

West Virginia University Institute of Technology Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025

Time: 1:01 - 1:53 p.m.

Location: Life Sciences 200

Chair: Cortney Barko

Secretary: Jemma Cook

Meeting Overview:

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

I. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the February 6, 2025 meeting were approved with no corrections.

II. Faculty Announcements and Achievements

Announcements:

- None reported at this meeting

Achievements:

- The Research Committee submitted a report to the Chair listing the following publications by faculty members, including:
 - “The Twelve Ways to Convey Engineering Information Visually” presented at the CIB World Building Congress 2025 by authors including Bettig B. Fu
 - “BIM Implementation Challenges in NZEB Projects: Perspectives from Constructors” presented at the CIB World Building Congress 2025 by authors including

Rahman Muzibur

III. Administrative Report

President T. Ramon Stuart

- Was not present.

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Tamara Floyd-Smith:

- Switch to eCampus Ultra (Blackboard platform) is planned for Fall 2025
 - Instructors may submit requests to continue using the current eCampus system by 6/20/25
 - This request is discouraged as continued support for current eCampus platform will eventually be discontinued
 - Instructors may request a sandbox/practice shell to familiarize themselves with eCampus Ultra
 - Trainings for eCampus Ultra platform will be provided on 3/12 from 0930-1200 and 3/27 from 1330-1600 with other opportunities in the future
 - ITS Service Desk and eCampus resources may be used by instructors as well
 - 1-on-1 and group trainings may also be requested
 - Instructors are encouraged to make use of training and shells.
 - Additional support may be found online by googling the Blackboard system not “eCampus”
- Remote day options in the event of inclement weather
 - Please be aware that you and administration may not have advanced warning of having to go remote for the day as conditions change
 - You can plan for various approaches to a remote day and instructors are encouraged to make use of their various teaching strategies
 - Q&A sessions relevant to class material

- Previously recorded lectures
 - Exam reviews
 - Post discussion boards
- You cannot schedule to meet with students in-person or virtually in the event classes are cancelled due to inclement weather
- End of the Tenure and Promotion cycle at Tech
 - Karen Skaggs will transfer all relevant files to Morgantown
 - Thank you to all involved in the evaluation process
- Mid-terms were due 2/28
 - Thanks to everyone that submitted their mid-term grades on-time
 - Official reports on Mid-Term grades not available at time of meeting
 - ~4527 grades submitted, ~637 D/F/FSA/FNA (~14.1%)
 - Instructors are encouraged to make efforts to support students to improve student performance
- Questions taken from Faculty
 - Q: How much does Tech pay for eCampus platform and will that increase with adoption of eCampus Ultra?
 - A: Tech does not directly pay for WVU systems including eCampus, but change must happen eventually as the current eCampus platform is phased out and no longer supported
 - Q: Have recent executive orders affected Tech, and if so, how, particularly with regards to funding?
 - A: NSF grants that have already been awarded should not be affected, but submissions have been impacted in part due to removal of Program Officers
 - Q: How does the current D/F midterm report compare to previous semesters?
 - A: Do not know at this time, but VP Smith will check on that

IV. Chair Report

Dr. Courtney Barko:

- Recently met with Pres. Stuart who expressed confidence in working with new WVU President Michael T. Benson
- Faculty Senate nominations due 3/7
 - New link for nominations will be sent out shortly
- Course listings for Summer and Fall 2025 posted on March 4
 - Please plan to meet with your advisees to have them preregister
 - 3/25: Those with veteran benefits or enrolled in TRIO program may register
 - 4/1: Registration opens for all other Tech students
- Applications for graduation due 3/15
- Nominations for Presidential Leadership Award due 3/7 with applications due 3/15
- Mid-Term grades were due 2/28, if you have not yet submitted your mid-term grades, please submit students current in-progress grades
- Development of written policy regarding the use of undergraduate teaching assistants has reached the Policy Committee
 - Dr. Barko involved along with Lou Slimak and Sarah McCorkle

V. Committee Reports

ACF Report provided by Dr. Christopher McClain:

