**Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Meeting on Friday, October 2, 2020**

**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 Wallace Hall 122, due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.*

*Attendance: L. Good, R. Kendrick, R. Ford, A. Dorsey, J. Barnes-Pietruszynski, B. Ladner, M.* *Bhuiyan, L. Davidson, E. Lomax, R. Wallace, T. Ruhnke, F. Vaughan, K. Seybert, K. Steele, T. Kiddie, S. Armstrong, N. Zaman, C. Clark, M. Seyedmonir, A. Bejou, J. Pietruszynski, M. Fultz, P. Carney, A. Seybert, B. Hauser, S. McGhee, Wells, A. Mitiku, R. Francis, E. Lewis, H. Southall, G. Pandher, V. Smith, R. Kendrick (There may have been more in attendance on Zoom)*

The meeting was called to order by J. Barnes-Pietruszynski at 1:36 pm

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski welcomed everyone to the meeting for the 2020-2. Turned it over to President Pride.

**PRESIDENT PRIDE**

President Pride greeted the Faculty Senate. She discussed some of the areas she wanted to focus on and discussed the video recently released. President Pride talked about a strategic plan and the state of the future for WVSU and what it will look like after her tenure here at the university. One of the first topics discussed was student success and enrollment. The next topic was a diversification of resources, not just fundraising but also grants. She indicated she wanted to increase brand recognition through an enhancement of strategic partnerships. She has been asking for lots of information regarding degree efficiencies, student retention, graduation rates, efforts on new faculty and staff training. She discovered there were a lot of people with great commitments to the university but their skill levels needed to match. She discussed the budget constraints and concerns and announced President Forums will happen every semester as long as she is here. The first one will be faculty/administration; second will be staff; and third will be students. During COVID there will only be two. President Pride further discussed the shared governance model and indicated there will be a new policy adopted to illustrate how policies will be approved. For example, policies will go through cabinet process; be posted for two weeks for comments; go back to cabinet with feedback; make necessary revisions, and finally arrive at the approval process. She is really doing a deep dive into the budget and there will be five major areas for fundraising. Provost’s office will discuss the Spring 2021 semester and FACET.

Questions –

B. Ladner thanked President Pride for transparency on budget. President Pride said she was going to give us the budget that is presented to the BOG in a way that is understandable.

President Pride said that we have to create cash flow, so we will discuss some of the options; hiring freezes; spending cuts; reduction in time; and gather feedback to determine what may work best.

President Pride is going to start instituting faculty chats with the President; dialogue and discuss the future of the institution and better connection between all of us. She will have a chairs meeting for professional development once a month scheduled directly with the provost discussing policy matters; academic policy; accessibility resources; class schedules; banner; reports; signatures; conflict resolution.

Governor Justice is providing tests to universities so that the population can be tested each week. Asking people to volunteer for the saliva testing. Random selection is being done to provide 10% of the population. Need faculty/staff to get tested. She asked for a stratified sample, to focus on residence halls, commuter students, athletes, etc.

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

E. Lomax wanted to add a few announcements for the Library. R. Ford asked about faculty athletic committee. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said we could talk about length of term and whether the ex-officio members are voting/non-voting.

M. Fultz moved and L. Good seconded the approval of the agenda.

M. Fultz moved and L. Good seconded the minutes with changes.

**UNIVERSITY POSITIONS/PROVOST SEARCH UPDATE**

Update about provost search? Position have been announced for provost; Chief Financial Officer; and general counsel. The general counsel position will save us money beyond belief for policy creations; grievances; lawsuits; etc. President Pride will work on a reorganization chart and will provide a new chart once updated. There were 62 applications for Provost. President Pride went to each search committees first meeting to advise them of things to look for that are not on paper so they are ready to fill by November 2; screening first round; second round will be 3 candidates for campus visit; provide spreadsheet with feedback, strengths/weaknesses. Hoping to offer in November so we are good before December.

Discussion occurred regarding the positions and the push for hiring too quickly. It also included some conversations regarding the need for transparency regarding the budget and enrollment numbers.

**PRESIDENT’S FORUM**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced the information for the President’s Forum occurring next week and presented the dates and times.

