**West Virginia State University**

**General Faculty Meeting**

**Wednesday May 10th, 2023 @ 2:00pm**

*The following meeting was conducted by video conference call using Zoom and in person at Hamblin Hall, AUD 007.*

Attended online: *Mary Sizemore, Jay Canterbury, Walter Stroupe, Edward Lomax, AARON SETTLE,* *Azam Bejou, Mehdi Seyedmonir, Reiden Øvrebø, Patrick Means, Ian Wang, Derek Taylor, Paige Carney, and Gary Ginther*

Attended in-person: *Sridhar A. Malkaram, Michael Fultz, Tom Kiddie, Andrew Schedl, Mark Wilson, Raphael Mutepa, Michael Harris, Steve Hilliland, Barbara Ladner, Jeff Pietruszynski, Lena Lambert, Elisha Lewis, Mickey Blackwell, Emily Waugh, Mark Adessa, Saman Bandara, Mahinda Ranasinghe, Michael R. Anderson, Michael Pennington, Robert Wallace, Rich Ford, Naveed Zaman, Leighann Davidson, Eyas Mahmoud*

The meeting was called to order by Leighann Davidson at 2:00 pm.

The General Faculty Minutes from the January 2023 meeting were approved by Barbara Ladner and seconded by Elisha Lewis. Faculty voted unanimously.

Azam Bejou moved and Steven Gilliland seconded the approval of the agenda. Faculty voted unanimously. Faculty voted unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Library Director Report**

Gary Ginther MLIS, Med provided the library report. The Library Director wanted to kick start the conversation on using the library to do research and informed everyone that we are now up to three librarians. They are working on the programming for the fall and welcomed faculty and instructors to put the library as a resource in their syllabi. Also, faculty are encouraged to think about how they want to do research assignments. They are setting up a fresh classroom in the library and are willing to come to your classroom. Everyone is welcome to reach out to the library. They would like to pitch in regarding how you want to do research.

**BOG Report**  
J. Pietruszynski provided an overview of what was done during the Spring 2023 semester and all of the motions and issues discussed in the last board of governors meeting on April 20, 2023. The strategic plan was approved by the BOG and now moves back to the strategic plan team to go into individual meetings.

The BOG also approved a balanced budget by a slim margin. J. Pietruszynski commended Justin McAllister and President Cage for getting it done. The numbers used to create the budget were very conservative. J. Pietruszynski also noted to the BOG the problems or issues that may result because of a reduction of force in academic affairs. This included what happens when we have to lose faculty and how that affects what happens at the classroom level and being able to offer classes. In addition, the fee schedule was approved and the fee schedule was cleaned up so that there are less fees collected this year as opposed to last year. J. Pietruszynski noted that there are fees were used to pay for labs and that the labs will be supported. The science lab fee remains. A tuition increase was approved. We are still competitive and are still underneath what Marshall University charges. Furthermore, there was bad debt in our budget, which included money owed to us that we legally cannot collect. This debt was wiped and removed off the books. Five years is the statute of limitations in West Virginia for collection of debt on account.

As far as program review, six programs were reviewed. Five passed with a recommendation of continuation at the current level: History, Economics, Business Administration, Political Science, and Master’s of Education in Instructional Leadership. The Sociology program was recommended for discontinuation with a teach out, which passed with one nay vote.

In the news, Huntington National Bank made a $275,000 commitment to West Virginia State University. Portions of the funding will be used to endow a recognition program for WVSU faculty including a professor of the year award. The award has to sit in the Foundation for a year before the interest can be given. This year’s winner will not be given a cash award. In addition, there was an across-the-board increase of the salaries of employees of the university by $1,133.51. J. Pietruszynski made the motion and Chris Jackson seconded it. Other things in the news include the announcement of WVSU’s return to Charleston with WVSU downtown. A new center will be located at 107 Capitol St. in the heart of downtown Charleston. There will be lots of activity in that building. The grave sites of the Cabell family, which includes the founders of WVSU, will be moved into one spot.

Campus carry did pass. It’s a law and we will do everything to abide by the said law. It was noted that we do have a collaborative program with students attending from high schools and that we should try to abide by all regulations. It is not rolling out until next fall.

The BOG also approved a lawsuit response team. Right now, there are two lawsuits that are public that the university has been dealing with. This response team would allow three members of the board to meet and speak on behalf of the board if there is not time to discuss the matter in a BOG meeting that would be called while abiding by sunshine laws. The two lawsuits that we are dealing with now are the Dow Chemical lawsuit and the Christina Dalton lawsuit. The lawsuit against Dow Chemicals is reaching a stage where negotiations are happening again. Christina Dalton filed a complaint against the university in the Kanawha Circuit Court. Chair Kelly, Chair Flores, and Chair Jones make up the response team. The next BOG meeting is in June 2023.

The undergraduate admission increased by 5%. It was remarked that the associated revenue increase of $1.3 million goes into budget appropriations.

Fees and status of contract with food service company was also brought up. There were many complaints from student representatives. The whole situation with food service is under review by the BOG. The contract is under evaluation.

Barbara Ladner moved and Elisha Lewis seconded the approval of the report. Faculty voted unanimously.

**ACF Report**

B. Ladner provided the ACF report. ACF had its last meeting till July two weeks prior to May 10th, 2023. The main things accomplished this year is that we are on bandwagon with other institutions including WVU to make the campus carry bill as unoffensive as possible. We also talked to legislature to pilot dual enrollment.

We are also involved in promoting OER. HEPC looking to fund more OER grants. Please look for the deadlines which will be sent out. It does not have to be going from an expensive textbook and going to OER in one semester.

