

West Virginia University Institute of Technology Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024

Time: 1:00 - 1:50 p.m.

Location: Life Sciences 200

Chair: Cortney Barko

Secretary: Jemma Cook

Meeting Overview:

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

I. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the May 2, 2024 meeting were approved without any corrections.

II. Faculty Announcements and Achievements

Announcements:

- **Peggy Fink** shared that:
 - COVID-19 and flu vaccines will be made available soon.
 - Faculty may receive student excuses for COVID-related absences from student health, with students expected to follow CDC guidelines.
 - Any feedback or concerns about the campus concealed carry policy can be directed to the Safety Committee.

Achievements:

- **Dr. Charon Litchfield (Research Committee):** Announced five recent publications by faculty members. Some notable mentions include:

1. “Predicting Transmissibility-Increasing Coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) Mutations” in *COVID 2024*.
2. “DeMoS: Dense Module-Based Gene Signature Detection through Quasi-Clique” in *Network Modeling Analysis in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics*.
3. “Classification of High-Resolution Chest CT Scan Images using Adaptive Fourier Neural Operators for COVID-19 Diagnosis” in *COVID 2024*.
4. “Barriers to Long-Term Disaster Recovery in Rural Appalachia: A Retrospective Analysis of the 2016 West Virginia Flood” in *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*.
5. “A DIO2 Missense Mutation and Its Impact on Fetal Response to PRRSV Infection” in *BMC Veterinary Research*.

III. Administrative Report

President T. Ramon Stuart

- Was not present.

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

- Welcomed new faculty members:
 - William Holly, Teaching Assistant Professor of History
 - Samia Hamati, Assistant Professor of Biology
 - Patsy Stoots, Instructor, School of Nursing
- Introduced the WVU Tech debit card provided by Pendleton Community Bank, noting that the university receives a percentage from card usage.
- Updated on Academic Transformation: The deadline for program deactivations was met on August 31.
- Announced the upcoming resignation of Dr. Andi Kent in October.
- CFO is finalizing the fiscal year 2023-24 report. Goal is to

provide an update at the next meeting.

- Mentioned that Registered Not Paid (RNP) students would be removed from class rolls if they owe more than a specified amount.
- Encouraged faculty to enroll in the Faculty Development Course and provided information about enrolling through eCampus.
- Noted that some department chairs had changed offices, listing their new locations.

IV. Chair Report

Dr. Cortney Barko:

- Discussed changes in the Student Accommodations process: Faculty are no longer required to meet with students before implementing accommodations.
- Reminded faculty that the Office of Academic Integrity handles all academic integrity violations and faculty should recommend, not impose, sanctions.
- Informed the faculty about the new early alert process for students, now to be completed via Navigate.
- Noted that Faculty Assembly Committee lists are nearly complete and asked for committee chairs to be elected soon.
- Asked faculty to ensure the faculty assembly email list's accuracy and to review the list of Faculty Senate Committees.

V. ACF Report

- Dr. Kent was not present. An update was provided by Dr. Barko.
- Dr. Kent will leave in October, necessitating the election of a new ACF representative. The official position description is available online.

VI. Committee Reports

Research Committee:

- Announced the deadline for WV Higher Education Policy Commission Instrumentation and Innovation grant applications as September 13, 2024.
- WVU Tech is limited to one application for each grant category.
- Additional committee members will be needed to address potential conflicts of interest when reviewing grant applications.
- The committee aims to include a representative from each school.

Senate Report:

- No report was given but will be provided by Doug Terry in the future.

Senate Faculty Welfare Committee:

- Mark Jones, Rachel Bragg, and Asad Davari represent WVU Tech on this committee. Faculty were encouraged to reach out to them with concerns.

VII. Agenda Items

A. Constitutional Amendment:

- First reading of a proposed change to the Academic Affairs Committee membership description.
 - The amendment aims to include representatives to the WVU Senate General Education Foundations Committee in the membership.

B. Election:

- Tarek Farhat was elected to the Academic Awards Committee by acclamation.

C. Faculty Athletic Representative Position:

- The need for a new representative was discussed. Responsibilities include documenting student eligibility, serving as an ex-officio member of the Athletic Committee, and acting as a liaison between faculty, athletics, and students.

D. Announcements from University Relations:

- Introductions of Christopher Crookshanks and Ryan Couch.
- A request for faculty to reach out to University Relations with announcements of activities and achievements.
- Faculty were asked to review and update their information on the Tech website and program pages.

VIII. New Business

Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for WVUe 191:

- Proposed charge for the committee: To evaluate the effectiveness of the WVUe191 course and explore alternative methods to better align with course objectives. Further discussion will occur at future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.