- Feb 21 ACF meeting main discussion items were PEIA and DEI
 - Bill abolishing PEIA unlikely to pass
 - Anxiety and uncertainty persist around bills regarding DEI
 - Dr. McClain refers the faculty to review the March

3, 2025 edition of WVU's "Under the Dome" for more details

- <https://governmentrelations.wvu.edu/under-the-dome/2025/03/03/march-3-2025-edition>

Senate Report provided by Dr. Doug Terry:

- Report from Meeting of WVU Faculty Senate on 2/10/25
 - Chair Diana Davis spoke regarding state and federal executive actions
 - Senate leadership in constant contact with Univ. leadership and gov't relations team to address concerns and maintain communication
 - Sheri Chisholm from Teaching and Assessment committee report improved response rates on SPOT evaluation tool. Fielded questions on how neutral responses weighted in evaluations
 - Charlie Long, WVU Student Body President, presented findings from survey of students on classroom experiences and peer-to-peer interactions.
 - Strong support for group work, concerns about loneliness on campus, recommend faculty incorporate interactive learning strategies
 - Link:
<https://facultysenate.wvu.edu/files/d/3ec59564-f9f5-47be-a37c-37dd90cd326f/peer-to-peer-interaction-survey-results.pdf>
 - Nominations for Faculty Senate deadline 3/7. Please check email for message from Corey Hunt "Call for Faculty Senate Nominations"
 - Nominations encouraged and self-nominations are permitted

Brown Bag Report provided by Dr. Doug Terry

- "Art for the Unenthused: Finding Masterpieces in the 'Meh.'" by Brent Woodward scheduled for 3/11 at 1 PM in LRC 324

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- Report from Meeting of WVU Faculty Senate on 1/13/25
 - Chair Report, Dr. Diana Davis: University Promotion and Tenure Review Panel still seeking faculty volunteers from all campuses. Contact Chris Staples in Office of the Provost if interested.
 - VP for Enrollment Management, Steve Hahn:
 - 16.2% increase in applications over previous year (increase of 2.5k). Grad and profession applications also grew
 - WVU Guarantee launch: “Last dollar” in financial aid initiative to cover tuition/fees for qualifying WV residents with family income $\leq$ \$65k
 - Faculty to direct questions to Faculty Senate
 - Students must be 1st-time freshmen enrolled in degree-granting program at any WVU campus, and complete FAFSA each yr (by Aug 1 for Fall 2025)

Brown Bag Report provided by Dr. Doug Terry

- 1st Brown Bag of the Semester to be held 2/18/25 at 1 PM in LRC 324
 - Dr. William Holly, Teaching Asst. Prof of History to present “The Mountain is Part of Us: Tourism, Community, and American Indian Sacred Land in Northern Arizona since 1969”

WVUe 191 Ad-Hoc Committee report by Dr. J.T. Hird

- Dr. Kimberlyn Gray was unable to provide report because of emergency
- List of policy recommendations to be compiled and communicated to Dr. Barko for distribution to faculty

VII. Agenda Items

A. Dr. J.T. Hird and Jordan Farmer discussed matters related to Commencement Ceremony and faculty participation

- Regarding staff participation in commencement ceremony
 - Staff always invited
 - Discussion of adding section for staff on floor, but no plans to include staff in the processional
- Faculty participation
 - Faculty participation encouraged but not required
 - Faculty participation in recent years has been low and inconsistent
 - Prior years faculty participation was required
 - No plans to make faculty participation mandatory, but seeking faculty input to improve faculty participation
 - Dr. Barko opened floor to faculty suggestions
 - Top-Down approach: Faculty Assembly could issue official encouragement for faculty participation
 - Bottom-Up approach: Encourage students to ask faculty directly if they would please attend
 - Provide or arrange for faculty breakfast before event
 - Change seating arrangement
 - Increase opportunities for faculty to interact with students graduating from their program
 - a. Arrange for faculty to stand with students in the room where they line up to get pictures with all majors
 - b. Arrange place for faculty of graduates to be in area off-stage to see them/shake hands after they walk off stage and walk back to their seats

- c. Formal photography sessions with faculty and majors

VIII. New Business

- No new business introduced

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.