

Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, October 6, 2017 Hamblin Hall Auditorium, 1:30 p.m

Attendance

Senators: A&H – D. Johnson (secretary), J. Barnes-Pietruszynski (vice-chair); BSS – M. Seyedmonir, Frehot Hailou, Manashi Ray; LC – Deborah Wells (historian), Michael Casey; NSM – R. Baker, R. Ford (chair), M. Fultz, K. Lewis; PS – Kathy McDilda, G. Hensley; ACF – B. Ladner; Parliamentarian – Jack Magan

Ex Officio: Provost – K. Jayasuriya; President – A. Jenkins

Executive At-Large: J. Pietruszynski, T Guetzloff

Deans/Interim Deans: R. Wallace (A&H), D. Williams (BSS)

Faculty Guests: Mike Workman (Constitution and Bylaws)

Student Government: President –T. Conway

1. J Barnes- Pietruszynski moved and M. Ray seconded to approve the minutes from Sept. 1. The motion carried by voice vote.
2. M. Fultz moved and O. Banks seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried by voice vote.
3. Chair's Remarks – R. Ford asked if we could get a printed directory of faculty like in the past. The Board of Governors would like to do a performance review of the President Monday, October 16 at 3 p.m. M. Fultz recommends a dead hour time, 12:30 p.m. Tuesday or Thursday. The senate decided Thursday, Oct. 19th at 12:30 would be the preferred time. R. Ford will inquire and send word. Unfilled spots remain on standing committees. T. Conway was asked to fill student slots, and requirements were clarified. The College of Prof. Studies needs to appoint one to the Faculty Scholarship Committee.
4. President's Report – President Jenkins thanked all who contributed to an impressive homecoming weekend. Enrollment is up overall if including online, grad., early enrollment, and transfer students. Our first year freshman cohort is down from last year (423 to 397). Student enrollment had 4 VP's in one year and was down to 2 recruiters and a processor, which contributed to this trend. Transfer and grad. students were consistent between years, and online is up. We have 80 students in our China partnership. While early enrollment is up, we need to be careful of quality control. The Kanawha County Schools are very excited about the program, and are sad to see Nathan leave. Early enrollment does not create significant revenue (approximately \$150,000 between 1,600 students). Our goal now is to get more of these students to register as first-time, full-time students (only 15% right now). There is now a loyalty program that will freeze tuition for 4 years for those who enroll after taking an early-enrollment course, and there has been response to this. This also encourages 4-year graduation. Administration will be working on a comprehensive enrollment management plan to determine what cohort we need to grow the institution and meet financial needs (ex. in/out of state analysis).

Pres. Jenkins passed out two documents that profile State. The first is a graphic page highlighting our rankings and enrollment stats. It is missing the #2 U.S. News and World Report ranking for public colleges/universities. The second document shows that we are dead last in retention and graduation rates. This is unacceptable, and puts the University in a compromising position when looked at by the legislature. We are hiring a director of retention to tackle this problem. We have to take a hard look at what hinders our students. Our 58.8% retention rate is the highest in 5 years. T. Ruhnke suggested that there is too much silo thinking at the university. There was a degree completion task force a few years ago that came up with ideas, but there was no mechanism for action. Student affairs and Academic Affairs need to work hand-in-glove, for example. Pres. Jenkins gave an example of having staff invited to serve as mentors, not only faculty, so all are inspired to engage on campus. T. Conway suggested committees end meetings with actionable items and have measurable goals. Pres. Jenkins also reminded the senate that we need to get a baseline for our data so it is accurate. He also suggested we philosophize less and do more. B. Ladner asked how 1-year scholarships that dry up can be considered in the wrap-around services. Most students drop out due to \$2500 shortage. Once they drop out, the chance of coming back are slim. We also need to move toward with more transparency in scholarship availability and application requirements. G. Hensley

reminded the faculty the power of personal relationships, energy, and love in keeping students here. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked how our budget challenges limit us (ex. poor technology). M. Fultz said they did a survey 8 years ago. Pres. Jenkins outlined that we need exit surveys, entrance surveys to generate data to know why students don't return (ex. "Do you plan to transfer?"). T. Guetzloff stated that we've run out of online tutoring hours in our contract and wanted to pass that along. He also asked about tuition waivers for athletes in context of the budget problems. Pres. Jenkins says trying to get those waivers down to a sustainable mark is important. Expecting students to maximize FAFSA aid (subsidized loans) is part of this balance. M. Ray mentioned that there were a number of students who had VISA rejections. In terms of the China partnership, we are offering 50,000 per course, and we are going there to teach.

Safety is a high priority. We need to work as a team to improve things. Pres. Jenkins is trying to get himself out of the decision-making chain and give people autonomy and empower people to do the job they have been hired to do.

5. Provost Report – K. Jayasuriya stated that a retention task-force had 8 action items, so work has been done. We will be hiring someone who can focus on that entirely. He has too many other tasks to provide this adequate attention.

K. Jayasuriya emailed Lindsey Good and she agreed to serve on the Program Review Committee. He tried two others to no avail. B. Ladner moved, J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded, to appoint Lindsey Good to the Program Review Committee. The motion carried by voice vote.

