Minutes of the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017

Hamblin Hall Auditorium at 1:30 p.m.

Senators present: T. Alderman, Secretary (A&H), M. Ray (BSS), F. Hailou (BSS), M. Seyedmonir (BSS),

M. Casey (L&C), D. Wells, Historian (L&C), M. Fultz (NSM), R. Baker, Vice-Chair (NSM), R. Ford, Chair (NSM),

O. Banks (PS), E. Waugh (PS), J. Magan, Parliamentarian, At-large J. Pietruszynski and R. Harris, and BOG Rep. T. Guetzloff. Absent: ACF Rep. B. Ladner and Senator D. Johnson (A&H)

Guests: Dr. Stinson, Library Director, with student rep. Kerry Hughes; B. Wilson (Educ.); Dean Bejou (BSS);

V. Morris-Dueer; G. Palubinskas (Honors); S. Armstrong (Math); K. Harper (Bio.); Interim Dean Wallace (A&H);

M. Anderson (Math), M. Workman, Constitution/By-Laws (History); P. Shuman, WVSU Foundation

*Ex Officio*: President Jenkins, Provost Jayasuriya, SGA Chair E. Roberts

1. The agenda was moved, seconded, and approved.

2. Approval of the minutes from December 2, 2016, was moved by Dr. Fultz, seconded by Prof. Banks, and accepted

with minor corrections.

3. Dr. Ford (Chair) commented that the Task Force working on the process/protocol for students evaluations has

been meeting regularly. Dr. Guetzloff asked about lock boxes from which the evaluations would be collected. \

These are not yet available. We thank the Deans and administrative assistants for getting the previous semesters’

forms analyzed and distributed. Dr. Ford volunteered to officiate at the English Department’s election of a chair

recommendation on Feb. 14, 2017.

4. Pat Shuman reported on the Foundation’s Capital Campaign success, with one million dollars over the goal, and

displayed a chart of cash flow, totals, and endowment growth. About $10 million is available for scholarships,

including new ones. Dr. Fultz asked how our funding situation compared to other institutions of our size, and Ms.

Shuman said we are below par, but totals vary. We *should* have about $100 million. The plan is to increase the

number of donors, increase the new prospects for gifts and grants, engage others in the fund raising process (e.g.,

faculty, deans, and dept. chairs), increase the unrestricted giving and endorsements, and prepare for the next

campaign. She thanked the faculty and staff for meeting in November 2016 and their contributions to the

Foundation. March 17, 2017 has been set up as a day of giving, and the Scholarship Committee will meet in April,

rather than June.

5. Provost Jayasuriya’s report:

A. Our early enrollment program is growing, with some questions about quality. Eight Nitro High School students

were in our classes, who all got “A’s.” Next fall about 20 students will be bused to campus. Prof. Kerri Steele is

in charge of accreditation for early enrollment.

B. We had the highest number of international students this spring semester, 64 of whom are in degree programs, 9

in ESL, who have a study hall from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tues./Thurs. Dr. Ray asked if Pres. Trump’s moves against

some foreign people will affect our students and faculty. The Provost said that our partnership with Mexico

may be threatened, and the 100 to 200 Chinese students (over three years) may also be threatened. We have

maybe one or two students from the “taboo” countries whom we will try to help. Dr. Armstrong asked if

international students should have to take liberal arts courses if they are in non-liberal arts majors. The answer is

that if they are enrolled in this University in a degree program, they have to earn the degree. Dr. Fultz

noted that some students have no ACT scores for placement. The Provost said we could use placement tests

before advising if possible, and try to find natives of the countries to assess them. Dr. Baker asked about the

late arriving students and the Provost said it is hard to predict the numbers for next fall. Dr. Palubinskas asked

about TOEFL scores for these students, and the Provost said these are available. Dr. Ford asked if we can find

out if we have collaborative students in our classes. The Provost said he would look into it. Dr. Fultz suggested

a Banner tag for this.

6. President Jenkins’ report:

A. The President announced a “town hall” budget meeting next week, at which all are welcome.

B. The State’s budget cut for January is official, and another is predicted for June, with an 11% overall cut for

higher education projected.

C. Dr. Ford asked if salaries for top administrators will be increased, and the President responded that all salaries

will be looked at. Although everything is on the table, we won’t be able to agree on every action.

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D. Some Legislators are pressing for a law allowing “open carry” without a concealed weapons permit for college

campuses, and some 26 states have these laws. President Jenkins said such a law would change campus culture

significantly regarding student-faculty-campus police interactions.

