Minutes of the WVSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee

11 a.m., Feb. 24, 2017, in 002 Hamblin Hall

**Members present:** Chair Dr. Ford; Vice-Chair Dr. Baker, At-large Dr. Pietrusynski, Historian D. Wells,

Secretary Dr. Alderman, BOG Representative Dr. Guetzloff, ACF Representative Dr. Ladner,

At-large Dr. Harris

**1**. The minutes from the Jan. 27, 2017, Faculty Senate Executive Committee were corrected and approved on the

motion of Dr. Ladner, seconded by Dr. Baker.

**2**. The agenda for the meeting was approved tacitly.

**3**. Issues related to Senate Standing Committees were discussed. The EPC Task Force will next meet on March 6 in

Wallace Hall and is preparing for its report to the Senate on April 7th. The Constitution/By-laws/Faculty

Handbook appears to be working to clarify/update recent changes with the established text. It was reported that

the FPC Task Force working on reform of the student evaluations under Dr. Seyedmonir is making progress.

**4**. Regarding budget, staffing, and purchasing issues, we discussed the possibility of putting all Title III funds in the

hands of the Academic Affairs Office, but President Jenkins seems to be opposed to that. It was suggested that

Academic Affairs be allotted a budgeted amount from Title III.

**5**. It was noted that President Trump may soon be issuing an executive order regarding HBCUs.

**6**. President Jenkins’ promised “town hall” style meeting on the WVSU budget has not taken place. The Vice

Presidents were given pay raises under President Hemphill’s administration, attested by a paper copy of their salaries

for several years.

**7**. It was reported that some non-tenure track faculty are teaching five classes in the fall 2017 semester.

**8**. Regarding President Jenkins’ focus on advising, retention, course re-design, and office hours, Dr. Guetzloff noted

that his office is doing some walk-in advising for new student orientation. Dr. Ladner noted that many of her

students in English 101 were not eligible (by their ACT scores) and should have been in English 101E, so some

advisors are not checking eligibility carefully enough. It was a consensus that faculty may need an Advising

Workshop to refresh our understanding of information needed for advising. The Course re-design plan seems to be

aimed at courses with a high rate of “D’s” and “F’s,” with money be awarded to faculty who can propose new

pedagogy. Dr. Ladner suggested that each program/department publish a course rotation schedule so students can

plan ahead to meet requirements. It was also suggested that advisors perform a 60- or 90-credit audit for their

advisees to try to improve timely graduation rates. It was also suggested that Degree Works be audited to ensure its

accuracy. On office hours, we noted that some faculty are not in their offices at the posted times. Dr. Ford asked if

the Senate can endorse the five on-campus office hours per week policy now in place.

**9**. It was agreed that Dr. Ford would talk with Dr. Ruhnke regarding his drive to institute an “administrative drop” of

students who do not attend class in the first two weeks of a semester. It was noted that we do not have accurate,

thorough data on why students drop out. The catalog and online schedule/registration site will need to have the

policy in place, and the policy should be vetted by EPC.

**10**. Regarding the tuition break for offspring of faculty and staff, previously determined to be well supported by Dr.

Pietrusynski’s survey, Dr. Ford said he would ask the Provost to nominate names for a task force.

**11**. Senate Executive Committee members volunteered to administer department chair elections in HHP on March 9

(T. Alderman), Social Work on March 15 (J. Pietrusynski), and Education on March 16 (T. Guetzloff).

**12**. SGA chair E. Roberts has reported to Dr. Ford that Honors Program students are complaining about various

issues, including not allowing new students to enter the program. We decided to ask the Chair, Dr. Palubinskas,

to report to the Senate at the May 5 meeting regarding the transfer of leadership from last year.

**13**. An Academic Affairs subcommittee is proposing a mentor program for new students, most likely with continuing

students as mentors. We wondered what the faculty’s input on this program will be, if the mentors will be paid,

whether students will be required to be mentored (i.e., students on probation or conditional admission) or

volunteer (i.e., any others who request it). Of the approximately four-hundred new students, would there be a

certain percentage to be mentored?

**14**. The agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on Friday, March 3 was proposed:

Reports from administrators and the ACF, BOG, Graduate Studies Council, Academic Appeals, Research &

Faculty Development, EPC, plus the postponed report from Cultural Activities/Educ. Assemblies, and a follow-

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up from General Education seeking an endorsement regarding its assessment plan, and mandated elections for

BOG and ACF representatives and other Senate committees which have spring elections for the AY 2017-2018.

**15**. Dr. Ford is to send out a reminder to faculty about the scheduled SHIP training sessions with Mr. Johnson from

Bayer.

**16**. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

**Timothy C. Alderman**

Tim Alderman, Faculty Senate Secretary