

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

208 Life Sciences/Zoom

October 14, 2021

Chair: John Hird

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

Chairman Hird called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

- I. The minutes of September 2, 2021 were approved.
- II. Announcements:
 - a. Faculty Achievements
 - i. Dr. Cortney Barko presented a paper entitled “Motherhood in Jesmyn Ward’s Fiction” at the Midwest Popular Culture Association conference held in October in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- III. Administrative Report – Carolyn Long, President
 - a. Current enrollment numbers for FTE’s are as follows: nursing is down by 29, engineering is down by 5, and BHSS is down by 13. For headcount, nursing is down by 27, engineering is down by 18, and BHSS is down by 1 for a total of 46. If this holds for the year, the total will be around \$400,000 in lost tuition and revenue.
 - b. Retention numbers also show a decrease, but other colleges and universities are experiencing the same issue; for WVU Tech, there was a bigger drop in retention with the transition from sophomores to juniors rather than freshman to sophomore, which is being studied to determine the cause.
 - c. WVU Tech finished the year with an operating budget that shows profit; trying to identify additional \$400,000 to address the tuition and revenue losses in order to avoid budget cuts.
 - d. Likely no change in mask policy until after Halloween; students are at over 57% vaccinated and faculty and staff are at over 85% vaccinated with 3 active positive cases on campus with 1 faculty and 1 student in quarantine. There is no evidence that any of the positive cases were the result of being in-seat for classes.
 - e. A proposal for a funding model for the state colleges and universities is being prepared for the legislature in collaboration with the presidents of the other institutions. The goal is for the model to be positive for WVU Tech as compared to the previously proposed models.
- IV. Administrative Report – Joan Neff, Provost
 - a. Spring and summer registration begin October 19th.
 - b. Validation meetings have been completed that allowed for real time changes to pattern sheets and degree requirements to address issues with financial aid.

- c. Various positions are being filled in Student Success and the Registrar's office; Barbara Boyd is retiring in December and her position will not be filled. Instead, the position will be an Assistant Registrar for Student and Operational Success since there is an Associate Registrar for Branch Campuses in Morgantown. WVU Tech will no longer have a registrar on our campus. Another position to be filled is the accessibility specialist.
 - d. The search process for the dean of engineering continues. Nine candidates were interviewed last week. Reference checks are being conducted for the top six candidates.
 - e. A meeting was held with the ad hoc Faculty Assembly committee on the policy for computer replacement. A policy is being developing in collaboration with Mike Webb.
 - f. A meeting with the library committee is needed to discuss previous concerns and issues.
 - g. A new boulder barn is being installed on campus behind the Adventure Recreation house.
 - h. Faculty members will be asked to serve on the search committees for various positions such as the new assistant registrar position.
- V. Chair Report – John Hird
- a. Barbara Boyd is working on streamlining and automating processes in preparation for her retirement and the new hire.
 - b. A list of all faculty assembly members was distributed prior to today's meeting and the updated list has also been posted online.
 - c. Write access for the Faculty Assembly n drive was requested by a committee but that access can't be given to all. If any committees or faculty have information to post to the n drive, please send it to the chair or the secretary to be posted.
 - d. Improvements have been made to the student health clinic and work is being done to hire additional faculty for the clinic. The clinic offers walk-in appointments for students, but COVID-19 testing is not currently being offered. Instead, the clinic directs students to testing locations. The clinic also includes a mental health staff member.
 - e. Vaccination rates are available on the COVID-19 dashboard that is available through WVU.
- VI. ACF Report – Asad Davari
- a. The 2021-2022 state legislative agenda for ACF was presented.
 - i. Motion to approve legislative agenda. Second. Motion passes.
 - b. A funding formula for colleges and universities is being developed; the previous model was not favorable to WVU Tech and WVU.
 - c. At the last meeting, Concord University gave a presentation, which included their foundation being 3rd in the state with \$21 million in research grants.
- VII. Committee Reports
- a. Faculty Senate – Asad Davari
 - i. Recommendations from Academic Transformations Committee, including program closures, will be presented to Board of Governors.

- ii. Faculty Senate meeting postponed in order to be combined with State of University address
- iii. Provost announced program review will occur.

b. Welfare Committee – Asad Davari

- i. A meeting was held after the University Faculty Assembly meeting to discuss the vaccine mandate with many faculty voicing frustration that the resolution was passed by faculty but not adopted by the Board of Governors.
- ii. Most recent meeting was focused on the lack of faculty support in areas such as grievances.

VII. Agenda

a. Second reading of revised Promotion and Tenure document

- i. Must be approved by a 2/3 majority
- ii. Discussion of wording issues related to Provost/WVU Tech provost and dean's review, which is required at Tech but is worded as optional in the document.
- iii. TAPS positions are also not addressed in the document
- iv. Discussion of approval process and timeline for evaluations for this calendar year
- v. Motion to approve the revised document and then revise as needed.
- vi. Motion tabled by chair until next meeting with the document to be sent back to Faculty Status Committee for revisions and edits.

b. Goldwater Scholarship, Campus Representative

- i. Loans, Grants, and Scholarships Committee will select a representative.

c. Athletics Event Committee

- i. A representative is needed from each college
- ii. Goal is to unify community with university athletic community

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel L. Bragg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English