

**Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, March 4, 2022  
In Person & Video Conference Call using Zoom at 1:30 pm**

*The following meeting was conducted by video conference call using Zoom.*

*Attendance: J. Barnes-Pietruszynski, L. Davidson, K. Steele, M. Bhuiyan, M. Fultz, J. Pietruszynski, R. Wallace, T. Ruhnke, R. Ford, N. Zaman, I. Wang, J. Martin, B. Ladner, M. Blackwell, U. Karunathilake, F. Vaughan, E. Cage, D. Wells, P. Carney, L. Good, G. Palubinskas, M. Pennington, S. Kelly, T. Kiddie, M. Wilson, M. Young, M. Ranasinghe, R. Ovrebo, L. Lambert, M Seyedmonir, A. Bejou, S Burdette, C. Walker, T. Park, E. Waugh, J. Porter, E. Lewis, E. Lomax, Z Fitchner,*

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

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

T. Ruhnke asked to add meeting travel funding.

T. Ruhnke moved and M. Fultz seconded the approval of the agenda. Senate voted unanimously.

M. Bhuiyan moved and T. Ruhnke seconded the minutes with changes to L. Davidson. Senate voted unanimously.

**REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTERIM PROVOST CARNEY**

P. Carney said they are proceeding with the Doctorate of Educational Leadership and the documentation will now go to the BOG. She also indicated that the Cybersecurity grant was finalized and submitted to the Kanawha County Commission and that N. Zaman is working on a Cybersecurity minor.

P. Carney stated that Registration Celebration will be scheduled after spring break, so she encourages faculty to participate.

P. Carney announced that the College Advisory Board meetings were successful and she also announced that a partnership with the athletic training at Marshall University was established, so WVSU will have 2 seats to go into that program.

P. Carney also indicated that they are putting together some ideas for Professional Development this spring, so submit any topics to her.

T. Ruhnke asked about travel funding. P. Carney said the COVID task force is following CDC and state guidelines on travel. L. Davidson said her recent request was not approved since it was out of state travel and the university was not even paying for the conference. M. Bhuiyan asked if we would have travel in the fall and P. Carney said she would find out. B. Ladner said it would just be nice to know the policy since a lot of people are hearing different things.

M. Fultz asked about the student lab fees. P. Carney said that would be a question for VP C. Dalton. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if that was legal to use the fees for other items. T. Ruhnke said if there are money left overs, it can be used.

M. Fultz asked what the money for the Retool your School would be used for, since there are so many other things that needs to be maintenance. A. Dorsey said there are parameters on what the money can be used for and a project plan has to be submitted before you are even entered into the contest.

T. Kiddie said anyone that manages a budget can enter the code and determine the budget for that program, for example his online learning center generated \$900,000 in course fees and his budget was \$29,000, which was exhausted early in the semester because a lot of licensing that must be purchased was more than that amount.

R. Ford asked if there is a way to identify students who are part of the collaborative program. P. Carney said they met with the director of the program and they are going to start getting those students more involved on campus, so we can recruit.

B. Ladner asked where we find a list of individuals who are working on campus and their titles. P. Carney said that is being updated and can be shared with the faculty and staff.

## **BOG**

J. Pietruszynski said the search committee conducted interviews for the semi-finalists. The finalists have been identified, but he cannot release names. The plans are to have on campus interviews the week before spring break on that Monday and Tuesday.

A. Dorsey asked whether the attitude of the BOG was to hire nobody instead of the wrong person through this search. B. Ladner said that a failed search has been discussed by the committee. A. Dorsey asked when the new president would begin. J. Pietruszynski said July 1.

B. Ladner said she encouraged faculty to go to the interviews for the candidates, so they can ask questions. T. Kiddie asked if there were only two candidates. J. Pietruszynski said they have selected a number of finalists and turned them over to the search firm to reach out to the candidates. J. Pietruszynski said he is trying to get permission to release the names and the CVs, so the faculty can research the candidates.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if the BOG would hold faculty/staff/student forums this semester. J. Pietruszynski said he would check with E. Jackson since he sets up the meeting agendas. J. Pietruszynski said the BOG is interested in what the faculty think would help the morale between the BOG and the faculty. T. Ruhnke said the process at the end of Jenkins tenure has continued in the way the BOG treat faculty. J. Pietruszynski said he told the BOG that faculty want to be treated like professionals.

J. Pietruszynski said there are four programs going up for program review, so chairs should be at the BOG meeting to answer any questions.

## **ACF**

B. Ladner said most of the bills that ACF had been watching did not go anywhere. One of the bills regarding diversity curricula did not pass; however, one of the bills sponsored by Rucker entitled the Anti-Racism Bill has passed the Senate Education Committee. HEPC does not believe that we need to respond right now.

B. Ladner said WVU's Executive Committee sent an email to the committee, B. Ladner shared the email and stated that WVU was voting on a resolution today, but they did not want to share that information until it was voted on within their faculty senate.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if this body would like to make a statement on behalf of the faculty senate. R. Ford moved to endorse WVU's letter from the Executive Committee to the House of Delegates and J. Martin seconded. Senate voted unanimously.

B. Ladner asked if we should send this from a state email address. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said I would think so since it is on behalf of the faculty senate. P. Carney said yes.

B. Ladner said there is a bill to merge Pierpont back with Fairmont, but Pierpont is not happy with the decision. The main interest is because of an aviation program, but the fear is that most of the Pierpont individuals will be let go. B. Ladner said this definitely generates a discussion. T. Ruhnke brought up some ideas about the collaboration efforts between BridgeValley and WVSU and how that might have positive changes for our students and programs. R. Ford asked if this bill would pass and what are the dangers. B. Ladner said they felt this bill would pass and it would do away with a lot of efforts by the Pierpont faculty for their students.

