating a plan soon.

**FACULTY MORALE SURVEY – TASK FORCE FORMATION**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said if you were not at the general faculty meeting in December. J. Pietruszynski will send out an email with those results. They are creating a faculty morale task force. There have been several faculty members reach out to her indicating their interest, so if you are interested, please send her an email.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**COVID RESPONSE**

T. Ruhnke said he gets the feeling from the presentation this morning that we are adrift on these COVID numbers. He said if students are not wearing masks in the classroom, he is going to lecture from his office. He continued that there are too many officials who are content with letting it run through the population. He indicated that unless procedures are put into place, the infectious rate of the variant is going to continue until the virus runs out of properties to occupy. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she feels likes the CDC is not giving good guidelines either.

G. Palubinskas asked if E. Jackson announced that once students are tested is when the decision will be made about going virtual. T. Ruhnke said he is going to send an email to students saying if they are uncomfortable being in a classroom he is going to put his lecture virtual and have no labs the first week.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she is going to email E. Jackson to see if faculty can make the decision to conduct their class virtually for a few weeks until we get a better handle on numbers.

T. Ruhnke asked what faculty were on the task force. He also indicated that R. Ford would be a good person to have since he is the most familiar with virology, but does not want to give him more work.

B. Ladner said she is unclear about the situations in regards to isolation or quarantine. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said they asked her about symptoms and J. Davenport told her once the symptoms began, she should isolate for 10 days, but do not need a negative test to return to campus.

D. Huber said this variant is not the plague, it is only a respiratory issue, like a bad cold, so the fear needs to be dialed down. He said that 10 days is unnecessary and it continues to create problems for students and professors. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said it is easy to say that it’s just a cold if you do not have children or really bad symptoms, but not everyone just gets a cold, so her concerns are for the passing to others that would not fare well.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked about other announcements.

B. Ladner asked for faculty to get general education assessments by February 15. She also indicated they are working on aligning the rubrics to what the programs actually do, so they can ensure the students are being taught what is needed.

M. Seyedmonir asked who does that updating for general education websites. B. Ladner said she is and has made updates, but they have not updated, so she is going to try and figure out what she is doing wrong.

A. Ziyati said he has noticed the new MyDegree is not user friendly and information is missing. He also brought up the searchable schedule issue. L. Good said that is an IT thing they are working to fix, so what we have is only temporary. T. Kiddie said the server the schedule was being hosted by crashed right before break, so as we find things, IT needs the feedback, so it can be updated.

J. Martin said it has improved. A. Ziyati said the faculty is being considered experts in advising, so having uncertainty is not good for the students. G. Palubinskas said when the system went down and was not back up until January 3, 2022, a lot of classes were shortchanged because of the searchable schedules. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said we have an instructional technology committee that can look into these issues. T. Kiddie said in fairness with IT, this was an emergency situation because the system crashed and there was pressure to get it online. J. Martin said there are a few things he likes about the new schedule. T. Kiddie said he wishes you could review the entire schedule, not just by department. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said to add this to the discussion for the instructional and technology committee to make this a little easier. D. Williams said there is an Advanced Search option that is more helpful.

B. Ladner moved to adjourn and it was seconded by G. Hankins at 12:38pm.