**COVID-19 TESTING**

P. Carney indicated they created a system for daily testing and are hoping for 20 students every week to meet the quota. She also indicated that we are focusing on testing residence life and student athletes in order to reach the quota. She announced that we are required to do this up through December 18. She also said the kits were not on campus but should arrive Monday, October 5. She also said they are trying to determine how to generate the population, but things are still being discussed.

M. Fultz asked how the weekly number was generated since there had not been over 2,000 results reported this semester. He also asked, how were we going to enforce the required testing? P. Carney said they were hopeful that allowing it to go by colleges and focus groups would be successful. M. Fultz stated that in order to start the Fall 2020 semester, it was required to take and present a negative COVID test; however, we have not had 2,000 COVID results to date and some have taken it multiple times, but some individuals are not taking the required tests. P. Carney said it is coming from the governor’s order and the administration. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski clarified what M. Fultz was asking in regards to individuals being allowed on campus without testing. P. Carne said to ask J. Davenport any questions regarding testing results. F. Vaughan suggested we need to look at the testing results. T. Kiddie stated that J. Davenport sent out an email asking for individuals to send him the negative results, so that could be an issue with the numbers.

B. Ladner said according to HEPC, we had an outbreak at the beginning of the semester. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said her biggest concern is what happens if we run out of volunteers. Can we make people take the test? P. Carney said we cannot make them, but we are hoping it will be easier and not as fearful since it is not the nasal swab. A. Dorsey asked if the campus population goes down, does that number change? P. Carney said that the weekly number will remain the same. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated that students and faculty will not be on campus in December, so that will be difficult.

R. Wallace said he asked for faculty/staff volunteers and has already received 14 within 24 hours. M. Fultz stated that after graduation, it will be difficult to reach that 207 weekly number. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked J. Carney if this came from the governor’s office. P. Carney said it did and during week 17 and 18, we are looking to administration and staff for testing.

**SPRING SEMESTER**

M. Bhuiyan asked whether we are going to require COVID testing before the Spring 2021 semester. J. Carney said she was not sure, but it is possible. B. Ladner asked if the academic calendar changed. R. Kendrick said it has not been posted, but the dates in the draft are January 11 – April 23, so it takes out Spring Break. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if it would be similar to the Fall 2020 semester and T. Kiddie asked if it was 15 or 16 weeks. R. Kendrick said it would be similar to the Fall 2020 semester.

**FACULTY SENATE ELECTIONS**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced to the senators that we still need positions, so please pay attention to the election update, particularly the Business/Social Sciences since we have no updates from them in regards to committee members.

R. Ford said we still have open positions. Deans still need to appoint student representatives and we need to decide whether the ex-officio positions for the Athletic Committee are going to be voting/non-voting. Also please email R. Ford with the information regarding the chairs and/or coordinators for each committee.

R. Ford announced we still need 2 faculty senate positions for program review. It was suggested that A. Settle be part of that group since he is Assessment Coordinator. S. Armstrong volunteered and R. Ford asked for any other volunteers. M. Fultz suggested that since we have two volunteers, unless there are others, let’s move forward. B. Ladner said by the silence of the faculty senate, we can assume these two volunteers will serve. The faculty senate has an understanding that A. Settle and S. Armstrong are the two representatives for program review.

**REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ACF**

B. Ladner said they have been meeting virtually. They usually start with a summary from C. Dennison and HEPC. He announced that WVSU had an outbreak early in the semester, but since the positive results have been relatively small and manageable. He also indicated that higher education had been handling COVID issues well. She indicated that the chancellor said that student mental issues are the biggest concern right now.

B. Lander said that HEPC has been doing professional development for OER (open educational resources) and are providing grants for OER in the amounts of 75 -$1,000.00 this semester and 20- $1,000.00 next semester, but only once it is approved as OER.

She also indicated that C. Dennison stated that we do not know what the financial impact is going to be on the state or the institutions. And also there has been a shortage on K-12 substitute teachers, so they are allowing students who have passed the PRAXIS, but not completed their student teaching to substitute. This will probably be for remote classes.