## **LIBRARY**

E. Lomax, Interim Director of the Library, stated they offer library instruction services for all faculty, both in-person and online. He also stated that the priorities for the library are staffing, archivist, increase in material budget, support programs, faculty survey, more materials, active learning commons, library fees. Feel free to contact them if you have any questions or need anything from the library staff.

M. Fultz asked if the library is given the opportunity to raise money on founder's day. E. Lomax said they have not been aware of that in the past, but they would like to meet with Pat Schuman to get some ideas on how to fundraise for the library.

B. Ladner asked if he wanted to know what we really need for our departments, but also provide some ideas of what we would like to have. E. Lomax said absolutely.

D. Wells said we are still paying off some debt left by the previous administration, but once that happens, all of the things being recommended can happen.

T. Ruhnke moved to accept the report, L. Good seconded. Senate voted unanimously.

## **UPCOMING SENATE ELECTIONS AND CHAIR ELECTIONS**

R. Ford said there are elections that need to be conducted in Spring, so he announced the seats available within each area.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said a few of the chair elections have been conducted already.

## **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

A. Settle said while the committee has not met, some of the members of the committee have informal meetings to keep things going, without a formal meeting.

T. Ruhnke moved to amend the athletic committee language to include that the Faculty Athletic Representative serves as the chair of the committee, B. Ladner seconded. Senate voted unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **FACULTY COMPUTERS**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she is meeting with IT to determine what is needed, so they can create a schedule.

### **FACULTY MORALE AD-HOC TASK FORCE**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she has sent out emails for scheduling to people who expressed an interest, but she will also forward to FacultyLS to see if anyone else is interested, so they can start scheduling meetings.

### **AD-HOC COMMITTEES - Faculty Grant Compensation, Tuition for Dependents, Indirect Monies, Academic Integrity, Term Faculty**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said they are starting to meet and get some of these policies moving. The Faculty Senate discussed some of the policies and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked for volunteers so they can get them into a working document and presented to faculty senate.

M. Seyedmonir asked about evaluations of administration. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she does not believe we have one. R. Ford said it is mentioned in the faculty handbook. D. Williams said there is something in the faculty handbook for the evaluations of chairs and deans. B. Ladner said ~~there is nothing she is aware of for administrators above the deans, except the president.~~ D. Williams said there are evaluations for staff as well, but that would be a questions for HR. B. Ladner said she believes M. Seyedmonir is suggesting faculty be involved in the evaluation process. M. Seyedmonir said there has to be transparency on every side, not just academics.

M. Fultz said he suggested to J. Pietruszynski that the BOG needs to be following the policies they set. T. Kiddie said HR has a policy on evaluating staff, but from his perspective, HR has not been evaluating the administrators.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked about requiring attendance at committee members. B. Ladner said we do require attendance.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CONSTITUTIONAL SUMMIT**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said we met this morning and will be making the updates and will present the changes in April to faculty senate. The second stage is looking for things that need to be revised.

### **COVID UPDATES**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated that the COVID task force met and wanted input from the faculty in regards to relaxing the face mask mandates. T. Ruhnke said the only issue would be with the number of students within a classroom and someone being infected.

B. Ladner said she would be comfortable with allowing no masks in faculty offices as a start. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said the CDC guidelines have started to set thresholds and once a location meets this requirement, there should be no masks.

R. Ford said this needs to be university wide. M. Fultz said it is very difficult to read facial expressions of students with these masks. T. Ruhnke said if we relax the mask mandates, we need to reestablish faculty going to conferences/meetings.

G. Palubinskas said she has had several students test positive multiple times, so since students are continuing to test positive, it may be best to keep the masks.

M. Fultz said if the university is saying they are following CDC guidelines, then they need to follow these guidelines and stop picking and choosing what they follow.

### **PEER GRANTS**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said the PEER Grant Committee has asked the faculty senate to select a representative, but the representative cannot apply for these grants. The faculty senate discussed the options from the past and what the specific responsibilities would be for each member. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said each college would pick their representative, but they wanted a faculty senate representative as well.

B. Ladner moved for M. Fultz to be the representative for the faculty senate on the PEER Grant committee, L. Good seconded. Senate voted unanimously.

### **FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE FOR R&D BOARD**

M. Fultz asked if faculty senate would recommend a representative to serve as the faculty representative to the chair of the Board. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said to send any nomination to M. Fultz. B. Ladner asked if the by-laws were in code or is there a way to amend these rules.

M. Seyedmonir asked what the rule of WVSU's president would play on that board. T. Ruhnke said the president does appoint the chair.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING LISTENDING SESSIONS – R & D**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski made the announcement to faculty to attend these sessions. She announced that she emailed the links and encouraged faculty to register and attend.

## **ACHIEVE**

L. Good said everything is working smoothly. Faculty are using the Google forms, for early alerts and flags. Once the ticket is resolved, an email will be sent explaining the process. There are plans to look at what the university has and see what can be used. Once determinations are made in what can be done, the faculty will be asked to provide input.

Advising will be open on March 7, 2022.

L. Good also announced that M. Day has moved over from admissions and they have identified some areas of needs for students. They are currently making a video to newly admitted students advising them of next steps.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced for faculty to meet at Pitch for drinks and appetizers.