

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

Zoom

November 5, 2020

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 October 1, 2020 were approved.
- II. Announcements
 - a. Faculty Achievements:
 - i. Doug Terry presented a paper title Josephine W. Johnson's *Now in November: The Dust Bowl and Cultural Geographies of Gender* at the virtual Midwest Popular Culture Association in October.
 - b. Deb Beutler provided an update on the performance of the WVU Tech athletics teams:
 - i. Women's Soccer is currently 4-5-2, with the final game being played last Saturday. The team is 5th of 11 teams in the conference, with the tournament being scheduled for April 2021.
 - ii. Men's Soccer is currently 5-1, with the last game scheduled for November 12th. Many games have been postponed due to COVID-19, with the tournament being scheduled for spring 2021.
 - iii. Volleyball is currently 5-4, with the conference tournament scheduled for November 13-21.
 - iv. The Men's Cross-Country team has competed in 4 meets, with 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 1st place finishes while the Women's Cross-Country team has competed in 4 meets, with 1st, 2nd, 2nd, and 1st place finishes. The conference championships are scheduled for November 7th at Rio Grande, Ohio.
 - v. Golf has competed in 5 tournaments and will continue competition in the spring.
 - vi. Men's Swimming is 1-3 and Women's Swimming is 0-1 with competition continuing through January.
 - vii. Women's Basketball is 1-0 with the season continuing through the fall and spring.
 - viii. Men's Basketball holds their first game on Friday, with 2 games that have already been cancelled due to COVID-19.
 - ix. Wrestling practice has started with no matches scheduled to date.
 - x. Indoor Track and Field has had no competitions to date.
 - xi. Baseball and Softball are practicing, with both following social distancing

- xii. Spectators have not been allowed to attend any WVU Tech home games while other schools have restricted spectators to immediate family
- xiii. All NAIA national championships have been moved to the spring, with student athletes not being charged for competition season this year.
- xiv. As announced by President Long, the possibility of bringing back football is being studied, with projections including 70 student athletes. The addition of the football may also bring friends and family along with improving alumni relations, including participation in homecoming activities. There are many hurdles to overcome, including the lack of practice facilities, the need to play games on a high school field, not having any equipment, and possibly moving to a different conference. The focus will be on academics first with their role as an athlete second.

III. Administrative Report – Carolyn Long, President

- a. In reference to the report on athletics, it was noted that any games cancelled have not been related to WVU Tech, as no Tech athletes have tested positive for COVID-19.
- b. COVID-19 testing will continue, with voluntary testing available the week before Thanksgiving.
- c. COVID-19 testing will occur prior to the start of the spring semester and throughout the spring semester using the saliva test. Additional information will be sent about testing via email. All COVID-19 tests must be University tests, with the goal of having all testing and results before the start of classes.
- d. There have been no additional changes with the budget and no other changes are anticipated for the fall semester.
- e. West Virginia State University has announced layoffs.
- f. During the break, faculty will have access to campus but are asked to track time and contact with others.
- g. Masks and social distancing will continue in the spring.
- h. The status of summer camps should be known in the next two weeks.
- i. There will likely be a campus meeting the Monday before Thanksgiving

IV. Administrative Report – Joan Neff, Provost

- a. Searches for the deans of both colleges and the registrar are on-going, with information about campus visits being shared very soon for all three searches. The finalists will be brought to campus for a visit; however, the meetings and the number of people in attendance will be limited.
- b. The deadline for Digital Measures is December 31st, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. An email with the availability of Vanessa Williams for assisting with Digital Measures has been sent out.

V. Chair Report – Brian Dickman

- a. The membership to the YMCA is no longer being paid by WVU Tech.
- b. Electronic voting for Faculty Assembly elections is being investigated.

- c. Asad Davari has been appointed as the representative for WVU Tech on the Promotion and Tenure committee on the main campus.

- VI. ACF Report – Asad Davari
 - a. During the October 8th meeting, the impact of COVID-19 on the legislature and how they will meet was discussed.
 - b. Faculty and student mental health and stress was discussed in relation to COVID-19.
 - c. Textbook affordability was discussed.
 - d. WVU and Marshall University are committing to a consortium of universities across the country to be involved in the development of the hyperloop.

- VII. Committee Reports
 - a. WVU Shared Governance – Paul Rakes
 - i. The committee was formed as a result of appointments at WVU that were controversial. The committee has been focused on looking at models of shared governance at other institutions and has developed a model based on that of Penn State. Discussions about the model are ongoing, with the Provost’s Office being uncomfortable with the Penn State model after it was discussed in a meeting. The proposed model for WVU Tech includes an increased role for faculty in areas such as curriculum. The model will begin to be discussed in Faculty Senate next week.
 - b. WVU Faculty Senate – Asad Davari
 - i. The Chair of Faculty Senate emailed a report summarizing the meeting. Please review the report and let WVU Tech senators know of any issues.
 - ii. Surveillance testing continues at WVU Tech and Potomac State for COVID-19.

- VIII. Agenda
 - a. Academic Integrity
 - i. The Provost and Deans of both colleges were recognized.
 - ii. Dean Brown noted that in the past, grade issues have been recognized as being determined by faculty, which is why the Faculty Assembly has an Academic Appeals committee. Because grades are an academic issue, the final decision on issues related to grades should rest with the faculty.
 - iii. Provost Neff noted that the Academic Appeals committee needs to be involved in the Academic Integrity process. The current structure with one person being responsible for making a final decision is problematic, though administration can be involved as part of the discussion or as a non-voting member.
 - iv. Dean Steranka noted the Faculty Assembly Academic Appeals committee is the most appropriate group to consider issues related to grades.
 - v. Chairman Dickman reviewed the current process, noting that the dean of the college is identified as the person to make the final decision in course level appeals while the Provost or Provost’s designee is identified as the person to make the final decision in appeals related to academic integrity.

- vi. The need to address the issue with the main campus was discussed, with emphasis being placed on faculty being involved in making final decisions on appeals related to conduct and academics.
- vii. The need to continue reporting cases of academic integrity violations to the main campus was also discussed, which allows for tracking across multiple classes.
- viii. Any changes made to the process for appeals needs to take into account conflicts of interest.
- ix. Motion to develop a proposal to be sent to the main campus outlining the process for addressing academic integrity cases. Second. Motion passes.

IX. New Business

- a. N/A

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel L. Bragg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English