B. Ladner indicated the ACF are trying to concentrate on specific issues since they do not know what the legislative session will look like this year. She did indicate they would put together a list of issues that will go before the legislature. At the last meeting, they were brainstorming ideas and came up with talking points about why higher education is so valuable to the state. B. Ladner said there may be some areas focused around what HEPC and the legislature can help with would be professional development and technological infrastructure for institutions and the students. She also asked for faculty to share any ideas with her, so she can report them to ACF.

M. Fultz asked about the Community College expansion for the WV Invests grant and whether that includes transfer agreements into 4-year colleges/universities. B. Ladner said that this is something that Community College is advocating for and she wanted faculty to be aware, but she did not think it would happen. She indicated right now, it only includes programs that provide credentials immediately and/or job areas needed in the state and also provides students with certain articulation agreements, but it does exclude the associate of arts/science degrees, which are only transfer degrees. M. Fultz asked whether the chancellor is leading the CTCs as well and how she is dealing with the conflict. B. Ladner indicated that she is trying to be very even handed, but has not followed her that closely.

The other matters discussed is included in the report but the last one needs to be clarified. There was a heading deleted, so the statement assumes what the heading included. It is discussing the dual credit faculty members. The federal department of education has put forth new Title IV regulations that said, you did not have to have a master’s degree or anything beyond the bachelors to teach dual credit, but the accrediting bodies have not been told they have to follow the federal guidelines, so they are still expecting higher education faculty to have at least 18 hours of graduate credit in the course discipline.

**BOG**

F. Vaughan the board is set to meet on October 22 and will forward materials when he receives it. The BOG is focusing on finances and enrollment.

**HONORS COMMITTEE**

T. Ruhnke shared his screen for Honors Committee report and indicated those are the members of the committee for AY 19-20. The roster is still math/science heavy. The list provided included the program faculty, but also updated with the academic catalog. He discussed the program activity and recruitment, but the major concentration was the honors faculty and mentorship. He also discussed the idea of having an honor committee space in the residence halls; however, COVID has put a lot of stuff on hold this year. Hopefully when we see things going back to normal, we can have a university focus on continuing to build the program.

M. Fultz asked if there had been any scholarship money for the recruitment of students. T. Ruhnke said that most of the honor students already receive scholarships, so they settled on book vouchers. However, having more financial assistance would help, but the students were not big on using scholarships for recruitment. However, if the president said she would give $10,000 to the honors program, then the program could greatly benefit. M. Fultz indicated he spoke with students over summer break to try and recruit, but the students were getting paid significantly more to go to other schools with their scholarship offers, so they would not come to WVSU.

M. Fultz moved to approve the report and B. Ladner seconded.

**LIBRARY**

E. Lomax reported that last year faculty were asked for things to purchase in the library to support their research and/or teaching efforts and he is reporting that 95% of those materials have been received and are in the library catalog.

He also indicated there may be a larger budget this year, so the library is asking for more material needs for research and support. Once received, they will have them ordered by the end of the semester. He indicated an email will go out soon.

R. Ford asked about journal subscriptions. E. Lomax said that journals are another issue because the purchase of journals must be made electronically and the cost issue is a little more complex.

M. Bhuiyan asked why we do not have partnerships with other universities. E. Lomax said that there are none for journal subscriptions, but they do have those available for databases.

B. Ladner asked about full text journal. E. Lomax said it depends on the database, but we need more resources for journal subscriptions in order to have the journals. E. Lomax also indicated we can order some journals through interlibrary loans.

**FACET**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced that President Pride and the Provost are trying to reinstitute the FACET program. This program first started about 5 years ago, but went away for lack of funding. S. Woodard found some funding, so we are trying to restart this initiative. J. Pietruszynski prepared a resolution and discussed the details in having a shared governance and supplying an advisory committee on this program. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said this is important because most universities have these types of centers that focus on professional development for faculty. M. Fultz said that nobody would argue that teaching isn’t important to a university and FACET can be used to train and support future teachers and research.

