

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

Zoom

April 1, 2021

Chair: Brian Dickman

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

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

- I. The minutes of March 4, 2021 were approved.
- II. Announcements:
 - a. Faculty Achievements: n/a
- III. Administrative Report – Carolyn Long, President
 - a. The three short-term strategic planning committees were formed based on who volunteered for each committee first, with the goal of keeping the committees small; the committees include a mix of faculty and staff at all levels.
 - b. Larger strategic planning committees will be formed next year to assist with developing the five-year strategic plan; list of volunteers from short-term committees will be kept as potential committee members for the five-year strategic plan so there is an equal opportunity to participate in the process.
 - c. WVU Tech was ranked first on a survey about the most difficult schools to be admitted to in West Virginia; not concerned about survey at this point.
 - d. Information about availability of COVID-19 vaccine continues to change; the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available to students next week; faculty are asked to work with students who may need to miss class in order to attend their vaccine appointment.
 - e. Commencement meeting to review processes scheduled for today at 5:00 p.m. for those who signed up to participate.
 - f. The legislature continues work on bills related to eliminating the personal income tax which also involves cuts to funding for WVU and Marshall to recover the lost revenue; will be at the legislature next week to discuss the impact of cuts on WVU Tech.
 - g. Campus Carry legislation did not pass and will not be discussed further during this legislative session.
 - h. The work of the nursing faculty and the Dean of Students on COVID-19 vaccinations and testing is appreciated.
- IV. Administrative Report – Joan Neff, Provost
 - a. Search for engineering dean continues; committee met yesterday and is working to reboot the advertisement due to quality of the pool of applicants and limited number of applicants.
 - b. The search for the BHSS dean is similar, though there have been additional applicants over the last few weeks that will be reviewed.

- c. The current strategic planning committees are working to develop a short-term, two-year strategic plan; long-term strategic planning will begin after the pandemic.
- d. Work continues on the probation and suspension policies with WVU; will be discussing with the Academic Affairs committee and faculty how to communicate probation status with students and how students can be moved off probation status; WVU is offering mini-mesters and rescue courses, which WVU Tech may want to implement or consider the possibility of WVU Tech students enrolling in the WVU course offerings.
- e. Would like to discuss with faculty the guided pathways for students that allow them to explore majors in a more general fashion without declaring a major.
- f. The work of faculty in meeting with students and parents as part of the admissions process is appreciated.

V. Chair Report – Brian Dickman

- a. The Faculty Assembly Constitution notes that membership is not allowed on more than two Assembly committees; faculty are asked to consider stepping down from a committee if elected to more than two committees to allow other faculty the opportunity for committee service.

VI. ACF Report – Asad Davari

- a. Evaluating board of governors members is being discussed.
- b. The Pierpont and Fairmont relationship was discussed in the most recent meeting.
- c. Legislature continues work on legislation eliminating the personal income tax.
- d. A bill has been introduced regarding the grievance procedure that would make filing a grievance more difficult.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. WVU Faculty Senate – Asad Davari
 - i. President Gee announced that approximately \$12 million was collected during the Day of Giving event.
 - ii. President Gee stated local control by Board of Governors is best for campus security rather than Campus Carry.
 - iii. Faculty Senate passed a resolution stating opposition for Campus Carry legislation.
 - iv. The Provost's Office has developed a website that identifies the three strategic planning committees, their responsibilities, and members.
 - v. April 12-16 is Research Week.
 - vi. Additional challenge grants are available.
 - vii. After the loss of revenue and expenses related to COVID-19, the university lost \$78 million.
- b. Commencement Committee – Peggy Fink
 - i. Faculty volunteers are needed to help direct faculty, staff, and student on where to go when arriving and during commencement; volunteers must attend practice.

- c. Library Committee – Doug Terry
 - i. Online instructional aides for library skills in all disciplines are available and the lib guides are more accessible.
 - ii. The library would like feedback from faculty on the lib guides and will individualize the guides for instructors; faculty can also edit the lib guides.
 - iii. The Lib Wizard tool is a new tool that allows for quizzes, surveys, tutorials, etc. to be embedded in the lib guides.
 - iv. A text chat box has also been added on the homepage for students to ask questions and receive help on finding sources and research materials.
 - v. Interlibrary Loan is now being handled through the main campus, which will provide access to more materials.
 - vi. Concerns related to the library are also being discussed, including that there are now only two full-time librarians.
 - vii. Another concern related to the library is use of space, as the area is now being used for overflow from the cafeteria; this usage interferes with the ability of students, particularly commuter students, to find quiet work space to study and complete assignments.
 - viii. Another related concern is the safety of materials such as course reserves; the library also lacks an anti-theft detection system at the door.
 - ix. These concerns will be addressed through Faculty Council.

- d. Dave Bernier – Adventure Recreation Management Program
 - i. Program is competing to be named top adventure college by Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine; please vote and encourage others to vote.

VIII. Agenda

- a. Nominations for Faculty Council are as follows:
 - i. **Chair-Elect**
 - 1. Cortney Barko
 - 2. Andi Kent
 - 3. Cynthia Hall
 - 4. Scott Hurst

 - ii. **Secretary**
 - 1. Rachel L. Bragg

 - iii. **Academic Affairs**
 - 1. Laura Reynolds
 - 2. Maegan Shults
 - 3. Caroline McKelvie
 - 4. Helena Zhang
 - 5. Scott Hurst
 - 6. Mingyu Lu
 - 7. Joshua Price

iv. Academic Awards

1. Angela Peterson
2. Laura Reynolds
3. Amr Mohammed
4. Mingyu Lu

v. Athletics

1. Joshua Price
2. Patrick Brown

vi. Faculty Status

1. Matthew Williams
2. Helena Zhang
3. Scott Hurst
4. Mingyu Lu
5. Caroline McKelvie

vii. Legislative

1. Brent Linsley
2. Andi Kent

viii. Library

1. Michel Ouendeno
2. Maegan Shults
3. Christopher McClain
4. Alecia Barbour
5. Bill Clough
6. Amr Mohammed
7. Helena Zhang
8. Mingyu Lu

ix. Research

1. Matthew Williams
2. Doug Terry
3. Alecia Barbour
4. Amr Mohammed
5. Horng-Jyh (Tigra) Yang
6. Helena Zhang
7. Nathan Galinsky
8. Scott Hurst
9. Taejin Kim
10. Charan Litchfield

x. Student Conduct Board

1. Michel Ouendeno
2. Maegen Shults
3. Bill Clough
4. Mingyu Lu
5. Caroline McKelvie
6. Brent Linsley

- b. Nominations are closed
- c. Election committee will distribute ballots

IX. New Business

- a. N/A

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel L. Bragg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English