

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting

208 Life Sciences

December 7, 2023

Chair: Cynthia Hall

Secretary: Rachel L. Bragg

Chairwoman Hall called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

I. The minutes from the November 2, 2023 meeting were approved.

II. Faculty Announcements and Achievements

- a. Dr. Kase Poling defended his doctoral thesis titled "Relationship Building and Pre-Disaster Planning: Effective Strategies for Rural Resilience Following the 2016 West Virginia Floods" at Virginia Tech.
- b. Dr. Shafique Khan had a publication accepted for ASEE Conference 2024.
- c. Dr. Somenath Chakraborty gave the keynote address titled "Exploring the Evolution of Artificial Intelligence" at the 2nd International Conference on Innovations in Data Analytics (ICIDA23).
- d. Dr. Alecia Barbour published her article "Global Music History as Teaching Framework: Perspectives of a Generalist" in the *Journal of Music History Pedagogy*, 13(1) in November.

III. Administrative Report – President T. Ramon Stuart

- a. Kenan Hatipoglu has received a grant in the amount of \$1.5 million.
- b. The focus needs to remain on registering students for the spring semester; nursing has 100% of students registered for spring.
- c. Retention has improved but enrollments are down; need to work on attracting more out of state students.
- d. A campus meeting will be held on January 4th; chair candidates will present their vision for their schools.
- e. The program review process will begin in January and will be focused on student success and minimizing impact on academic areas; Lou Slimak and Robynn Shannon will be on campus to discuss the program review process on January 19th.
- f. The membership for each of the program review committees was reviewed.
- g. 150 tickets to the Festival of Lights at Glade Springs will be made available to students, faculty and staff, with up to four tickets being provided per family.
- h. The budget for 2025 will need to continue to be developed.
- i. The new budget model will be discussed in more detail at the January 4th campus meeting.
- j. The new funding formula for the state will also be going into effect.
- k. HEPC will be holding an online forum related to Campus Carry on December 20th.

IV. Chair Report – Cynthia Hall

- a. The December Graduates Reception will be tomorrow, December 8th, from 1-2:30 p.m. in Carter Hall auditorium.
- b. Final grades are due December 18th by noon.
- c. Digital Measures files must be submitted by December 31st at 11:59 p.m. EST; those applying for promotion and tenure must submit the annual evaluation report along with the comprehensive report.
- d. A campus meeting will be held January 4th.

V. ACF Report – Andi Kent

- a. Fall Retreat was held on November 3rd and 4th and included a variety of guest speakers.
- b. HEPC has concerns related to the implementation of Campus Carry; do expect legislative actions related to Campus Carry, such as funding for the lockers.
- c. Public education and higher education are both political targets so there will be issues raised related to both, such as bills related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in terms of offices rather than curriculum, particularly higher education curriculum.
- d. Bills are often introduced related to the elimination of tenure but do not gain traction.
- e. PEIA is asking for another increase in premiums.
- f. Funding for higher education is expected to be flat for this year; there is a surplus budget but requests have to be for specific projects.
- g. HEPC is looking at how to encourage enrollment, particularly for those with some college but no degree; one option is microcredentials that can be stacked to lead to a degree.
- h. More competition for early enrollment.
- i. Open Education Resources grants will continue to be available; goal is to have students complete their degree without having to purchase a textbook.
- j. Also working to develop an OER repository.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Senate Report – Brian Dickman
 - i. The senate met on November 6th and December 4th.
 - ii. Senate Chair Frankie Tack reported an increase of 10.5% for PEIA and no benefits changes in fiscal year 2025.
 - iii. Potomac State Faculty Assembly approved a resolution of no confidence in the Chief of Staff due to communication and supervisory failures on campus.
 - iv. Provost Reed reported that four subcommittees have been formed to address implementation of Campus Carry by July 1st.
 - v. Program Review for regional campuses will occur in January.
 - vi. Final reviews for Academic Support Units on the main campus have been completed with the report being available on the provost's website; the library and TLC are the areas most impacted.
 - vii. The Provost's office is investigating ways to offer online courses to the other Big 12 institutions.
 - viii. GEF courses will continue to be reviewed.

- ix. There was a presentation on the new budget model for fiscal year 2025; the new model will be based on revenues and expense metrics.
 - x. With the new state funding formula going into effect, appropriations will be flat for fiscal year 2025.
- b. Committee on Committees – Cortney Barko
- i. All committees identified in the Faculty Assembly Constitution are being reviewed for membership in light of new school structure and to make sure duties are accurate.
 - ii. Review should be complete and the proposed revisions should be ready for a first reading in February.

VII. Agenda

- a. Approval of December Graduates
 - i. Review of list of graduates for December graduation
 - ii. Motion to approve; second. December graduates approved.

VIII. New Business

- a. Brian Dickman reported students have raised issues about the noise level in the library and being unable to study.
- b. Cynthia Hall will ask Library Committee to address this issue.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel L. Bragg

Associate Professor, English