FACET Resolution:

*Resolution on the endorsement and organization of FACET in order to create a model of shared*

*governance between the Faculty and Academic affairs through the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Presented by the WVSU Faculty Executive Committee (10/02/2020)*

*WHEREAS the WVSU Faculty Handbook states that teaching excellence is the most important of the faculty responsibilities and excellence in other areas cannot compensate for a deficiency in teaching; and*

*WHEREAS an excellent teacher is one whose work is characterized by commitment to subject, to*

*student, and to constant improvement in teaching; and*

*WHEREAS faculty require a place to engage in emerging, critical, and theoretical pedagogical practices; and*

*WHEREAS Core Values of WVSU include personal and professional development of our faculty and staff; and*

*WHEREAS these Core Values also contain a commitment to accountability through shared responsibility and continuous improvement*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the West Virginia State University Faculty Senate endorses the continuation of the Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence (FACET) and the incorporation of the center as an organization supported by an advisory committee comprised of a Faculty Senate Standing Committee.*

M. Fultz moved to approve the resolution and B. Ladner seconded.

B. Ladner asked exactly what included the resolution. B. Ladner moved to strike the last sentence from the resolution M. Fultz seconded.

M. Seyedmonir announced that he highly supports the resolution but also wanted to make a comment that when he served for the Research & Development Committee, G. Hankins was chair, and they had been charged with focusing on faculty development, but it became more research focused. He just wanted to say that committee should offer support for this area as well.

S. Armstrong said that one of the things promoted where faculty are encouraged to take sabbatical to go and refresh and return. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said this is only the resolution, but we can input all of these things once we start the process. S. Armstrong indicated that she wanted it included. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said those are things that can be focused on once the resolution is passed instituting the FACET initiative.

R. Ford asked whether this needed to be reviewed by the Constitution/By-Laws committee. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she did not think so because it was only support.

**BY-LAWS CHANGE**

B. Ladner said that the ACF has a change required in the footnote.

First Reading of the Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws to the Constitution of the West Virginia State University Faculty Senate

By-Laws, Article II.A.4 footnote:

 \* WV Code Chapter 1.18B-6-2 sets a two-year term for the Advisory Council of Faculty representative and that representative is eligible for re-election. Article 6(b) provides for re-election of the representative to the Board of Governors for up to three additional two-year terms for a maximum of eight consecutive years. Article 2A(e).

BOG can have a total of four 2-year terms, but it does not specify that for the faculty senate ACF representative, so she wanted to verify that it should not have limit. Functions that ACF have would be difficult if it rotates all the time and the position cannot be maintained.

F Vaughan moved to approve this change and M. Fultz seconded.

B. Ladner said this will go to Constitution and By-Laws

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

M. Fultz has mentioned in the past, based on the current guidelines, the faculty should have some say who the representative for faculty would be for the Board of Directors. But some point in the near future when they meet, he has been asked to be the faculty representative. So questions, is there faculty support to either have the constitution for board of directors revised to say the faculty representative is chosen through faculty senate or the general faculty will elect the representative for the board of directors? Another option would be allowing the board of directors to select who they want. There are three options and he will support for whatever faculty wants.

F. Vaughan said the faculty should be able to choose their representative to the board of governors; to the board of directors for R & D; and the foundation. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said it should be elected similar to the representative for the Board of Governors. B. Ladner said it provides the representative with more support.

M. Fultz said he will encourage the general faculty to elect the faculty representative to the board of directors.

F. Vaughan moved that the faculty representative for the West Virginia State University Research and Development Board of Directors be elected by the general faculty annually and B. Ladner seconded.

R. Ford said that if the representative is not chosen by the organization they represent, they do not actually represent that body.

M. Fultz asked for questions. F. Vaughan said that scientific research extends beyond the natural sciences and into the socials sciences and faculty need more comprehensive support. B. Ladner said research extends beyond those areas and we need to include all faculty and departments. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that if they want faculty to do research, they need more course releases. M. Fultz said to keep in mind that R&D extends further than just research, including extensions services. F. Vaughan said that College of Professional Studies does a lot in outreaching into the community, particularly the grand families program. B. Ladner asked if R& D could allow internships to students, especially the technical writing students.