The staff budget meeting welcomed savings suggestions, and the faculty meeting on October 12 will, as well. The staff has concerns about oversized faculty, but the Provost's research compared to peer institutions and we are clearly not spending more than them on instruction. T. Guetzloff pointed out that we are essential in two of three revenue streams... students coming and research monies. Renting is the third. B. Ladner reminded that we are essential to performance-based outcomes.

6. Advisory Council of Faculty – B. Ladner said that Southern had a vote of no confidence. There were morale and communication problems. The president wanted to kill co-requisite, which was important for retention. B. Ladner has been working on hosting a legislative event here. It is not an election year, so it is hard to know if there will be interest. Tom Bennett has been emailed, but is still getting back to her. M. Fultz moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to accept the ACF report. The motion carried by voice vote.

7. BOG – F. Vaughan was absent.

8. EPC – M. Fultz said there was nothing to report.

9. Honors Committee Report – T. Ruhnke showed the senate the committee make-up. The last chair quit, so they are starting to move forward again. There are 6 returning students and 7 new students this fall. In the August meeting they talked about initiatives to recruit and ideas to revise the program. Aug. 24 was a meeting with the returning honor students and a few new ones. They were brought up to date on program status and their input was invited on potential changes. In the Sept. 24 committee meeting they worked on a draft of changes to the Honors Program. In the next week there will be another meeting with students to vet the faculty suggestions for changes. They are considering a seminar program to not conflict with regular classes. The next committee meeting will finalize the changes then work on the EPC piece. With current numbers, Honors sections won't work unless we can work on getting them all into the same class and have an instructor take this section, preferably someone who has taught that before. R. Baker suggested letting other students register for the section. T. Ruhnke said they are working back to that level for the future (with a potential GPA requirement). For now, we'll have to attach honors students to normal sections. We also have to recruit faculty to help guide students in projects in research or creative-based project. They will be waiting to decide whether to lower the required 26+ ACT score to include more students. R. Baker asked if we are back to communicating with admissions to send out recruitment information and screen students coming in who meet the requirements. Recruitment is in the fall, screening is in the spring. D. Williams asked if there is anywhere on the general application where students are asked if they are

interested in the program. K. Jayasuriya said that should happen, and T. Ruhnke asked if he can set up the meeting with admissions. K. Jayasuriya answered in the affirmative.

Proposed Changes: Set aside the combined origins/diversity courses.

Have a 3 semester sequence of honor seminar. Hon 101 (Honors Seminar I, 1 credit) for new students, Hon 201 (Honors seminar II, 1 credit) for those in program, Hon 301 (Capstone Honors Seminar, 1 credit) for capstone projects that semester.

Move the philosophy of research course to middle or early in the academic career.

Have 9 credits of gen. ed or 6 gen ed. and 3 credits of an approved course.

Get an honors designation on their transcript.

Change name of Hon 200 to "Scholarship: Research and Creative Activity. He would like to eventually get to where faculty can be designated as honors faculty.

K. Jayasuriya asked if the committee considered having Hon 101 work for FYE. T. Ruhnke said the 1 credit issue could lead to problems, but we could look at completion of the program (101, 201, 301) could waive them. J. Pietruszynski asked if he knew how many students need certain courses. T. Ruhnke said that they would discuss this in next week's meeting, thinking toward offering some of the courses this spring. B. Ladner moved and R. Baker seconded to accept the report. The motion passed by voice vote.

10. Faculty Funded Student Scholarship Report – G. Hankins shared that Anne McConnell accepted to act as chair. There is only one person from last year. R. Baker suggested that they bring a report to the faculty in December once they can meet.

11. An event on Wed., Nov. 7. still needs a graduate college rep. The Masters in Instructional Leadership needs a representative. The master of social work program is over. The WVU collaboration wasn't working due to institutional connections. J. Barnes moved and B. Ladner seconded to accept the Grad. Council report. The motion carried by voice vote.

12. Constitution and Bylaws/Faculty Handbook Committee Report – M. Workman stated that they have had one meeting and had email exchange. The Honors Committee make-up has not been finalized and included in Bylaws. M. Workman put forth the language. R. Baker suggested that we amend the first bullet item to say "One representative elected from each college of the university. These individuals shall serve..." B. Ladner moved and R. Baker seconded to move this to Const. and Bylaws to change it in the spirit of Ron's motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

The language of the Research and Faculty Development Committee was addressed. B. Ladner feels that members should not be able to submit proposals. G. Hankins disagreed and described two recusals last time. D. Johnson suggested that good researchers would make good committee members, but they would also want to submit proposals. D. Johnson moved and B. Ladner seconded to table this issue. The motion carried by voice vote.

Due to concerns with procedure, M. Fultz moved and B. Ladner seconded to table all Constitution and Bylaws issues. The motion carried by voice vote.

13. Faculty Personnel Committee Report – The chair was not here for this report. M. Seyedmonir, a committee member, expressed that we manage the time of the faculty senate meetings so that the last items get attention then need. R. Ford recommends those who want to be moved up in the agenda propose it when the agenda is approved.

14. IRB discussion. M. Ray expressed concern that the committee was not trained since their appointment in 2012. M. Fultz said the IRB was set up by Gary, with an NIH approved list he'll get to Rich to use for now. R. Ford asked if we want to take ownership of this. NIH requires presidential appointment, so let's go through the nomination process.

15. M. Workman and D. Johnson moved to adjourn. The motion carries by voice vote.