**Minutes from the WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting on Friday, May 6, 2022**

**In Person & Video Conference Call using Zoom at 1:30 pm**

*The following meeting was conducted by video conference call using Zoom and in person at Hamblin Hall.*

*Attendance: J. Barnes-Pietruszynski, L. Davidson, K. Steele, M. Bhuiyan, M. Fultz, J. Pietruszynski, T. Ruhnke, R. Ford, N. Zaman, J. Martin, B. Ladner, U. Karunathilake, F. Vaughan, P. Carney, L. Good, M. Pennington, T. Kiddie, M. Wilson, M. Young, M. Ranasinghe, R. Ovrebo, L. Lambert, M. Seyedmonir, A. Bejou, S. Burdette, C. Walker, T. Park, E. Waugh, J. Porter, E. Lewis, E. Lomax, Z. Fitchner, A. Settle, M. Carroll, T. Owen, A. Wylie, M. Anderson, K. Toledo, Z. Fitchner, B. Leidl, S. Armstrong, J. Porter, D. Williams*

The meeting was called to order by J. Barnes-Pietruszynski at 1:35 pm

**REVISIONS/SUGGESTIONS TO THE AGENDA AND MINUTES**

M. Fultz moved and T. Ruhnke seconded the approval of the agenda. Senate voted unanimously.

M. Fultz moved and T. Ruhnke seconded the minutes with changes to L. Davidson. Senate voted unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**PRESIDENT CAGE**

President Cage thanked the faculty for their support. Priorities for the university during the summer.

* Recruitment and Retention – reach out to admitted students and returning students; sending out mailers; billboards
* Leadership Searches – Looking for Provost & VP for Academic Affairs and the committee is very heavy on faculty because it is an important role at the university. Looking for someone that can push the vision forward. VP for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs and is looking for someone that can come into the organization and work on increasing our student enrollment. VP for Research and Public Service because this position is essential for a land grant university. He apologized that these searches are running into the summer, but he felt it is critical to have these positions filled before the Fall semester.
* Strategic Planning – He stated that the university needs a strategic plan that is reflective of the post COVID 19 landscape. He is thinking of a Future State, but this will be a collaborative effort. This summer he will pull together a small task force to begin the process, then will get everyone engaged and hopefully submit to the BOG for approval in February 2023.

He also indicated that we are having commencement next Saturday. He stated that we gave Mayor Goodwin an honorary doctorate in December, but would also like to give Dr. Lateef Saphore an honorary doctorate for his involvement in the university and his success in his career. He did say that not every commencement speaker will receive one and he would like to set some guidelines for the future.

T. Ruhnke asked about interviews and whether people could attend. President Cage indicated yes that he will speak with the chairs to make sure that invitations are sent out.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked whether a small committee would be formed for the honorary degree candidates going forward. President Cage said he would like to have a policy put in place because it is not his intent to give every speaker an honorary doctorate.

T. Ruhnke asked about the VP for Research & Public Service and stated that in the past, research has not been expanded into other departments within the university. He also stated that sometimes that position has acted like it is not part of institution, but other times it has not. President Cage said he has had extensive conversations with Dr. Ami Smith and they have discussed funding and the best way to move this position.

F. Vaughan said that he would be happy to match $3,500 for student funding and the library.

B. Ladner asked about the metrics used for the strategic plan and asked if this would be more open. President Cage said he would be collaborating with faculty, staff, students, etc. and it will include open conversations and he would like for her to work with them on some of these areas.

R. Ford asked about masks. President Cage said masks will become optional after commencement.

E. Lewis asked when the last official day for faculty. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said once your final grades are submitted unless you have an extended contract, but they just ask to check emails for grade questions. L. Good said she would be reaching out to chairs for student advising and registration, so if you are unavailable, let her know who to contact.

