

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting
Orndorff Hall
February 6, 2014

Chairman: Asad Davari
Secretary: Barbara Douglas

Chairman Davari called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

I. The minutes of the December 5, 2013 Faculty Assembly meeting were approved.

II. Announcements/Achievements

- Dr. Horng-Jyh(Tigra) Yang and Dr. Brian Dickman
 - Recognized by the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) on January 30, 2014 for being awarded a scientific research grant. Dr. Yang and Dr. Dickman are to receive the FY 2014 Instrumentation Award of \$20,000 for a research project titled “Introduce the Refraction Microtremor (ReMi) Shear Wave Technique to Civil and Electrical Engineering Students at WVU Tech” (HEPC.dsr.14.12)
- Dr. Farshid Zabihian
 - Five posters were submitted by WVU Tech students to Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol-2014. These posters were accepted and they presented their work on January 30, 2014.
 - Dr. Zabihian’s paper entitled “Performance analysis of hybrid solid oxide fuel cell and gas turbine cycle: Application of alternative fuels” was recently published in Energy Conversion and Management journal published by ELSEVIER.
- Dr. Houbing Song
 - During academic year 2013-2014 has received three invitations to participate in NSF workshops to identify challenges and opportunities in electrical and computer engineering research fields within the next 5-20 years.
 - On December 11, 2013, Dr. Song chaired one session within smart grid track in IEE GLOBECOME, one of two flagship conferences of the IEE Communications Society, together with IEE ICC. IEE GLOBECOME 2013 was held on December 9-13, 2013, in Atlanta, Georgia
- Dr. Cortney Barko
 - Dr. Barko’s book with Peter Lang International Academic Publishers: Writers and Artists in Dialogue: Historical Fiction about Women Painters will be forthcoming in 2014.

III. Administrative Report – Ms. Carolyn Long

- The Legislature is in session. Ms. Long has been working with the Senate/House Education Committees in regard to dollars for WVU Tech.
- There is an expected budget cut of 7.5% except for Higher Education which will see a 3.75% cut. The Governor has asked that there be no cuts for Higher Education.
- Ms. Long extended a thanks to the Faculty for their efforts with retention and recruitment. At this time it looks like the retention rate is up from Fall to Spring.
- At this point we are ahead of where we were last year. There are about 1000 applications for admission
 - Question – Are instate applications down from last year? And should we be concerned?

- Answer – It is down almost 20%. This downward trend is happening in many state institutions. The reasons could be less students, a push to go to 2 year colleges and a decrease in number of students enrolling.
- This summer the elevators in Engineering will be replaced
- Ms. Long thanked those faculty who had students participate in Research Day. Tech's students posters were very impressive
- Higher Education Day is February 21st; Womens' Day at the Legislature is February 11, 2014.
- In regard to the budget we are getting close to a balanced budget. This refers to "cash only" and does not refer to (in-kind) dollars from WVU
- The Progress of Tech report is due to LOCEA by April 30, 2014. Ms. Long will be working on this report with representatives from Morgantown. One area to note is the graduation rate has seen a decline over the past 5 years.
- Ms. Long will review the policy related to five year evaluation of administrators and identify those that are due for an evaluation by faculty, staff and students. She indicates that the Dean of Students and Dean of BHSS are due.

IV. Chair Report – Dr. Asad Davari

- The Chief of Academic Affairs position is open.
- We use policies from the current WVU Faculty Handbook that is our Faculty Handbook. Policies from the outdated WV Tech Faculty Handbook should not be enforced.
- Final Exams
 - If a student requests to take a final exam early, they should be referred to the faculty involved.
 - Faculty are encouraged to include the final exam date in the course syllabus
- There will be an open forum for the Promotion and Tenure Policy on 3/4/14. Please plan to attend

V. Committee Reports

- Athletic Committee – Dr. Deborah Beutler
 - A quorum was not present at the last meeting.
 - There has been discussion among baseball coaches to attend the NAIAAI tournament instead of the USCAA. The NAI tournament occurs during finals week. Please send comments in regard to this to Dr. Beutler.
 - Discussion
 - In the past, it was decided not to have games during finals week.
 - How will we be viewed by switching tournaments? Should we choose a tournament and stick with it?
 - The Spring soccer schedule has been published. This schedule did not go through the Athletics Committee
 - Soccer institutional excuses – Discussion - Since soccer is a club sport, it has been a policy in the past that institutional excuses are not available for these students.
- International Students – Ms. Martha Maus
 - Please send any information that relates to addressing international components in syllabi or class to Ms. Maus.

VI. Senate Report – Dr. Sandra Elmore

- The WVU Senate meets on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 3:15 PM

VII. Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) – Dr. Sandra Elmore

- Updates of Senate and House Bills have been emailed to you. Please note the following of interest
 - SB 409 – Requirements for transfer of credits between colleges and universities
 - As written any two year transfer to a four year will maintain all of those credits (and not just as electives) in the new major at the four year institution
 - Students will not be required to retake any class
 - There will be a loss of 5% of state appropriations if any college/university does not participate in the full transfer.
 - HB 4144 - \$5000.00 pay raises for state employees over the next five years
 - HB 330 – there has been no information concerning the clarification of this bill yet
 - HB4200 – Concealed weapon permit. Must have a metal detector at every door.
- The HEPC office tracks legislative bills, particularly those affecting education. The following bills have something to do with education:
 - HB2377 – Incremental pay raise bill
 - HB2090 – Bill affecting Promise
 - HB2741 – Bill involving academic freedom
- February 21, 2014 is Higher Education Day at the Legislature
- Outcomes Based Funding – Spring of 2012 a committee was established to develop resolutions for graduation rates and students success. This committee will report back to LOCEA January 2015.

IX. Agenda

- For Acceptance – Academic Award Package – Dr. Robert Mitrik
 - Seeking to increase participation for academic award and first year student awards
 - This was presented to Faculty Assembly Council and is now brought to the faculty for acceptance
 - The completed forms have been sent to faculty by way of email
 - Discussion-
 - It is important for faculty to be involved in student nominations
 - Motion brought forth from the Academic Awards Committee. Motion carried.
- New Business
 - Request for data report in regard to intramural participation be presented at the April Faculty Assembly
 - Introduction of Jen Wood-Cunningham – Interim Communications Director and Marketing
 - Faculty website – Faculty are able to develop individual websites
 - Harassment Workshop – Ms. Long will have Kevin Lawhon send another email in regard to the Harassment workshop.

X. Adjournment

- There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Douglas RN MSN