

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

208 Life Sciences

September 7, 2023

Chair: Cynthia Hall

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

Chairwoman Hall called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

- I. The minutes from May 4, 2023 were approved.
- II. Faculty Announcements and Achievements
 - a. Doug Terry announced that dates are available for the Brown Bag Lecture Series, which provides a good opportunity to receive feedback on scholarly projects; faculty can email Dr. Terry or sign up via the website link provided in the email announcement
- III. Administrative Report – President T. Ramon Stuart
 - a. A new initiative will soon be launched call Check in with Chairs or Dining with Deans which provides an opportunity for chairs and deans to check in with students; the initiative will be funded from the Sodexo account
 - b. Faculty are encouraged to attend professional development trainings
 - c. The first round of program reviews related to academic transformation and the budget deficit were completed in July with the intention to announce plans in August; confidence remains that the impact to personnel will be minimized
 - d. The goal is to avoid using the RPK process at WVU Tech since we are very different from the main campus but another clearly defined process does not currently exist; have asked the main campus to allow Tech to define its own process so that it reflects our identity
 - e. Based on feedback received from the Chairwoman Hall regarding faculty concerns about the program review timeline, the timeline and concerns were discussed with the main campus
 - f. As a result of the discussions about the program review timeline with the main campus, any Tech faculty member impacted by academic transformation and subsequent RIFs will be on contract through May 2025
 - g. \$2.3 million of the \$3.5 million budget deficit is the debt service for the purchase of the Beckley campus
 - h. Decisions regarding academic programs have not been made; program review process that is part of academic transformation must be completed first
 - i. A plan has been developed for administrative restructuring; will likely be announced soon and before the academic program reviews begin
 - j. A process for review of academic units, including an appeals process, has not been confirmed

- k. Continuing to work with legislature and various delegates for funding; however, the budget deficit is a structural issue that they cannot address
- l. Focus with the legislature is convincing them of the importance of funding higher education and that continued cuts will be detrimental to various communities and the economy
- m. Working on plans to improve international student and out of state student recruiting; one goal is to implement more regional reciprocity agreements to attract out of state students through more affordable tuition
- n. Collaboration with Potomac State College will save some jobs, but this will not impact academic positions
- o. Need the help of faculty in terms of offering more online classes and more evening classes in order to enroll more adult students

IV. Chair Report – Cynthia Hall

- a. Congratulations to all who received promotion and tenure and to Josh Roe on the successful defense of his dissertation
- b. Faculty attendance at professional development trainings is appreciated
- c. Be diligent with COVID as positive test rates increase
- d. Work with any students who are dropped for non-payment and are then re-registered
- e. Early alert is now open
- f. Process for students to submit graduation applications has changed; application is now in the portal
- g. Writing Center needs peer tutors; please share with students that the positions can be work-study, community service hours, or variable credit for English 490 Teaching Practicum
- h. The University Assembly was held yesterday; the resolutions of no confidence in President Gee and to freeze academic transformation both passed
- i. Parking citations are now being issued; please announce to students
- j. The fire department will be conducting Narcan training on campus
- k. Faculty Assembly committees are reminded to please meet and establish policies for operating; committees also need to meet, submit minutes, and report out to Faculty Assembly

V. ACF Report – Andi Kent

- a. Only one meeting has been held for this year with the purpose of electing a chair

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Senate Report – Andi Kent
 - i. Focus of the senate meetings has been academic transformation
 - ii. Please let Tech faculty senators know of any issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate
 - iii. Faculty Senate needs volunteers to serve on various senate committees; do not have to be a senator to serve on a committee
- b. Research Committee – Charan Litchfield
 - i. All proposals for HEPC research grants are due to the committee by September 15th

VII. Agenda

- a. Faculty Assembly Committee Election for Athletics Committee, Legislative Committee, and Student Grievance Committee
 - i. Mindy Harris was nominated to serve on Athletics Committee
 - ii. Kase Poling was nominated to serve on Legislative Committee
 - iii. Chris McClain was nominated to serve on Student Grievance Committee
 - iv. Motion to vote on nominations by acclamation; second. Motion passes.

- b. Ad Hoc Committee to review Faculty Assembly Constitution Committees
 - i. Ad hoc committee is needed to review committees identified in Faculty Assembly Constitution as the duties and responsibilities of some committees have changed over time
 - ii. Please contact Cynthia Hall or Andi Kent before October meeting if interested in serving on this committee

VIII. New Business: n/a

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel L. Bragg

Associate Professor, English