

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

Zoom

February 4, 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 for December 3, 2020 were approved.
- II. Announcements:
  - a. The Research Committee provided a reminder about the Zoom meeting to be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> about the Research Apprenticeship Program at WVU Tech.
- III. Administrative Report – Carolyn Long, President
  - a. The budget will likely be uploaded in the next week, but no changes are anticipated. The guidelines and restrictions related to the budget are still in place.
  - b. WVU received \$31 million in CARES monies with \$10.8 million being disbursed to students. The remainder will not cover the deficit; however, there have been no discussions of layoffs, furloughs, or cutting positions at this point.
  - c. Enrollments are currently down for fall. Applications for admission are increasing but are still down as compared to the previous year. This mirrors decreases in the numbers of students taking standardized tests such as the ACT and completion of the FAFSA. The hope is these numbers will increase as students return to the classroom. WVU Tech is also working with Raleigh County on a push for students to stay home in the fall and attend WVU Tech.
  - d. COVID-19 surveillance testing of 10% of the students will continue unless tests are no longer available. While faculty and staff are not included in the surveillance testing, they may still be tested by contacting Emily Sands to schedule.
  - e. Vaccines continue to be administered; the first round of vaccinations will end soon, so it is important to sign up if you have not already done so and still want to be vaccinated.
  - f. An in-person commencement ceremony is being planned with social distancing and masks required. Last year's graduates will also be invited to attend. Any graduate who wishes to attend will be required to register to participate in order to following social distancing guidelines. There will be no additional activities related to commencement.
- IV. Administrative Report – Joan Neff, Provost
  - a. Currently serving as interim dean of the College of Business, Humanities, and Social Sciences
  - b. The search for the Dean of BHSS will continue with a revised ad. Two candidates participated in Zoom interviews, but neither was selected.

- c. The search for the Dean of engineering is on-going with a second candidate visiting campus in March.
  - d. Registered Not Paid students were given a deadline to pay or make payment arrangements, with 20 students being dropped originally for failure to comply; 10 students have been reinstated.
  - e. The Registrar search was a failed search and the position is being re-examined; the search committee will meet next week to discuss.
  - f. Faculty are reminded to use the Early Alert portal so at-risk students can receive extra help.
  - g. Faculty are reminder to attend the presentation on the Research Apprenticeship Program at WVU Tech to be help via Zoom tomorrow if interested.
- V. Administrative Report – Paul Steranka, Dean LCNOES
- a. The ABET review of the engineering and computer sciences programs is on-going with a virtual visit being held last week; visit seems to be going well with the final report being available in August.
  - b. Faculty Governance models at WVU and WVU Tech are separate.
  - c. WVU Tech is part of the WVU Assembly but WVU Tech Assembly has a different meeting structure with different committees.
  - d. The WVU Faculty Senate selects representatives from each faculty constituency, including WVU Tech. The WVU Faculty Senate has 12 committees that do much of the work of the Senate.
  - e. There are additional differences in the quorum, with 25% being the quorum at WVU Tech for Faculty Assembly and 40% being the quorum for WVU Faculty Senate. Elections are held for WVU Tech in April while WVU holds elections in March.
- VI. Chair Report – Brian Dickman
- a. The College of Engineering was congratulated on the work on the ABET visit to date.
  - b. Barb Boyd has asked that all grad checks and applications be completed and submitted as soon as possible.
  - c. WVU Faculty Senate meets on Monday and all faculty are welcome to attend.
- VII. ACF Report – Asad Davari
- a. The number of applicants for the PROMISE scholarship and FAFSA applications are both down; there has also been a decrease in the number of international students. Colleges and universities are showing a 4.4% decrease in enrollments, with Tech losing about 42 students in the fall.
  - b. The legislature has a Republican majority with one goal being to eliminate the personal income tax. If the measure passes, sales tax and property taxes will likely increase to offset the loss of revenue, but it will not be enough to fully cover the deficit. Cutting higher education to cover the deficit in a significant concern.
  - c. WVU and Marshall University students will be receiving some of the CARES monies related to COVID-19.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. WVU Faculty Senate – Asad Davari

- i. During both the December and January meetings, President Gee emphasized that the University must do better, including delivering a high-quality education.
- ii. Strategic transformation planning will begin soon to move the University forward.
- iii. Students who chose a Pass/Fail grade in the spring can ask to have the P/F changed to a grade.
- iv. College of Law Dean search was successful
- v. A review of the budget shows that 2020 will break even but the concern is 2021 even with the CARES monies that have been received.

b. Faculty Status – Andrew Wheeler

- i. The revised WVU Tech Promotion and Tenure document was submitted to WVU last fall and has now been returned with minor revisions requested, including one related to service faculty.
- ii. The goal is to submit the edits by March.

IX. Agenda

a. First Reading of Amendments to the Faculty Assembly Constitution Concerning Changes in the Conduct-Level Academic Integrity Appeal Process

- i. The revisions reflect the changes to the process for conduct-level academic integrity violations, including the formation of a subcommittee of the Academic Appeals Committee as the designated body to hear these appeals.
- ii. The second reading of the amendment and voting will occur in March.

b. First Reading of Amendment to the Faculty Assembly Constitution to Allow for Electronic Voting

- i. The revisions strike the phrase “by mail” to allow for electronic voting for Faculty Assembly elections.
- ii. The second reading of the amendment and voting will occur in March.

X. New Business

a. N/A

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel L. Bragg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English