

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

208 Life Sciences Building/Zoom

September 2, 2021

Chair: John Hird

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

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

- I. The minutes of May 6, 2021 were approved.
- II. Announcements:
 - a. Faculty Achievements: No report
- III. Administrative Report – Carolyn Long, President
 - a. The number of positive COVID-19 cases has increased. Contact tracing has become more difficult for Dean of Students Emily Sands; additional help has been put in place to assist with contact tracing for positive cases as well as contacting those students who are quarantined.
 - b. No official enrollment update at this point; students have until Friday, September 3rd to pay tuition bills; the delay in payment for some students is related to whether or not we are going to require vaccinations for students.
 - c. We will likely reach 70% vaccinated for students or close to it.
 - d. Enrollments appear to have decreased slightly as compared to the prior year but the number of freshmen enrolled has increased.
 - e. ACT scores and the number of high school students enrolled have both increased.
 - f. Legislature has asked HEPC for a funding formula for colleges and universities, which is very difficult for WVU Tech. A meeting will be held with the other presidents and CFOs to discuss a funding formula. The goal is for WVU Tech to be included in the WVU budget.
 - g. In relation to the Faculty Assembly resolution to require vaccinations, it is important to note the resolution is a recommendation and not a mandate the administration must follow. WVU Tech has received letters from parents about withdrawing students if COVID-19 vaccinations are required. Those parents will be contacted to explain the resolution is a recommendation and not a mandate.
- IV. Administrative Report – Joan Neff, Provost
 - a. There is now an interim dean for the College of Business, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The search will resume for a permanent dean in the future.
 - b. Steven Goodman is now serving as the interim dean for the College of Engineering and Sciences. The search firm Greenwood/Asher and Associates is helping with the search and hope to have a new dean in place by January 1st.

- c. Student Life is sending out an email addressing the steps students need to take if they experience COVID-19 symptoms or COVID-related events.
 - d. The spring and summer schedules are due to the Registrar by September 15th. The schedule will be created using a new system implemented by WVU and will be available online October 5th. The new system allows for wait listed courses.
 - e. Related to COVID-19, only send absences to the Dean of Students if they are requested; all seating charts should be sent to the Dean of Students, including updates.
- V. Chair Report – John Hird
- a. The Faculty Assembly committees listing has been updated on the website. At this point, there are some student positions that still need to be filled. A meeting has been scheduled with SGA to identify students to serve in these positions.
 - b. An ad hoc committee is being formed to review policies and procedures related to the purchase of computers. Please send any information related to experiences purchasing computers and also advise about interest in serving on this committee.
 - c. Over the summer, faculty input was requested on renovations to some classrooms to make sure the rooms are suitable for teaching.
 - d. Due to an agreement between WVU and the Summit Bechtel Reserve, faculty can take students for low cost or free for educational purposes if the arrangements are made through WVU.
 - e. Faculty are encouraged to attend the WVU Faculty Senate meetings and to participate in the Faculty Senate committees.
 - f. A care cabinet has been established in the library for students. Donations can be given to library staff.
 - g. A blood drive will be held September 9th in the library.
- VI. ACF Report – Asad Davari
- a. Promise scholarship applications have decreased
 - b. West Virginia State University has been approved to offer an MBA program.
 - c. Work continues on a globalization initiative to increase international student recruitment, retention, scholarship and collaboration.
 - d. A review of legislative issues was emailed to faculty yesterday.
- VII. Committee Reports
- a. WVU Faculty Senate – Asad Davari
 - i. The vaccine mandate voted on by the WVU Faculty Assembly is a recommendation and the administration is not required to implement the resolution.
 - ii. The Provost discussed academic transformation, noting there are 48 programs that are being reviewed as concerns or as opportunities for growth. There will be different criteria for different campuses.
 - iii. Faculty are encouraged to serve on the Faculty Senate committees

VIII. Agenda

- a. First reading of revised promotion and tenure document
 - i. The revised promotion and tenure document was distributed by email; please email any comments, questions or concerns.
 - ii. Second and final reading and vote on the revisions will occur at the next Faculty Assembly meeting.

- b. Discussion of resolution on vaccine mandate
 - i. WVU Tech must follow the resolution presented by WVU and cannot have a separate resolution
 - ii. There are difficulties with implementing a vaccine mandate at this point in the semester
 - iii. As noted previously, the resolution is a recommendation only.

IX. New Business

- a. N/A

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel L. Bragg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English