Great Teachers was funded. Corly Denison who retired came back and is a big supporter of Great Teachers. There needs to have assessment on student outcomes for this program. This is to get inferences what was impact on students for those who implemented it. It will be held June 19-23. You can apply. It is a great experience where you can share what worked for you in the classroom to help others and share some things struggling you are with. Tricks of the trade will be shared. You can also talk about what inspires you as a teacher. Everyone who goes gets inspired and gets great ideas. What worked you worked on doesn’t necessarily have to be a new innovation. It is something you used that you worked on and it is in small groups. It is a very inspiring experience. Open to repeats. Please consider doing it this year or in a future year.

Regarding campus carry, what has been said is that you can’t have guns when high school students are there. There can be limits on buildings. The offices are arrangement is ‘weird’. You can carry a gun in your office, but not in someone else’s office. Concealed permit cannot walk into your private office. They can have a gun in lounge of dorms, but not in dorms. Security measures are being made and the UPD sergeant is helping with this. The new version of bill better than first. Concealed weapon permit requirement in this version of the bill.

Elisha Lewis moved and J. Pietruszynski seconded the approval of the report. Faculty voted unanimously.

**ELECTIONS**

Tom Kiddie led elections.

1. BOG Representative  
     
   Jeff Pietruszynki can serve another term and was nominated by B. Ladner. Seconded by J. Pietruszynki. Motion to approve was made and approved unanimously.
2. ACF Representative   
     
   Leighann Davidson nominated B. Ladner who can serve another term. Seconded by R. Ford. Motion to approve was made by M. Blackwell and seconded by E. Lewis. Faculty voted unanimously.
3. One AL Representative for Program Review

Azam Bejou nominated herself. B. Ladner nominated Upali Karunathilake.   
  
A Google form will be made to vote to do an electronic vote. We have a couple days for that.

A move to close nominations was made by T. Kiddie. A vote will be put out for Upali Karunathilake and Azam Bejou.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Raphael Mutepa reintroduced himself. He has been working here for 20 years and has seen 46 graduations. Speakers have been awarded degrees including honorary doctoral degrees. In the College of Professional Studies, Prof. Adessa been here for more than 45 years. Dr. Mutepa made a move to award him an honorary degree for his service and commitment to our college and university. This was seconded by R. Ford. Faculty voted unanimously. The matter will be taken to Dr. Carney’s office.

Commencement will take place on May 13th, 2023 at 10 am. L. Davidson encouraged faculty to attend. BOG was asking why not so many faculty members attend. You are technical still on contract during that time. Faculty should arrive between 9-9:30 am and be part of commencement and watch your students walk across stage.

P. Carney reiterated that contract is on until Monday. There are excuses that are honored. The

president really wants to see full faculty there and participating. This is for our students. Parents are there and the Provost is hopeful you all will attend

L. Davidson announced the new Executive Committee Members. L. Davidson is the new President of the committee. Tom Kiddle is the new Vice Chair and Eyas Mahmoud is the new secretary. Kelley Toledo is the new historian. J. Pietruszynski is the BOG representative and B. Ladner is the ACF representative. This will be the committee for AY 2023-2024. New at large members will be elected in August 2023.

L. Davidson will be providing the WVSU Foundation Report on 5/11/23 and 5/12/23. If there is anything you would like to bring to the attention to the Foundation, please let L. Davidson know.

Information regarding grants and cybersecurity will be included in addition to information about the doctorate programs. If there is a grant or award that you won, you may send an email to L. Davidson.

E. Lewis made an announcement about the Cultural Activities committee is accepting proposals for the coming year. It can be a classroom activity or campus wide activity. Information will be sent out on list serve. Flyers are posted around campus. Let E. Lewis know if you have any questions or need anything.

M. Fultz announced that on May 22 a retired Israeli ambassador Yoram Ettinger will be on campus. Any interested faculty who want to meet with him can contact M. Fultz.

**OLD BUSINESS**

L. Davidson provided an update regarding the directory. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski sent google form out to faculty which is being finalized. IT is working on an update as well. Hopefully, before fall can know where everyone is. This is important to have for campus carry.

L. Davidson also provided an update on the New Faculty Appendix. J. Porter and J. Pietruszynski have been working on updating the faculty handbook before doctoral visit and nursing activity coming up. This will be prior to fall. New faculty appendix will be part of the handbook on a lot of things we were not sure about and needed help with when we started as new faculty. L. Davidson and M. Fultz will be working on updating the handbook.

**NEW BUSINESS**

L. Davidson also announced that there will be a lot of elections in the fall. A lot of positions available on committees. T. Kiddie will send it out for you to know which committee is available for the fall. There has been talk on modifying some of the committees that do not meet frequently.

B. Ladner commenter that for the faculty appeals committee, there is legislation on grievance process, which we should be in sink with the code regarding the process. There have been a lot of changes. BOG policies have changed and has been updated. HEPC policy trumps everything.

P. Carney announced that this Friday is the first nursing pinning ceremony. Seven students will be going through that process. 9 students in second cohort. 18 students in cohort three. HLC will conduct an onsite on July 10-11 for leadership studies program. Some may be asked to participate throughout that day and half experience.

P. Carney also reminded everyone to continue to do safety and skills training especially the title IX one.

L. Davidson reminded everyone that the grade submission deadline is Tuesday at noon.

*B. Ladner motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lewis seconded at 3:00 pm.*

Have a nice summer!

Notes prepared by Dr. Eyas Mahmoud.