

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

Zoom

March 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 of February 4, 2021 were approved.
- II. Announcements:
  - a. Faculty Achievements:
    - i. Tigra Yang presented "Simple Approach to Assess the Load vs. Settlement for Shallow Foundation" on February 21, 2021 for the GEOLIVE-2021 International Webinar on Geotechnical Engineering.
- III. Administrative Report – Carolyn Long, President
  - a. Commencement will be in person with social distancing and masks required; ceremony will be shorter; faculty are encouraged to sign up by March 15<sup>th</sup> to participate.
  - b. Many volunteered to participate in the strategic planning process; the goal was to balance representation on committees; planning will occur over time so those that are not on committees will have a chance to participate next year.
  - c. Rich Carpinelli's role with strategic planning was clarified in terms of helping to organize the meetings and assisting with writing the final report and reviewing the data, but he will not be providing input overall.
  - d. Enrollment is still down for the fall but the numbers are showing improvement.
  - e. One issue impacting fall enrollment is students not being able to take the ACT; Governor Justice has authorized colleges to use the ACT residual test, with WVU Tech being a testing location; Admissions will be on site to talk with prospective students; also working with counties for school visits now that classes have resumed in person.
  - f. WVU Tech Day of Giving was a success, with \$21,000 raised and an additional check presentation in the amount of \$20,000 for the President's house.
  - g. Amy Alton is the new Chief Financial Officer.
  - h. The legislative session is ongoing, with Campus Carry not being a major point of discussion; most of the focus has been on public education; governor has introduced a bill to lower personal income tax by 50%; bills related to higher education have not impacted WVU Tech to date.
- IV. Administrative Report – Joan Neff, Provost
  - a. A finalist for the Dean of Engineering will be on campus next week; the candidate is a finalist but has not been offered the position; another candidate met with the search

committee via Zoom and the committee will be meeting to consider if the candidate is a potential finalist for the position.

- b. Paul Rakes is chairing the search committee for the BHSS Dean position; the job description has been revised and applications are being received.
  - c. The Vita Novice survey will be completed by first year students again in the fall to help them identify majors and career interests in conjunction with Student Life.
  - d. Registration for fall begins in a few weeks.
  - e. SOCA courses have been reclassified as either SOCA, ANTHRO, or CRJS to make the differences in the courses more clear; this was a decision made on the main campus.
  - f. The main campus will be using waiting lists for courses in the fall and Tech may want to consider this in the future.
  - g. Recruiting will continue to be important, especially given the declines in the 18-22 year old population, so faculty participation in the admissions process is appreciated; one strategic planning task force committee will be looking at enrollment and retention.
  - h. According to financial aid guidelines, students must have 12 credit hours per semester directly related to their major if they receive financial aid; will be holding sessions for faculty about this rule; registration will also have a built in warning system to help ensure students register for classes related to their major.
- V. Chair Report – Brian Dickman
- a. Faculty Assembly elections will be held in April; nominating and election committees will be appointed; elections will include the Chair-Elect position, along with a faculty at large position, and representatives from the College of Business, Humanities, and Social Sciences.
  - b. Barb Boyd encourages submitting grad checks and applications as soon as possible to prevent delays.
  - c. Faculty Senate meets on Monday at 3:15 p.m.
- VI. ACF Report – Asad Davari
- a. FAFSA and Promise Scholarship applications are down.
  - b. The state personal income tax bill is a major concern during the legislative session in terms of where the money to replace the lost revenue will come from; there are concerns the bill will result in additional cuts to higher education.
  - c. HEPC has been asked to provide a report on globalization, retention, and recruiting.
  - d. The current legislative session has focused more on public education rather than higher education.
- VII. Committee Reports
- a. WVU Faculty Senate – Asad Davari
    - i. President Gee offered suggestions for planning for the future of WVU after COVID-19, to include focusing on efficiency and agility in the governance structure; revising the financial model to support essentials, and articulating the value of the university to the public.

- ii. Provost Reed discussed academic transformation efforts, including the formation of an advisory committee and three additional strategic planning committees.
    - iii. The Dean of Libraries discussed WVU's various licensing agreements.
    - iv. The work of the Shared Governance Committee continues.
  - b. Faculty Status – Andrew Wheeler
    - i. Suggested edits and revisions to the WVU Tech Promotion and Tenure document submitted by WVU have been reviewed, with some being adopted and others not applicable at this time; the revised document will be submitted to Faculty Assembly for approval at the next meeting.
- VIII. Agenda
  - a. Second Reading of Amendments to the Faculty Assembly Constitution to Allow for Electronic Voting
    - i. Motion to approve the amendment. Second. Motion passes.
  - b. Second Reading of Amendment to the Faculty Assembly Constitution Concerning Changes in the Conduct-Level Academic Integrity Appeal Process
    - i. Motion to approve the amendment. Second. Motion passes.
- IX. New Business
  - a. Academic Transformations Advisory Committee Request – Rachel Bragg
    - i. The committee has been formed as part of the WVU strategic planning process identified by President Gee.
    - ii. The goal of the committee is to review various types of data and then offer recommendations to the Provost to present to the Board of Governors.
    - iii. The committee has asked that department chairs and faculty review the established gold standard measures for programs to identify the measures that best capture the success of programs and departments.
    - iv. Please submit the information by March 12 so that Tech's preferences are included.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel L. Bragg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English