Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, April 6, 2018
Hamblin Hall Auditorium, 1:30 pm

Attendance:

Senators: A&H – D. Johnson (secretary); BSS- M. Seyedmonir, M. Ray, F. Hailou; LC – M. Casey, D. Wells (historian); NSM – R. Baker, M. Fultz; PS – O. Banks, K. McDilda; BOG – F. Vaughn

Parliamentarian: Jack Magan; Visiting Faculty: T. Rhunke, M. Pennington; Library: W. Stinson
Teacher Education Committee: P. Wilson; Athletics Committee: A. Settle
Faculty Personell committee: S. De; Constitution and Bylaws: M. Workman
Deans/Interim Deans: R. Wallace (A&H), D. Williams (BSS)

Meeting called to order at 1:37 pm

1. M. Fultz moved, F. Vaughan seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried by voice vote.

2. Provost Report:

- K. Jayasuriya announced R. Baker's retirement after 24th year at state, 43rd as professor, with the senate offering him applause.
- By last Monday 450 were registered for fall. We need to keep encouraging students to reach their advisors and register before they leave for the summer. 50% are taking 15 credits or more. Last spring it was 57%, with 88% taking 12 or more. Let's keep pushing the 15 to help with graduation progress. The Provost's presentation from earlier illustrated that the research suggests those students who take 15 do better. M. Fultz asked what percentage take 30 over the course of a year (factoring in summer courses). T. Guetzloff mentioned that online take 12, 12, 6. R. Baker says that the better students take 15, so the data interpretation might reflect the reverse. J. Magan said that those who work full-time can't take 15. R. Baker did say that he whole-heartedly agreed with informing students of the fact that 15 doesn't cost any more. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked what the cost policy was. He said that we only charge for 12 hours, with a limit of 21 enforced the past two years.
- HEPC has approved our 4-year engineering degree.
- We are starting a summer bridge program with developmental English and Math for those students who don't meet the basic admission requirements (18 or 19 on ACT).
- The alternative program review process is according to HEPC policy of every 5 years. Those who are under national accreditation will have a slimmer review process, to be sent to HEPC, and bypass the Program Review Committee.
- R. Ford asked about an update with faculty keeping office hours. The Provost hasn't heard any complaints this year. Deans and Chairs are keeping track. The Post-tenure review is a good forum for assessing this minimum requirement.
- R. Ford asked for thoughts about higher ed. funding proposal found in the paper. The Provosts said that performance based funding hurts institutions like ours, and this proposal is good for us. We are still only at a 59% retention rate and are hiring a retention coordinator. We will reinstitute the retention committee after this person is hired. T. Rhunke reminded the senate of the old retention committee and said that, if the new committee isn't action oriented, it might not be worth it. M. Fultz asked how many of the 41% unretained are from academic ineligibility. The Provost said he didn't have the exact number, but that it wasn't a very large percentage. M. Seyedmonir asked who collects the exit interview data and who uses it. T. Guetzloff said that their office us it.
- M. Seyedmonir asked what the maximum faculty credit hours should be. K. Jayasuriya said that, on rare occasions when adjuncts can't be found, faculty are asked, but they should only teach one additional course. There are extreme cases that occasionally come up (M. Fultz). M. Ray asked about qualifications for adjuncts. The Provost assured that we follow HEPC policy.

3. ACF: B. Ladner provided a written report and was not in attendance. M. Seyedmonir moved and M. Fultz seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

4. BOG: F. Vaughan felt they had a productive meeting in the morning. He was pleased with how the Post-Tenure Review Policy ended up, with collaboration across campus. The records retention policy was passed this morning. Furlough has been tabled, but will need to be taken up again according to state law. The controlled substance policy was addressed. No action was taken, but they will be moving on it in the future. F. Vaughan has been asked to help craft a policy through discussion with stakeholders. As for raises for state employees, it depends. Each unit will be given a chunk of money based on the number of state employees. Since we have state employees and non-state employees here, the President is still working on how this money should be distributed. There was a proposed 5% increase in tuition and fees, and over the years it's making it more and more difficult for some to attend. It was ultimately passed, and there is necessity given expenses. Raising awareness of financial aid to students can help with this. The online portal should be used to direct them to Foundation Scholarships and other aid. M. Seyedmonir asked how this will affect our price competitiveness. F. Vaughan said that, given that other schools will probably be raising their tuitions, our competitiveness between other institutions will not change. T. Rhunke suggested that students looking for aid sometimes take more than needed for school due to other life constraints/needs. Also, students who run out of money end up dropping classes and running into retention issues. R. Wallace asked if 5% is the maximum we can raise. F. Vaughan said the maximum is 10% according to HEPC, with constraints according to a certain span of years. Senators were thanked for participating in the budget efficiency task force, and costs will go down next year. A 6% increase was considered but not agreed to. T. Guetzloff asked if the 5% would help us get more cash on hand. It was said that cash on hand is needed for things like bonds, and we need to improve this area. K. Jayasuriya said that the Academic Affairs piece has completed all but one of their recommendations. M. Fultz asks that if appropriations and tuition are increasing and costs are going down, where's the money? It was said that we're really just getting stabilized ever since the separation from the community college. T. Guetzloff said that addressing the 4 million red number is a great thing. F. Vaughan said that the English department's presentation on English 101 passing rates was well received. M. Fultz asked if there is money set aside for disposing of controlled substances, given action to approve care for these substances, that won't drain academic departments' budgets. R. Baker asked if a task force is needed for the controlled substances. F. Vaughan said not at this time.

