

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

208 Life Sciences/Zoom

November 4, 2021

Chair: John Hird

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

Chairman Hird called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

- I. The minutes of October 14, 2021 were approved.
- II. Announcements:
 - a. Faculty Achievements
 - i. Caroline McKelvie, Visiting Instructor of Sport and Recreation Management, presented "A WVU Tech Sport Management Student Perspective: A Discussion on the Current Issues Impacting Sport and Society" along with four students at the SHAPEWV October Virtual Conference.
 - b. Please submit Brown Bag presentations completed at the Montgomery campus to Doug Terry in order to develop a comprehensive listing of past presentations.
 - c. Biology 393C is a special topics course in paleobiology that will be offered in the spring. The focus of the course will be the study of the evolution of living organisms on earth. The course does have a lab. This course would be a good option to fill a technical elective.
- III. Administrative Report – Carolyn Long, President
 - a. To honor a previous faculty request, one of the houses previously used for quarantine for COVID can be used for overnight emergency stays. The cost will be \$30 per night and linens will need to be provided by guests.
 - b. To date, Tech is staying within budget.
 - c. Work continues with presidents of other institutions on the funding formula for colleges and universities. The formula will be presented to the legislature with the hope that no changes will be made once all other institutions agree to the formula.
 - d. An email will be sent out clarifying the dates of the Thanksgiving break in terms of the days there are no classes and the days the university will be closed.
 - e. There have been discussions of closing the campus and working remotely during the end of semester/Christmas break with consideration given to the buildings that will need to be accessed for those needing to complete work, such as faculty working on files for Digital Measures.
 - f. There will be a campus meeting on Thursday, November 11th.
 - g. Applications and admits show an increase as compared to last year at this time.

- IV. Administrative Report – Joan Neff, Provost
 - a. Students, faculty, and staff continue to be tested and quarantined for COVID. An increase in positive cases may occur after the Thanksgiving break.
 - b. Three finalists have been selected for the engineering dean and will be on campus next week. Each finalist will present to the campus, with Zoom links being provided for those that would like to attend.
 - c. Next week is 1st Gen week on campus, with events being held throughout the week.
 - d. Work continues with admissions, the deans, and University Relations on recruiting and retention, which will be a key part of WVU Tech’s next strategic plan. Meetings will be held to discuss and begin working on the strategic plan.
 - e. Meetings have been held with IT and the Faculty Assembly ad hoc committee on computer purchasing and replacements. A policy has been developed and the goal is to finalize and the make the policy available soon.

- V. Chair Report – John Hird
 - a. There has been some confusion over Thanksgiving break regarding classes and the closure of the university due to incorrect information on the calendar. This has now been corrected and updated on the website and calendar.
 - b. 1st Gen Week is next week and includes a session on Tuesday at 2 p.m. for faculty and staff on how to best serve and support 1st gen students.
 - c. The Faculty Status Committee is working on the revisions to the promotion and tenure document. Please submit any additional revisions or comments.
 - d. COVID boosters will not be available on campus but are available at local pharmacies.

- VI. ACF Report – Asad Davari
 - a. The discussion at the October 8th meeting centered on the upcoming legislative session and potential issues to include campus carry, critical race theory, the funding model, and international recruiting.
 - b. There are no anticipated increases in PEIA.

- VII. Committee Reports
 - a. Faculty Senate – Asad Davari
 - i. At the October 18th meeting of Faculty Senate, a joint resolution between the Faculty Senate of WVU and the Faculty Senate of Marshall University supporting a vaccine mandate was passed.
 - ii. Academic transformation was discussed at the meeting. 35 programs of concern have been identified and 15 programs have been approved for closure. There has been some discussion of what will happen to the faculty of programs that close.
 - iii. During the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting on October 25th, a request was made that the meetings continue as hybrid with Zoom links to facilitate participation by WVU Tech and Potomac State.

 - b. Faculty Senate Welfare Committee – Asad Davari

- i. A presentation was given by WVU Talent and Culture. A WVU culture survey is being developed and they are seeking participants for the focus group.

VIII. Agenda

- a. A presentation on the services offered by TRIO was provided by Jeanette Bane. Faculty are encouraged to refer students who may be eligible.

IX. New Business

- a. There was discussion of the policy regarding email and the number of duplicate emails that are being received from the main campus and then at WVU Tech. The policy states employees are responsible for checking email, so it is not clear why the duplicate emails are needed.

- b. Andrea Kent, Faculty Associate for the Teaching and Learning Commons, discussed the meetings held on the third Thursday of each month for new faculty. Digital Measures will be discussed during the November meeting with a focus on how to document teaching. The meeting will be held on November 18th at 1:00 p.m. in LRC 324.

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel L. Bragg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English