M. Fultz asked about the faculty morale survey. President Cage said he has received the results and will have a presentation from Modern Think next Monday. After that, the cabinet will have a presentation to go over the survey. President Cage said some of the preliminary data showed concerns for communication and professional development. During the Fall semester, Modern Think will come back and offer presentations to certain groups, such as Faculty Senate, Student Government, etc. The results will be used in the strategic planning as well. M. Fultz asked about the participation rate. President Cage said he was not sure, but would follow up.

**INTERIM PROVOST CARNEY**

P. Carney said they are doing a big push on registration during the month of May. She also indicated that commencement will be at 10:00 am and all faculty should be there. P. Carney said there will be 3 dates for NSO and will keep us updated.

Doctoral update and intent to plan will be almost ready to submit and sent to HEPC.

This past Saturday, CAEP review asked some questions, but overall it went well and they should hear something in 30 days.

Two faculty members will be attending the Great Teacher Seminar.

P. Carney said that Dr. Settle said there is another minor in Sports Studies as well as an MOU is being created with Marshall University’s Physical Therapy program, so our students will have 2 spots.

P. Carney said there will be some teams working this summer on enrollment and technology. She also said we are looking at different techniques for retention.

She also stated that the strategic plan will go hand in hand with our next HLC visit which occurs in 2024-25.

T. Ruhnke asked about recruiting and what efforts are being made in the high schools. P. Carney said that K. Bentley (Interim Early Enrollment Director) is working with admissions to reach out to the high school students and try to recruit them to the university.

T. Kiddie asked about the quality of the early enrollment teaching. P. Carney said that with the leadership in place, they are working on this information and they will be hiring another person to follow up on the credentials of teachers with the departments at WVSU. T. Kiddie said that some of the high school teachers are using Schoology instead of Moodle and not using our syllabi. P. Carney said with NACEP accreditation we are required to have this documentation in the files.

L. Good said we may need to make it mandatory for student evaluations. M. Pennington said we may need to have a conversation about the qualifications. J. Pietruszynski said there are HLC documents that state they will be looking at dual enrollment and early enrollment in the future. L. Davidson stated that if we no longer feel these individuals are qualified to teach the course, we can always use our accreditation as the reasoning.

R. Ford said that it will take some time on the credentialing process, but he would like to know who the collaborative program students are within his courses and a good PR move would be speaking about our Loyalty Program.

**VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS & FINANCE**

C. Dalton introduced herself and stated that she has worked with L. Davidson on the Chief of Police Search and working with the Criminal Justice Department. She also indicated that she has been working with T. Kiddie and the cashier’s office.

She also stated that they have submitted a bid for the Dining Contract and so far have five vendors interested. She stated they are looking at faculty meal plans, community meal plans, etc. She even stated that they are looking in spotlighting local restaurants on campus.

T. Kiddie said that one of the students in his classes discussed the issues with the dining hall not having ethnic choices. B. Ladner said she was involved with the hiring of this vendor and they promised a lot, but have not delivered. Z. Fitchner said they tried to host the Governor’s School, but did not get the selected because of the dining services.

C. Dalton also discussed the governors raises and stated they would be more transparent on the process since the last raise did not go

C. Dalton said there has been some budget issues, but they have been working with IT to get a rotation on technology. B. Ladner said we have historically not paid our bills, so that would be a good thing for her office to watch. C. Dalton said one thing they are watching is cash flow, so nothing will be ordered without money to cover the costs.

R. Ford said there was a rotation based on age of computers, but for a long time, we have not seen a list and were told we could not have access. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski told C. Dalton that we did a faculty computer list and trying to work with IT on creating a schedule.

Dan Brown, new Director of Physical Facilities, stated that WVSU is his new customers. We will crawl, before we walk or run. Every day is a new surprise, but he wants to address them as quickly as he can. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked about people in his department. He stated that they are working on getting people hired based on their skill sets.

M. Pennington asked about HVAC. D. Brown said he is looking at equipment and buildings through an asset management system. They are working on solutions, but capital planning is essential. This institution has deep history, but it needs to be modernized.

