

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

208 Life Sciences/Zoom

March 3, 2022

Chair: John T. Hird

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

Chairman Hird called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

- I. The minutes of the February 3, 2022 meeting were approved.
- II. Faculty Announcements and Achievements
 - a. Achievements
 - i. Joshua Price, Assistant Professor of Economics, published “Substance Use and Participation in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families: The Role of Unobserved Heterogeneity” in the *Journal of Substance Use*.
 - ii. Adrienne Williams and Matthew Williams, Assistant Professors of Biology, and Peggy Fink Lambert, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and Theresa Ritchie, Chair of the Nursing Department, were awarded the 2022 West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Health Science Grant in the amount of \$20,000. The grant, “Integrated Healthcare Shadowing Experience,” provides expert-guided training for early-stage undergraduates interested in healthcare careers in rural West Virginia.
 - b. Announcements
 - i. Paul Rakes announced a historical bike ride from Cunard to Thurmond on March 22nd; all faculty are invited to attend the ride or to hike; please contact Dr. Rakes for additional information.
- III. Administrative Report – Carolyn Long, President
 - a. Support of and participation in homecoming is appreciated; this year’s homecoming events and the participation by sponsors resulted in the University generating profits from homecoming for the first time ever.
 - b. There are no anticipated changes in the mask policy related to COVID-19 until after spring break, at which time masks will likely be optional, including in classrooms.
 - c. The Senate recently passed a bill that will place Pierpont Community and Technical College back with Fairmont State, which could be problematic in the future.
 - d. There are no current updates on the funding formula bill other than it has passed with no major changes.
 - e. A campus meeting will be held next week prior to spring break.

IV. Administrative Report – Joan Neff, Provost

- a. Mid-term grades are due Friday.
- b. A new advisor has been hired in the Student Success Center.
- c. Work continues with Morgantown to hire a new Accommodations Specialist; will continue to share these services with Morgantown until the position is filled.
- d. Assistant Registrar position has not yet been filled; will continue to work with Taylor Richmond from Morgantown until the position is filled.
- e. The new Launch Lab director will be contacting faculty for ideas about how to encourage students to use the services it provides.
- f. Math Field Day will be held on campus this weekend for K-12 area schools.
- g. Updates on library and Provost office staff being out of the office over the next few weeks.
- h. The Computer Policy is almost complete and includes some accommodations that will allow for flexibility; once complete, it will be presented to the president.

V. Chair Report – John T. Hird

- a. Nomination Committee, Election Committee, and Committee on Committees will be formed soon; more volunteers are needed to serve.
- b. Administration is planning and organizing a ping pong tournament.
- c. Workshops are being offered next week through the Teaching and Learning Commons on the promotion and tenure process and assessment and learning outcomes.

VI. ACF Report – Asad Davari

- a. A meeting was held on February 4th and there has been additional communication through email.
- b. SB 498 related to critical race theory passed the senate with revisions and will now go to the House judiciary and education committees.
- c. Leadership and faculty at Pierpont Community and Technical College were directed by the school's Board of Governors not to discuss or offer commentary related to the bill placing the institution back with Fairmont State.
- d. Enrollment from the fall 2019 to fall 2020 semesters shows a decrease in both full- and part-time enrollments.
- e. There is a bill in the senate to change the public employee grievance process.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Faculty Senate – Asad Davari
 - i. President Gee reported the campus carry bill will not move forward during this legislative session.
 - ii. The University has increased the number of honor's college students.
 - iii. The University is working towards a goal of a 90% graduation rate.
 - iv. Provost Reed indicated that polices related to COVID will be relaxed in the coming weeks.
 - v. Graduate students have petitioned for an increase in the stipends they are given.

- vi. President Gee and Rob Alsop met with Senator Rucker to discuss SB 498 on critical race theory; Senator Rucker incorporated the revisions discussed during the meeting.
 - vii. Faculty Senate will be sending a letter to the legislature urging legislators not to vote in favor of SB 4978; faculty are encouraged to send individual letters.
- b. Library Committee – Doug Terry
- i. Librarians will work with Morgantown campus to provide a selection of subject specific research materials for students to conduct research using physical materials; please provide at least one month’s notice; discussions are on-going about the possibility of making the materials available for a longer period of time.

VIII. Agenda

- a. First reading of revised Promotion and Tenure Document
- i. Motion to move the revised document from the Faculty Status Committee to the Faculty Assembly for a first reading; second. Motion passes.
 - ii. Please submit any comments or feedback as soon as possible.
 - iii. Goal is to have revised document approved by the end of the semester.
- b. Commencement Policy
- i. Commencement Committee drafted the following policy regarding students who are not eligible to participate in spring commencement ceremony due to remaining hours: “Students who wish to participate in the spring commencement ceremonies may only carry over 8 or fewer credit hours to be completed in summer or fall term of the same year. Such exceptions will require advance confirmation and approval from the WVUIT Registrar and Campus Provost offices.”
 - ii. Discussion to include revising the policy to add “respectively” at the end of the second sentence.
 - iii. Motion to amend policy by adding “respectively to the end of the second sentence; second. Motion passes.
 - iv. Motion to approve edited policy; second. Motion passes, two opposed.
 - v. Discussion of the policy related to the requirement of 8 or fewer credit hours and how those credit hours were determined; impact on international students; and impact on financial aid.
 - vi. Questions were raised regarding shared governance in terms of if the policy will be presented to the Student Government Association; other questions included exceptions and an appeal process for the policy.
 - vii. Motion to reconsider the policy; second. Motion passes.
 - viii. Policy tabled until next meeting.

IX. New Business

a. Academic Awards Committee

- i. The committee has asked Faculty Assembly to request the addition of a Presidential Leadership Award for nursing students.
- ii. Nursing students are not currently eligible for the Presidential Leadership Award, since the awards are for students from BHSS and Engineering.
- iii. Motion for Faculty Assembly to present a formal request to the President to add a Presidential Leadership award for nursing students; second. Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.