**WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Friday, February 5, 2016 – 1:30**

**Hamblin Auditorium**

1. **Call to order:** The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order by Chair, Dr. Tim Ruhnke at 1:34 p.m.
2. **Review/approval of minutes:** Minutes from the Faculty Senate Meeting held December 4, 2015 were reviewed. **Motion to accept the minutes was made (Alderman/Marrash-Minnerly) and carried.**
3. **Approval of the agenda: Motion to approve the agenda carried (Fultz/Marrash-Minnerly).**
4. **Comments from the Chair:** Dr. Ruhnke welcomed everyone back to a new semester.
5. **Reports**
   1. **President Hemphill:** With a projected $350 million budget shortfall for the state of West Virginia, many are concerned with budgets. In terms of enrollment and revenue, President Hemphill reported that we are “looking good”. He referenced the state of Illinois which has not paid public institutions of higher education since July 1. Situations such as this would require institutions to survive on cash reserves. President Hemphill opened the floor for questions. Dr. Guetzloff asked if the institution would be able to do things differently from a fiscal perspective (for example, access lab fees for other expenses) and President Hemphill noted this would require conversations with the Board of Governors. He further noted that we need to be mindful and are putting plans together. Dr. Ruhke asked what college presidents are doing to get the message across about the detrimental effects of continuing to cut funding to higher education. Both President Hemphill and Dr. Ruhnke noted that it will be a while before things get better financially and it is possible some institutions of higher education in West Virginia will not survive. President Hemphill noted that “we are not in that boat”. He noted a bill in front of the West Virginia Senate designed to give institutions of higher education more autonomy to be entrepreneurial. President Hemphill then reviewed a series of recent lawsuits against the university. In hindsight, he would have made the same decisions regarding each situation. The cost for these lawsuits was covered by the West Virginia Board of Risk and Insurance Management. President Hemphill was questioned about insurance for faculty members. If you are performing the duties of your job, you are covered by the WV Board of Risk and Insurance Management. Dr. Ford asked President Hemphill to discuss rumors of serious discussions regarding the restructuring of institutions of higher education in West Virginia. President Hemphill does not anticipate restructuring at this time.
   2. **Provost Jayasuriya:** Provost Jayasuriya announced that the Office of International Affairs is housed on the 3rd floor of Ferrell Hall. The contract for the new online system has been signed with Learning House and is discussed later in the meeting. Discussion was made about the summer schedule. The current format runs classes in 3, 6, and 9 week sessions. Dr. Jayasuriya suggested two 4 week sessions and an 8 week session. The suggestion came from the Dean’s Council after discussion with Department Chairs. The proposal would address that 3 week courses are too short and there is overlap across the different sessions. Concerns were noted about time off in the summer and compressing content. Dr. Jayasuriya said that 6 week courses could be worked into the 8 week footprint. Dr. Jayasuriya appointed an advisory group for the transition to Learning House. Those teaching online courses will be contacted shortly by the advisory group. The new Assessment Coordinator will be making contact with Department Chairs to determine where departments are in regards to assessment and then she will let them “know what she wants”. Discussion was made regarding minimum class sizes
   3. **ACF Report – Dr. Rich Ford:** Dr. Ford sent an email to the listserv regarding updates from the legislative session. Dr. Guetzloff asked Dr. Ford to comment on a bill on freezing tuition for a number of years. Considerable discussion was made regarding the legislature chronically reducing funding to institutions of higher education and then exacerbating the issue by not letting the institutions take care of themselves. On Thursday, February 11, 2016, ACF will have a meeting in Flatwoods regarding transferability of courses across institutions. The group is working on Physics and Anatomy and Physiology. The group looks at a percentage of objectives that match and the length of time spent on objectives. What issues should ACF focus on for next year? Contact Dr. Ford with suggestions.
   4. **Graduate Council – Dr. Rich Ford:** The Council is working on an application form to be used by the graduate programs. The Graduate Council has proposed an increased pay rate for graduate adjuncts. Dr. Jayaruriya noted that the Dean’s Council has discussed this increased pay rate for graduate adjuncts
