

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

208 Life Sciences

October 12, 2023

Chair: Cynthia Hall

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

Chairwoman Hall called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

- I. The minutes from the September 2, 2023 meeting were approved.
- II. Faculty Announcements/Achievements
 - a. There are openings to present for the Brown Bag lecture for November and March; submission form is located on the BHSS website.
 - b. Otis Rice lecture will be held on October 26th at 6:30 p.m.; this year's presenter will be Debra Weiner, who will be discussing the Jewish experience in the coal fields.
- III. Administrative Report – T. Ramon Stuart
 - a. Structure for the four schools has been established and is moving forward; economics will be in the School of Business while political science, sociology, and RBA will be in the School of Arts and Sciences.
 - b. Based on feedback received, the Program Coordinator title has been changed to Program Director.
 - c. Email with timeline to finalize restructure is being sent out today.
 - d. Candidates for chair positions will present their vision for their respective schools to campus on January 4th.
 - e. Program review process is not defined; meeting with main campus to discuss program review was productive.
 - f. Intent is to limit the impact on full-time faculty positions to 5 positions.
 - g. Focus on student success during the program review process will help with retention and graduation rates, which will help minimize impact on personnel.
 - h. Will be meeting weekly to develop program review process, which will be presented to the Board of Governors on November 17th; Cynthia Hall will be participating in meetings to develop program review process.
 - i. Focus on DFW rates is not being used to eliminate positions.
 - j. Once restructure is in place and budget issues have been resolved, would like to reinvest in people.
 - k. Only chair position filled at this time is for the School of Nursing.
 - l. There was some discussion of the breakdown of the \$45 million loan used to purchase the campus; email will be sent out with breakdown showing how the loan was expended.
 - m. Titles of departments will remain in place as part of the restructure.

- n. Also discussed was the role of faculty and if the faculty is being blamed for financial issues; President Stuart stated faculty were not to blame and the issue is that there wasn't awareness of the actual financial position, including the deficit that was part of the prior administration's budget process and the actual amount of the debt service payment on the campus purchase loan.
- o. Past budgeting process including prior year deficits and the amount of the debt service payment on the campus purchase loan were discussed.

IV. Chair Report – Cynthia Hall

- a. Registration for spring is open; please review the forms for how to release PINS to students and encourage students to register.
- b. Book orders for spring are due October 15th.
- c. Presentation by Paul Heddings on academic integrity policies and processes scheduled for November 7th.

V. ACF Report – Andi Kent

- a. Retreat will be held in November.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Senate Report – Brian Dickman
 - i. The WVU Senate met on October 9th.
 - ii. General Education Foundations Committee provided an update on the moratorium on new GEF courses; committee will not proceed with moratorium and will instead focus on evaluating GEF courses for alignment with educational goals; input from faculty, students, and other stakeholders will be collected.
 - iii. Provost Reed will present a program review timeline to the Board of Governors for the branch campuses and extensions in November.
 - iv. President Gee reported an increase in retention to 81.8% and the four-year graduation rate of 50%, which is an increase from 39% in 2014; the restructure and streamlining of the university were also defended.
 - v. Questions regarding the impact of the Reduction in Force were directed to President Gee and Provost Reed.
 - vi. Faculty are encouraged to read annexes provided with senate agendas to be informed of impact on course changes on classes and programs.
- b. Commencement Committee – JT Hird
 - i. Reception for December graduates is being planned.
 - ii. Graduation is May 4th; discussions continue for alternatives to using Pomp and Circumstance.
- c. Faculty Status – JT Hird
 - i. The committee has developed a policy for the FEC selection process to address issues that occurred this year; policy has been provided to faculty.

- d. Research Committee – Charan Litchfield
 - i. Dr. Chakraborty received the Open Education Resources grant from HEPC in the amount of \$1000.
 - ii. Dr. Chakraborty is also editing and authoring a book titled *Quantum Computing and Generative Adversarial Networks*.
 - iii. Dr. Holloway published an article titled “More than Free Textbooks: Labor and Pedagogy in Implementing Open Resources in Trigonometry Course” in the *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*.
 - iv. Dr. Holloway also presented “Designing Instruction to Promote a Riemann Sum-Based Understanding of the Definite Integral” at the 2023 ASEE North Central Section Conference.

VII. Agenda

- a. Glam Night Out Information – Jennifer Wood
 - i. The event is Saturday, October 14th from 7-10 p.m. at Glade Springs Resort; tickets are still available.
 - ii. Event supports WVU Tech athletics

- b. Formation of Ad Hoc Committee on Committees
 - i. Committee will review committees listed in Faculty Constitution and their duties and recommend changes as needed
 - ii. Committee will also examine structure of committees to reflect restructure.
 - iii. Nominations: Andi Kent, Cortney Barko, Angela Peterson, Asad Davari, and Rachel Bragg; motion to close; second. Nominations approved and committee formed.

VIII. New Business: n/a

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel L. Bragg

Associate Professor, English