



April 3, 2015

Restructuring of the Cultural Activities Committee

Over the 2014-2015 Academic Year, at the initiative of the Faculty Senate, the Committee for Cultural Activities and Educational Assemblies was restructured so that decision-making was unambiguously aligned with the voting faculty members serving on the committee. Though this event doesn't represent a cultural activity hosted or organized by the committee, it is in no uncertain terms the most prominent event that has occurred. As a result of this alignment, the Committee has initiated a new Event Proposal System (described later), and it has established a theme for the series of events selected from the proposal system (described later). Though both of these items are, at the moment of this writing, in the developmental stages, the committee is optimistic about the results for next year.

With the realignment, and at the encouragement of Dr. Stuart, there is further structuring changes occurring within the committee. We are forming subcommittees to offer more specialized attention to various operations of the committee. For instance, forming a subcommittee for publicity, that would help to coordinate with the Vice-President of University Relations for sending out press releases. Because of the realignment, many new responsibilities have materialized, and Dr. Stuart has been helpful in identifying ways to address those responsibilities using a constructive administrative structure.

Events for Black History Month

For Black History Month 2015, the Committee for Cultural Activities and Educational Assemblies organized and hosted two separate events. One featured Pamela Meanes, the President of the National Bar Association. The event was a success, with attendance estimated at between 100-150 students, faculty and members of the local community. Ms. Meanes visit included not only her talk. She visited an Honors Political Science course, a class visit that all WVSU honor students were invited to attend. Ms. Meanes also visited with a contingent of local mayors, members of the West Virginia legislature and the Lieutenant Governor to talk about police brutality against minorities and policies that could be instituted to end this. Overall, Ms. Meanes visit represents a coordination that the committee, Dr. Stuart and Mr. Wolfe would like to see continued with other events.

The other event for Black History Month 2015 was a visit by the Lula Washington Dance Theatre. The event, coordinated by Richard Wolfe, occurred during the week in February when many were snowed in. The performance occurred in partnership with the Clay Center. It was well attended, and, like the Pamela Meanes visit, members of the dance company were scheduled for another event at the WVSU campus—a workout session in the new athletic facility.

Event Proposal System

In an effort to craft a series of events for the 2015-16 Academic Year that is more integrally related with course offerings at WVSU, the Committee for Cultural Activities and Educational Assemblies designed an Event Proposal System. Faculty, students and members of the West Virginia State University community were invited during the months of January, February and the beginning of

March to submit proposals for inclusion in next year's events. The committee crafted a form so that there would be an outline indicating the committee's expectations for a successful event. There were nine completed proposals for the Academic Year 2015-16. The committee will be meeting April 14 to determine which events will be included.

Theme for Event Series in 2015-16: "Then, Now, Next"

In commemoration of the WVSU's 125th Anniversary, the Committee for Cultural Activities and Educational Assemblies chose "Then, Now, Next" for the series of events over the 2015-16 Academic Year. In choosing this theme, the committee looked to other schools for examples of themes. It was determined a theme should offer some definition that can connect the various events to one another, but it should also remain open enough that many different types of events would fit with it. As described to the General Faculty Meeting at the beginning of the Spring 2015 semester, the theme invites creative interpretation by the person proposing an event.

Further Recommendations to the Senate

The restructuring has represented a real benefit for the Committee for Cultural Activities and Educational Assemblies. It has helped to form a sense of agency among the faculty members serving on the committee. There has been great cooperation from both Dr. Stuart and Richard Wolfe in sorting out the details. Listed below, however, are a set of further recommendations for the Faculty Senate to consider for the Committee:

- **Further definition of Richard Wolfe's roles and responsibilities** - While the alignment has placed responsibility for selecting which events the Committee will fund and help to organize squarely in the hands of faculty, Richard Wolfe's roles and responsibilities need to be clarified. This is especially important as the actual coordination of any single event, and the individual issues that need to be completed for the successful execution of the event can easily fall in ambiguous space. What can an event organizer / proposer count on from Richard Wolfe? What tasks need to be completed by the event organizer / proposer, as Richard Wolfe's time and resources are finite in nature?
- **Expand the size of the Committee for Cultural Activities and Educational Assemblies** - As the scope of responsibilities expands, it would be helpful to have more faculty available for the committee to assign for subcommittees, etc. There is currently discussion to include active and energetic student representatives for the committee as well. If this would require a change to the organizational structure, it is also something we would like to see occur.