

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

200 Life Sciences

March 2, 2023

Chair: Cortney Barko

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

Chairwoman Barko called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

- I. The minutes of February 2, 2023 were approved.
- II. Faculty Announcements and Achievements
 - a. Dr. Cynthia Hall provided a reminder about the upcoming fundraiser on March 27th at El Mariachi for the Psychology Club
 - b. Dr. Rachel Bragg announced the possibility of a faculty and staff talent show is being explored as a way to address morale; anyone interested in participating should email Dr. Bragg or Dr. Hall
 - c. Dr. Somenath Chakraborty has been recognized as a senior member of IEEE and also earned a certification from the Association of College and University Educators for the completion of the “Inspiring Inquiry and Lifelong Learning” course
 - d. Lauren Fowler presented “Set Your Shoes Together: The Importance of Folk Traditions in Appalachian Culture” at the 2023 Mildred Haun Conference
 - e. Dr. Doug Terry published his article “On the Threshold of Education: Race and Antebellum Schooling in the Text and Context of the *Colored American*” in the March issue of the *CEA Critic*, the journal of the College English Association
- III. Administrative Report – T. Ramon Stuart, President
 - a. Meeting was held with Governor Justice to discuss a \$30.4 million project for the athletic fields; a subsequent meeting will be scheduled
 - b. Senator Capito visited campus to discuss a \$1.5 million earmark for WVU Tech that will benefit mechanical engineering; also working to secure additional resources from Senator Capito to support engineering
 - c. \$10 million has been added to the state budget for deferred maintenance for WVU Tech
 - d. Bluefield State College and West Virginia State University have put forward a bill to offer 2-year programs
 - e. March 7th is Employee Appreciation Day
 - f. Transformation Grants are due March 6th
 - g. Faculty Assembly chair will be on search committee for new fundraiser position as a way to support shared governance
 - h. Faculty representation on the transformation councils is needed

- i. WVU Tech will have a representative on the WVU task force related to campus carry and will also be forming its own task force

IV. Chair Report – Cortney Barko

- a. Faculty Status approved a motion and recommended to Faculty Council that each Faculty Assembly committee develop the policies they operate by; committees will need to meet to develop the policies, which should then be presented at the next regular Faculty Assembly meeting as well as uploaded to the n drive; changes to policies should also be presented to Faculty Assembly and updated on the n drive.
- b. Per the Faculty Assembly Constitution, committees should be keeping meeting minutes
- c. Commencement is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. this year
- d. Faculty are encouraged to attend the Employee Appreciation event on March 7th

V. ACF Report – Asad Davari

- a. Review of bill related to discrimination, diversity, and inclusion
- b. Review of bill on PEIA premiums; if additional funds are added, then there will be less of a premium increase for employees and employers

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Faculty Senate – Asad Davari
 - i. President Gee reported that WVU received a teaching grant
 - ii. Retention from fall to spring is 92% but enrollment will continue to be a challenge
 - iii. 2014 Promotion and Tenure document will remain in effect
 - iv. President Gee reported the budget is \$1.2 billion with a \$20 million deficit and \$50 million in deferred maintenance
 - v. The focus will be on making the campus as safe as possible with the passing of the Campus Carry bill
 - vi. Provost Reed reported an email has been sent to address the budget, including a hiring freeze
 - vii. A committee has been formed to prepare for the HLC visit in 2024; a website has also been developed and webinars are being held; a town hall meeting will also be scheduled
- b. Library Committee – Alecia Barbour
 - i. The library continues to offer a variety of services, including test proctoring and room reservations, which are appreciated
 - ii. Noise issues in the library have improved
 - iii. Library is working with IT and the University Police to place cameras in the library
 - iv. Though the library will not be soliciting book purchases from faculty over the summer due to the budget, interlibrary loan and the book depository are still options for obtaining materials
- c. Academic Awards – Cynthia Hall
 - i. Nominations have closed; list of nominees reviewed

- ii. Nominees are working to complete packets and will be asking faculty for recommendation letters
 - iii. The Academic Awards Committee met to formalize the committee's policies and conduct a short training session on how to chair the committee
 - iv. Recipients of Presidential Leadership Award will be announced at SGA banquet; recipients will also be speaking at commencement
- d. Loans, Grants, and Scholarships – Patrick Brown
 - i. Scholarship applications are due on April 6th
 - ii. Faculty are asked to announce the availability of scholarships in their classes; an email will also be sent with more information about the available scholarships and how to apply
- e. Commencement – Kimberly Gray
 - i. Commencement will be held at 4:00 p.m.
 - ii. Emails will be sent out regarding serving as ushers and faculty participation

VII. Agenda

- a. Resolution of Thanks for Carolyn Long
 - i. Motion to adopt resolution; discussion of one minor editorial correction; second
 - ii. Motion passes; resolution is adopted
- b. Presentation from Jeanette Bane on TRIO SSS programs
 - i. University has a \$408,000 grant for five years; in year 3 of the current grant
 - ii. The program provides support to first generation students, low income students, and students served by Office of Accessibility Services
 - iii. A variety of services are provided including free printing, tutoring, cultural trips, and monthly sessions on life skills
 - iv. The staff can also proctor exams for students
 - v. Please encourage students to participate in the program

VIII. New Business – N/A

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel L. Bragg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English