5. Constitution and Bylaws: M. Workman asked if the senate would consider a motion to approve the EPC amendment replacing the committee function paragraph. It had been proposed last spring. M. Seyedmonir moved and M. Ray seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. M. Workman asked for a motion to approve the Honors Program Committee proposed amendment. He said that the language in the amendment is not the same as previously passed by the senate. R. Baker said the committee has exceeded its charge. T. Rhunke said that the language presented is problematic after meeting with the committee since writing it. M. Fultz suggested we wait for language from T. Rhunke to be presented in a future meeting. R. Ford asked the senate if we agree to table this issue, and it was agreed. M. Fultz moved and M. Seyedmonir seconded we pass the revisions to the Research and Faculty Development Committee (with two minor changes –Peer to PEER and deletion of a semicolon). The motion carried by voice vote. M Fultz seconded and M. Seyedmonir seconded to accept the report.

6. EPC: M. Fultz said that there were only 2 submissions, with both approved. M. Seyedmonir moved and M. Ray seconded to approve the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

7. Personnel Committee: S. De said that IT does not have enough manpower to help create the online surveys. Moodle can do it for no cost, but it would require a lot of work to get it set up with Web-0 tags. Survey monkey $22,500, campus labs (3 year commitment of $9000–$10,000 a year. SmartEvals didn't get back with a quote. N. Zaman asked what the recommendation was. De said they recommend Capus Labs, but they require a 3 year commitment. R. Ford said that went beyond the scope of our year-long trial. D. Williams asked about integrating with Banner. K. McDilda echoed the need to integrate with current systems. K. Jayasuriya and T. Kiddee said that Learning House actually charges $7 per student. K. McDilda moved and P. Wilson seconded to table the issue to allow the Personnel Committee meet with T. Kiddee, IT department, and return with a new recommendation. S. De said they had done the research and have done all they can do, leaving the decision to the senate. The motion carried by voice vote. K. McDilda moved and O. Banks seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

8. Teacher Education Committee: P. Wilson reported that there are 24 graduates for the fall (22 student teachers) and 24 (27 student teachers) for the spring. 41 candidates are enrolled in the masters program in educational leadership, 14 in Clay County, others in the Learning House class. Principal and general supervisor tracks were also approved. The Education Department is gearing up for their 2021 NCATE visit. Cooperating teachers need masters degrees, 5 years of teaching, and an earned rating of distinguished. Given that the developmental courses no longer exist, they will be recommending students take their Praxis Exam prep courses. Our data collected on Praxis passing has been passed along to the Provost. R. Baker asked what course numbers were used for the developmental courses. P. Wilson said they use special topics courses, and have for many years. R. Baker reminded that those designations should only be used for two years. R. Baker asked if earning credit for these courses is appropriate. She said she believed HEPC would offer support for this. M. Fultz requested the ed. department submit EPC paperwork to assign permanent course numbers. She assured him it would be on their next agenda. M. Fultz moved and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded to accept the report. The motion carried by voice vote.

9. Athletics Committee: A. Settle said that this past year there were 123 athletes with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, up from 75 the year before. He said that, due to tournament schedules, some athletes miss graduation, so the dept. holds a ceremony for them and their parents. He plans to invite faculty to the event, so please consider showing up. Faculty Athletic reps. met to consider the NCAA's push to address mental health issues. Our university has seen examples of these struggles. He wrote a grant to bring in national educators to do a self-inventory with the athletes. Coaches and training staff will also be trained to recognize warning signs. The student services awareness will be part of the push. He reminded the senate to excuse athletes for sanctioned events, and also expect them to come to you in advance when tests occur to reschedule. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked about 100 online classes not coming to her to get the form signed. Can an online form be created? This would also help teachers to fill these out without it interfering with class time. M. Seyedmonir reminded A. Settle that the senate requested to Dr. Woodard, and he agreed, to provide a better system of informing teachers of the list by including classes. A. Settle said he would follow up on this.

10. R. Ford asks about replacement of computers. K. Jayasuriya said he would keep working on this issue.

11. Chemical Hygiene Officer progress: R. Ford followed up with S. Woodard, who said a committee is formed and description written, so moving along. K. Jayasuriya said that the cost will be split with R&D, and it has been decided that R&D would pay for this person, with Academic Affairs reimbursing them.

12. R. Ford asked the senate's mood about sharing information regarding R&D monies. T. Rhunke explained how the information can be accessed online and that it is public information. R. Ford asked what we should do with the report we have compiling this information. O. Banks wondered, if it isn't a secret, what is the debate? We should share the information. T. Rhunke said that the issues are more serious than what the paper reports. F. Vaughan asked if we are overstepping our bounds to dictate to R&D. T. Rhunke said that, according to legislative language, they are an adjunct to the university, though we have been conditioned to see it in this way. The Land Grant representative echoed concerns about the reported spending, given that in each of their opening fall meetings they are told that money is tight, write grants to make ends meet, and are reminded that we do not receive a full state match, always spoken with a somber mood. K. McDilda moved and O. Banks seconded that we pass out the information page. The motion carried by voice vote, with one nay (F. Vaughan) and two obstentions (M. Fultz and M. Ray). (K. Harper had left before the vote was taken.) T. Rhunke suggested we recommend the President appoint a new chairman of the board that is not compensated by the board. D. Johnson moved and O. Banks to request that President Jenkins attend faculty senate on May 4 to address issues regarding Research and Development. Vote passed by voice vote.

13. R. Ford reminded the senate of the next meeting on May 4 and asked about the best time for the General Faculty Meeting.

14. M. Seyedmonir moved and M. Ray seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.