   5. **BOG Report – Dr. Tom Guetzloff**: Dr. Guetzloff reviewed the budget documents he sent to the faculty listserv. Discussion followed. Royal & Company is contracted to assist with new student applications. Five thousand students have begun the application process. Eighteen hundred are full (completed) applications. It is unknown how many of these students will actually enroll at the university. Discussion was made regarding the continued need to increase enrollment. Further questions about the budget were posed and answered including ones related to the cost of the search for a new president, auxiliary accounts, negative balances in historic accounts, lost revenue when the Community and Technical College left campus, and a $3 million surplus in the bookstore account.
   6. **Program Review – Dr. Michael Anderson:** Three programs were up for review this year – Secondary Education, Elementary Education, and Psychology. The two education programs were to go to the Board of Governors in January but have been deferred. The Psychology program is scheduled to go to the Board of Governors in March. Dr. Ruhnke asked Dr. Anderson to forward the written report to Faculty Senate when completed. Dr. Jayasuriya asked why the education programs had an assessment follow-up when they recently passed NCATE accreditation. Dr. Anderson said the Program Review Committee suggested that the Education Department present data more clearly. Dr. Jayasuriya noted that many places allow programs with external accreditors to not participate in Program Review. Dr. Anderson noted that additional program information can be culled by participation in the review process.
   7. **Cultural Activities – Dr. Kent Shaw:** The committee has developed a proposal system to be used to request funding. This has been a year of transition for the procedures. The committee approved $60,000 in funding in the past year. **Motion to accept verbal report that will be followed up with a written report was approved.** Dr. Jayasuriya thanked Dr. Shaw and Faculty Senate for changing the function of the committee. Dr. Shaw noted that the committee would like to change the make-up of the committee to make it more inclusive. Language to be included in the Constitution and Bylaws is as follows: *“This committee shall consist of the Program Coordinator, who shall serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member, four (4) elected faculty members (one from each college), six (6) elected faculty members elected at large from any college, and four (4) students (one representing each college appointed by the respective deans),* and ~~a~~ non-voting advisory members from the Douglas Institute (formerly ACEOP) who shall be appointed by the Vice President for Research and shall serve for one year, ex-officio ~~non-voting representative from the~~ office of the Provost and…” **Motion to submit this language to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee was approved (Marrash-Minnerly/Fultz).**
   8. **Library Committee:** The Library Committee report was deferred until the March meeting.
6. **Old Business**
   1. **Online System/courses/programs:** The Learning House contract has been signed and the Moodle portal has been set up for us to migrate classes beginning by February 20, 2016. Dr. Jayasuriya has asked for, but not yet received, a timeline. Dr. Guetzloff asked about the ability for students to add classes in the middle of the semester as some classes will be Banner and will be worked out by fall 2017. The Advisory Committee will be chaired by Dr. Tom Kiddie and will develop policies regarding online programs and courses.
   2. **Retention:** Oree Banks questioned retention rates of minority students and will visit other schools and develop a proposal to help with minority retention. Dr. Ruhnke reviewed the webpages regarding the Retention Plan. Discussion was made about faculty involvement, responsibility for implementation, and deadlines. Dr. Fultz noted that Vice-President McCarthy has this information.
7. **New Business**
   1. **PDF of campus directory:** Dr. Ruhnke noted that the online search directory had been improved and noted that some still want a hard copy of the directory. If interested, please contact Dr. Ruhnke to obtain a hard copy.
   2. **Presidential Search:** Forums were held last week to survey faculty and staff regarding the search. The profile is similar to the last search. The tentative schedule is to search and screen in February, meetings of committee and candidates in March, and campus interviews in April.

**Adjourn at 4:20**

Dr. Emily Waugh, Secretary