

West Virginia State University

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes –Friday, September 2, 2022

The following meeting was conducted by video conference call using Zoom and in person at Hamblin Hall, Auditorium.

Attendees: J. Barnes-Pietruszynski, J. Pietruszynski, L. Davidson, D. Williams, L. Good, K. Toledo, R. Ford, A. Settle, M. Workman, K. Steele, M. Pennington, R. Øvrebø, J. Porter, G. Hensley, A. Bejou, T.J. Park, S.A. Malkaram., M. Fultz, M. Bhuiyan, E. Mahmoud, F. Vaughn, and C.T. Johnson.

The meeting was called to order by J. Barnes-Pietruszynski at 1:34pm.

The Faculty Senate Minutes from the May 6th meeting were approved by E. Lewis and seconded by L. Davidson. Faculty voted unanimously.

Revisions/Suggestions to Agenda and Minutes

R. Ford moved and Michael Pennington seconded the approval of the agenda. Faculty voted unanimously.

T. Ruhnke moved and L. Davidson seconded the approval of the minutes from the May 2022 meeting. Faculty voted unanimously.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BOG report

The BOG chair, Mark Kelly spoke to faculty and introduced himself as well as the upcoming plans the BOG wants to focus on with his newly appointed staff. Rich Ford expressed his concerns associated with faculty communication to the BOG chair. Kerri Steele asked about the faculty forum taking place this academic year. J. Pietruszynski stated one would be held in March. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski also expressed her gratitude and concerns with the BOG chair. Aaron Settle expressed his concerns to BOG chair regarding national accreditation for the university (i.e., academic program assessment). Aaron Settle also informed Mark Kelly that even though this data will need to be reported to the HLC, and not all programs on campus have been completing the required assessments. Mike Fultz asked the BOG chair for a full academic year to review the programs not completing assessments for accreditation to resolve this issue. Mark Kelly agreed with Fultz's plan in regards turning this issue around.

Presidential report

President Cage spoke with the Faculty Senate about his visions and plans for the university along with various events on campus that will take place for the 2022-2023 academic year. President

Cage also talked about the professional development workshops and conferences he attended. President Cage mentioned student enrollment was 1,606. This slight increase was a result from 1st year students and loss to returning students, which he stated is concerning but also expected as the number of college students is decreasing around the country. President Cage stated that he has 3 goals in mind to increase enrollment which include: recruitment, retention (in state, out of state, international), and revenue generation and diversification. The goal for recruitment is 2,100 for the 2023-2024 academic year. Additionally, President Cage also informed faculty that another issue enrollment numbers were lower was following a data reviewed by Mike Fultz and Provost Page Carney. The data concluded was a result of previous students not being able to afford an education.

Focus groups will be implemented for re-enrolling students. Pat Schumann will be involved in the investigation the last goal, and staff will be increased to help with this task. President Cage stated his cabinet is currently planning a formal launch to raise funds for the university and more details will follow at a later date.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski spoke with President Cage on infrastructure and asked are there plans to update and improve this issue especially in the classrooms and buildings. President Cage stated this is an issue that is currently being worked on. President Cage stated if anyone notices serious issues with the infrastructure of the classroom or building, they are in to let his office know so this can be place on the infrastructure list of things to address.

To assist with retaining students, and any challenges they may be having Michael Fultz stated that Jaleesa Nunez has been the sole contact to guide students with any matters or concerns they have throughout the academic school year. Lindsey Good also mentioned that Jaleesa Nunez will be the point of contact for faculty when a flag is raised in ACHIEVE for students who may need help or guidance to make their semester a smoother transition.

Eric Jackson and IT report

Eric Jackson stated Jackson Hayes will be the new director of IT. Eric Jackson also mentioned to remain patient regarding any IT related problems or work orders placed to the helpdesk. Eric Jackson mentioned, if after a week your work order has not provided any update to email him.

A new employee is in the process of being hired to update all directories. Naveed Zaman asked Eric Jackson about updates to the university website. President Cage stated he is fully aware of the website updates and is currently looking into this matter, however, at this time President Cage is trying to complete website updates in a cost-effective way.

Provost Cage also made faculty aware that there may be concerns of links not working on the throughout the university website and Eric Jackson stated to email the Director of IT regarding this issue so they can be removed from the website.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski and M. Bhuiyan stated their concerns about the difficulty to access class schedules during advising day, Registration Celebration, and New Student Orientation. Deborah Williams stated to use the “advanced search” for class schedules as a possible solution, and to ensure there is no challenges with accessing the semester class schedules for registering students

for the spring 2023 and future semesters, President Cage stated this will be made a priority to be investigated.

Provost Carney/Academic Affairs report

Provost Carney mentioned the Strategic Planning Listening Session that will be held on September 7th with Kaye Monk-Morgan serving as a facilitator. Provost Carney also discussed how J. Barnes-Pietruszynski have spoken about re-starting FACET.

Provost Carney stated on September 8th the BOG will recognize various students at WVSU. She also informed faculty that Academic Affairs is still working on doctoral program for education leadership and in the process of creating a student advisory board.

Provost Carney said Mike Fultz has spoken with President Cage and presented updates on MOU and articulation agreements.