E. The President repeated the universities in the Legislative cross-hairs are Glenview to close, and Bluefield and

Concord to merge. The likely scenario will be to cut funding until the schools have to close/merge as desired.

Some legislators are still talking about re-marrying some community colleges with their ex-spouse universities.

Asked by Dr. Fultz if there is a timeline for this, President Jenkins said no.

F. Dr. Harper asked if the HEPC is endangered. The President remarked that it seems WVU wants to run the

whole state’s higher education system, and that HEPC acts as a buffer to that plan.

G. Dr. Seyedmonir asked if we are talking with Bridge Valley CTC, and President Jenkins said he had had another

meeting with its President regarding a “direct admission” process to support 2+2 programs, and their students in

our dormitories and use of our Library. This would involve strong “reverse articulation” agreements wherein a

student could earn 50 credits at BVCTC and 10 at WVSU, and Bridge Valley gets to award the degree and we try

to keep the students for a bachelor’s degree. There is some precedent for this at other institutions. Dr. Fultz

asked a question about whose rule—the University’s or HEPC’s—is it that determines who get credits for the

degree. Dr. Jenkins said that 2+2 agreements have to count for us or we don’t want them. Dr. Guetzloff noted

that the BOG meeting will take up the tuition increase later. The CTC is still paying part of their bill for our

Union. Dr. Palubinskas asked about specific questions for the “town hall” meeting next week. Dr. Baker asked

about “right-sizing” the institution, meaning that we need more students. And Dr. Workman asked who is

paying for the pipeline work on Route 25 near Wallace and the parking lot. President Jenkins said that this is not

a WVSU expense.

7. Standing Committee reports:

A. Dr. Ladner, ACF representative, was absent.

B. Dr. Guetzloff, BOG representative, reported on the budget issues the Board of Governors is wrestling with.

The Board has recognized that WVSU tends to react to budget issues, though it believes it can become more

proactive. The Provost stated that President Jenkins is committed to that and is optimistic that we can find a

definitive working plan. The report was accepted by voice vote.

C. Regarding the report from the Cultural Activities/Educational Assemblies Committee, Dr. Taylor Johnson

postponed her report, and we should have the correct description of the Committee’s Constitutional description

by the next meeting.

D. Dr. Fultz reported on the progress of the EPC Task Force, noting that the semester of election to the

Committee needs to be stated in the Constitution, and that he will send the Task Force’s proposed revisions

to guidelines for operating the Committee for the Senate’s meeting in March, for implementation Fall 2017.

The EPC report was accepted by voice vote.

E. Dr. Stinson reported for the Library Committee of her communication with the Harvard Leadership Institute,

Joshua Cole’s survey of Writing Center users, and recognition of first-year students’ success with the Library.

It has been proposed that the Office of Sponsored Programs move to the Library. Three Associate Librarian

positions are open, one half-time, but only one as been approved (the archivist position). At present the Library

cannot afford JSTOR. Dr. Stinson requested that faculty loan the Reserve Desk a copy of textbooks used in our

courses. Dr. Harris moved, with someone’s second, that the report be accepted; the voice vote approved.

F. Dr. Anderson reported for the Program Review Committee. Communications and Media Studies had follow-up

reports, handled by Academic Affairs and approved by the BOG. Three programs—Computer Sciences,

Mathematics, and Chemistry—were approved, though Computer Sciences is to add resources. These will go the

Board in March and April. Biology and English have follow-ups due next year. Business Administration,

Economics, Political Science, and Sociology are up for review next. Dr. Harris moved, with Dr. Fultz’s second,

to accept the report, which was approved by voice vote.

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Old Business

Dr. Pietrusynski reported on his Survey Monkey survey of faculty and staff’s interest in a tuition break for their

offspring, which was overwhelming in favor of the tuition break. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will

work on making an arrangement with the administration to try to make this happen.

New Business

The General Education Committee (Chair Dr. Pietrusynski) has produced a worksheet for its assessment plan, with

sample course guidelines included. This is being sent out electronically. Vital assistance was provided by Dr.

Brenda Wilson (Educ.) and Prof. Vicki Morris-Dueer. Beta testing will occur this spring term, and a fully fledged

program will begin next fall. Dean Zaman asked who will be collecting the data and who will be assessing it. Dr.

Wilson said the data will go to Academic Affairs via LiveText. Dean Zaman then asked if this is program or

course assessment. The answer was inaudible.

Dr. Fultz moved, with Dr. Guetzloff’s second, to adjourn the meeting, which was accepted by people leaving.

Respectfully submitted by

**Timothy C. Alderman**

Dr. Timothy C. Alderman, WVSU Faculty Senate Secretary