R. Ford said regular cleaning is necessary. D. Brown said he met with three supervisors at Goodwill this morning, so he is hoping things will improve. L. Good asked how we should communicate. C. Dalton said to use Track-It tickets. T. Kiddie asked about procedures. D. Brown said University Campus Police should be contacted first when there is an emergency.

T. Ruhnke asked about building coordinators. C. Dalton said they are working on being strategic with building coordinators working with the Director of Physical Facilities and Chief of Police, but the directory needs to be updated. M. Pennington said we are having issues with finding people on campus, so he would not know who to contact if the radiator in his office was on fire. D. Brown said it would be campus police right now.

**SEAT NEW SENATORS**

Mark Wilson – Business and Social Science

Jasmine Porter – Natural Science & Mathematics; Michael Anderson – Alternate

Elisha Lewis – College of Professional Studies; Michael Kane – Alternate

**ELECTIONS**

Chair – L. Davidson nominated J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded by T. Rhunke; T. Rhunke moved to elect J. Barnes-Pietruszynski by acclimation and L. Good seconded

Vice-Chair - J. Barnes-Pietruszynski nominated L. Davidson seconded by L. Good; T. Rhunke moved to elect L. Davidson by acclimation and J. Barnes-Pietruszynski seconded

Secretary – T. Rhunke nominated J. Porter seconded by E. Lewis; T. Rhunke moved to elect J. Porter by acclimation and L. Davidson seconded

History - J. Barnes-Pietruszynski nominated K. Toledo seconded by E. Lewis; T. Rhunke moved to elect K. Toledo by acclimation and L. Good seconded

**REPORTS:**

**BOG**

J. Pietruszynski said there is nothing new to report. M. Fultz asked about the BOG conversations with faculty and students. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she emailed E. Jackson in March and he tried to get it included, but it was not because when they normally have the forums, it was during the presidential search.

President Cage said there was a conversation in the BOG meeting and Chair Jones said that he wanted that to happen, but it may have to happen in the Fall. President Cage said that he can say that the BOG does want to work on communication between them and faculty.

T. Ruhnke said if there is a meeting in June, they could legally have it then, even if faculty cannot attend. M. Fultz read the By-Laws and stated that the faculty could send a representative to meet with the BOG, especially since there are new members.

**ACF**

B. Ladner said the next meeting is on May 12 and she emailed a legislative summary last week.

**EPC**

Upali said there were proposals from Nursing; Education; Physics/Chemistry; HHP; Mathematics; Computer Science and everything was approved with minor edits.

L. Davidson moved to accept the report. T. Rhunke seconded. Senate voted unanimously

**CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**

R. Ford said he sent out the annual report and asked for any questions.

T. Rhunke moved to accept the report and L. Davidson seconded. Senate voted unanimously

**PROMOTION & TENURE/RETENTION**

T. Rhunke stated that the Retention Committee had nine faculty members to be considered for retention. The committee discussed the individual candidate folders and as he received the submissions and put them in a Google Drive.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that A. McConnell and the Faculty Personnel committee is working on a platform. T. Rhunke said he would work with F. Vaughan and A. McConnell.

L. Davidson moved to accept the report and L. Good seconded. Senate voted unanimously

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATES: Historian/Secretary/Master Document**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said there was some confusion about the process. R. Ford said he was not sure, but he thought the idea would be that the historian needed to make updates to the document and then take it to the committee.

**TRAVEL FUNDS**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said E. Jackson stated travel funds will be released this summer as long as COVID numbers stay low and back to normal this Fall unless other restrictions are put in place.

**IT ISSUES: Class Schedules, Faculty Directory, Faculty Computers**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said there are issues with the searchable schedule and the directory is not update to date. T. Kiddie stated that many department websites are not up to date.

**UPDATES: Electronic Portfolios, Ad-Hoc Committees, Faculty Handbook**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski stated that the faculty morale survey meeting was cancelled because many of the faculty could not attend, so she is hoping to reconvene in the fall.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**GENERAL FACULTY MEETING AGENDA & ELECTIONS**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked about agenda items.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**