She also discussed upcoming collaborative events (that will be held on campus with Katie Bentley for dual enrollment high school students (1,800 total). Provost Carney stated any faculty willing to help with the six sessions for this event are welcomed to volunteer and participate in this collaborative event. One of the planned events with Katie Bentley will involve a student led panel discussion and Provost Carney asks if faculty knows of any students who may be interested to reach out to her via email.

Provost Carney thanked faculty who were present at the ACUE pinning ceremony and mentioned a HLC proposal is currently being worked on to present in the future along with continually focusing on an increase in student retention.

Krystal Tolliver/Trio Programs

Krystal Tolliver discussed the role of WVSU Trio's Student Support Services Program (i.e., outreach programs, workshops, tutoring and mentoring services). Krystal Tolliver stated that the program funds 250 college students. She informed the faculty that each college student must be enrolled at WVSU or expected to enroll in WVSU.

The Trio Program is located in Sullivan Hall, 2nd floor. Additional details related to the application process and what makes a student eligible to apply (e.g., first generation, low income, and/or receive a Pell Grant) can be found on the WVSU Trio homepage. The website for students to apply is: <https://www.wvstateu.edu/current-students/trio-programs/student-support-services.aspx>.

M. Pennington asked what can be done on behalf of other departments across campus to help the Trio program staff. Krystal Tolliver stated to inform the students (e.g., talk with students on first day of class, include the office on the syllabus, etc.) of the services the Trio program offers will ensure students are retained on campus.

Strategic Planning Announcement

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski encouraged faculty to attend any of the strategic planning that will be held on September 7th and also inform students in classes to participate in this event facilitated by Kaye Monk-Morgan.

BOG Announcement

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski spoke on behalf of J. Pietruszynski at this time were not new updates. This announcement was motioned by L. Good and seconded by M. Pennington.

ACF Announcement

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated on behalf of B. Ladner there are not any new updates related to the Advisory Council of Faculty. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski also mentioned the ACF will host a retreat this November and will set agenda prior to with additional details to follow. For any concerns, please email Barbara Ladner as the WVSU ACF point of contact. This announcement was motioned by L. Good and seconded by M. Pennington.

General Education Announcement

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski spoke on behalf of B. Ladner to ensure all general education assessments have been submitted and the last years data will be reviewed soon. This announcement was motioned by L. Good and seconded by M. Pennington.

Faculty scholarship Announcement

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated on behalf of Anne McConnell that faculty scholarships for fall 2022 have been given to the awardees and nominations for the spring 2023 will be nominated soon. This announcement was motioned by L. Good and seconded by E. Lewis.

CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski mentioned the FS Historian, K. Toledo will be updating the Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws. Following this, R.Ford will review the revisions and updates made by K. Toledo. The updates to the constitution reviewed by Rich Ford will be revisited by Faculty Senate for one more vote in a future meeting.

FACULTY HANDBOOK UPDATES

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated there would be changes to the faculty handbook. She also mentioned these changes would be put into effect for future employees in a timely fashion.

ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIOS

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated the Faculty Personnel Committee has provided directions to upload electronic portfolios (e.g., tenure and promotion). J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if any faculty needed to discuss incorporating the use of electronic portfolios. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski also informed the faculty the use of the electronic portfolios would begin starting this fall 2022 semester. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked for a motion to support this matter which was done by M. Bhuiyan and seconded by Davidson.

IT UPDATES

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski re-stated the details mentioned by Eric Jackson earlier in the meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated the important to restart the Ad Hoc Committees including Faculty Grant Compensation, Indirect Monies, Academic Integrity, and Faculty Evaluations. A. Settle expressed concerns with faculty about tuition and fees for family members. To receive an update on this matter, J. Barnes-Pietruszynski will reach out to the VP of Finance to determine if there has been any updates or changes to this matter.

FACET

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated she is in the early stages of getting FACET relaunched for the university.

PD-ACCOMMODATIONS FACULTY DISCUSSION SESSION

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated she received an email from Michael Casey regarding classroom accommodations. M. Pennington stated one issue that should be considered is the lack of updated technology for making an accommodative classroom (both hybrid and online). L. Good mentioned to also consider finding new ways to motivate students along with providing the younger/newer generations how the classes being taken are beneficial to them in within society some way. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski mentioned she will speak with Michael Casey to schedule listening sessions for faculty to voice their thoughts on this topic.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE FSSC

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked for faculty who may be interested in reconstructing the FSSC to email her. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski is looking for faculty who could serve as conveners.

N. Zaman provided insight to reconstructing the FSSC and the senators from various colleges. He mentioned to look into a two-way information stream between faculty and the senators from various colleges, as no mechanism has been developed in the past. N. Zaman recommended developing an enrollment committee and a recruitment and retention committee that works with Academic Affairs to increase the number of students enrolled for the future academic years. N. Zaman also stated to provide a clear set of details for choosing faculty on various FSSC and to involve new faculty into these committees as well.

A. Settle suggested to J. Barnes-Pietruszynski to speak with President Cage in regard to appointing faculty for the FSSC.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated she will provide a suggestion box that will be sent out via email for solidification of these FSSC to all faculty.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski motioned to adjourn the meeting. L. Good moved to adjourn, and E. Lewis seconded at 3:47pm.