M. Fultz said if there are any others, just email him.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS CLASSES**

M. Seyedmonir indicated that many other institutions are trying to split the WEB 100 synchronous courses from the other asynchronous online courses. Some institutions use R to initiate a remote course. Some students do not like the idea of synchronous courses, so that was intention to bring that up and be ready to have the discussion when it is needed.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if that was possible for a designation for classes? R. Kendrick said that would be the preference of Provost, but it can be done.

M. Fultz said it is dishonest if we do not provide remote information for the students. Since the students think they are taking an in person course.

T. Kiddie said a WEB 100 is already asynchronous, but what would be the problem with labeling a synchronous course for WEB 30, but noting in banner that it will be taught remotely.

F. Vaughan indicated it would be a very good project for FACET for instructors to learn how to do the synchronous courses.

J. Pietruszynski said there has been a proposal sent to S. Woodard to focus on technology for the professional development in FACET.

R. Ford asked if this is coming out of the instructional and academic technology committee. M. Seyedmonir said they have not had a formal meeting to discuss, but wanted to get this started for the Spring semester.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said this is something that should be discussed within the committee, but asked whether the faculty senate should create a resolution. M. Seyedmonir said this was already happening within the committee and at the end would be an administrative designation. B. Ladner asked R. Kendrick if he needed a resolution to help make this happen. R. Kendrick said a request to the Provost and Registrar would be fine and they would work with IT. M. Seyedmonir indicated a request was sent R. Kendrick and asked whether he would need more. J. Pietruszynski said the faculty senate can task that committee with a date to provide information to the Provost and Registrar.

R. Ford moved to task the committee with making the synchronous/asynchronous course designation before November 15, 2020 and B. Ladner seconded.

**PROGRAM REVIEW**

J. Pietruszynski indicated the way the Constitution and By-Laws are setup right now, it says the Ex-Officio member is the Director of Institutional Research, but when that was written, the Director of Institutional Research and Assessment was one person. Provost Jayasuryia made that two positions with Dr. Aaron Settle being the assessment coordinator. As far as program review, the assessment coordinator is really needed on the committee to ensure what programs are doing. What Program Review is proposing

**First Reading**

Whereas the current membership includes the Director Institutional Research as a non-voting member; and

Whereas when that specific position was created the it encompassed duties of both the director of Institutional research AND program assessment; and

Whereas those duties have been split into two separate positions, creating a Director of Assessment; and

Whereas assessment is an important factor in program review is the assessment plan and process; and

Whereas that information is analyzed by the Director of Program Assessment,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that language is changed in the WVSU Faculty Constitution and Bylaws to reflect the need for the Director of Program Assessment to be part of the Program Review Committee.

The language change is identified below:

b. PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE: (amended 9/2006)

It shall be the function of this committee to establish program review criteria for the university, to review and evaluate the University’s academic programs on a regular basis and to make recommendations regarding these programs to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, via the Senate. This committee shall implement those reviews mandated by the Institutional Board of Governors. This committee shall consist of four (4) members elected at large, plus two (2) faculty appointed by the Senate after consultation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, plus one student. The Provost, the Director Institutional Research of Program Assessment shall serve as non-voting, ex-officio members of this committee. Elections and appointments to the committee shall be by the end of the spring semester.

R. Ford said can we make this effective at the end of this academic year, so we do not have to change the assessment coordinator as one of the faculty senate representatives to program review.

B. Ladner moved to accept the resolution and M. Fultz seconded.

B. Ladner wanted to mention to the graduate council that the format for program review is what used to be required by HEPC and applies to all programs, whether undergraduate or graduate. So if we have a separate committee, we need to know the bounds of the format. J. Pietruszynski indicated the graduate council needs to determine what is required. B. Ladner asked whether they had the power to do that or does HEPC have to make that determination? J. Pietruszynski said he has not investigated that since the English department does not have a graduate degree.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ex officio members on committees and whether they are voting or non-voting. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she always assumed they were non-voting, unless specifically stated in the description. B. Ladner suggested we send that to Constitution and By-Laws for discussion and then bring it back to faculty senate for changes to description.

M. Fultz moved to adjourn and L. Good seconded the motion at 4:04 pm.