

Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting  
Orndorff Hall  
March 6, 2014

Chairman: Asad Davari  
Secretary: Barbara Douglas

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

Prior to the meeting a moment of silence was observed for a colleague Dr. Phillip Raney Professor of Mechanical Engineering from 1991-1998.

I. The minutes of the February 6, 2014 Faculty Assembly meeting were approved.

II. Announcements/Achievements

- At the last meeting of the Board of Governors, an agreement was made to change to the Department of Sports Studies as of July 1, 2014. A special thanks to Dr. Brown, Mr. Thomas and CEO Long.
- Dr. J.T. Hird
  - “Nilpotent Lie and Leibniz Algebras” was accepted and published in the peer reviewed journal Communications in Algebra on March 1, 2014.
- Dr. Richard Squire and Dr. Houbing Song
  - Presented at the University of Florida’s Sanibel Symposium
  - Dr. Squire and Dr. Song – Article accepted for publication in Process Safety Management - “Cyber-Physical Systems Opportunities in the Chemical Industry: A Security and Emergency Management Example”
  - Dr. Squire – “Are there really Cooper pairs and persistent currents in aromatic molecules?” published online February 4, 2014 in the International Journal of Quantum Chemistry
- Dr. Farshid Zabihian
  - Paper entitled “Thermodynamic Sensitivity Analysis of Hybrid System Based on Solid Oxide Fuel Cell” was accepted and is available online in Sustainable Energy Technologies and Assessments Journal, Volume 6. This paper will be published on hard copy in June 2014.
  - Two conference papers have been accepted for presentation and publication in proceeding of American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) conference in April 2014 in Bridgeport, CT
  - Alternative approach to teach gas turbine based power cycles Educating Undergraduate Mechanical Engineering Students about Exergy Analysis
- Dr. Mark Wilson
  - Presenting a paper entitled “Modern Bank Failures” at the Virginia Association of Economists Annual meeting in March held in Roanoke.
- Dr. Cynthia Hall
  - Last year (Spring 2013) the Psychological Assessment class (a junior/senior level statistics course) was required to conduct original psychometrics research studies. Ten total studies were conducted and 4 of the 10 yielded statistically significant results demonstrating substantial contributions to psychological research and measurement. These 4 projects were accepted as poster presentations for the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Southeastern Psychological Association conference. The accepted projects are as follows (by order of author with student class status):
    - Ashley Quinn (alumni), Mollie Fink (senior) and Cynthia Hall: “Validation of a Broad Religiosity Questionnaire”

- Emily Fontalbert (senior) and Cynthia Hall: “Factors Associated with Attitudes Toward the Death Penalty and Justice System.”
- Shannon Sears (junior) and Heather Hubbard (alumni) and Cynthia Hall: “Validation of the Facebook Usage Questionnaire”
- Dr. Paul Rakes
  - In January had accepted for journal publication: “Don’t Cuss Me:’ Hip-Pocket Ethics on Fayette County, West Virginia’s Coal Mining Frontier,” 1890-1910.
  - Dr. Rakes has been working with New York based writer Joshua Dean, advising his preparation of a magazine article on the historical impact of the coal industry in WV. Dr. Rakes arranged interviews with coal executive, current miners, and retired miners. Mr. Dean will be coming to Tech on April 7 and/or 8.

### III. Administrative Report – Ms. Carolyn Long

- Final Legislative session is Saturday night, the outcome of the supplemental appropriation is unknown at this time.
- The Bill to change the name to Campus President has passed the house and went back to the Senate this morning.
- HLC will be on campus in April and a schedule will be forthcoming.
- T-shirt promotion – all faculty are encouraged to pick up a T-shirt and wear on designated Wednesdays to promote registration. Students that present proof of registration for Fall 2014 will also receive a T-shirt.
- We are very close to a balanced budget. The next installment is a little less, but that is still better than it was.
- Out of state applications are up approximately 200 and in state down around 100.
- With retention we should meet an increase of 100 students for next fall.
- Friday, there was an emergency meeting in Morgantown related to President Gee becoming the next WVU President. The search committee was given the opportunity to review applications. The search committee made the recommendation to keep Dr. Gee. A vote was taken and sent to the Board of Governors.
  - Question – “How does Gee see the future of Tech?”
  - Answer – “He believes that Tech can grow. Everyone should be one and will be supportive of Tech and have a good working relationship”

### IV. Chair Report – Dr. Asad Davari

- It is a choice and right as faculty and member of the Assembly to attend Faculty Assembly meetings. None should tell us any different. I am aware of another meeting with Dean of Enrollment candidates is scheduled the same time for department chairs which normally should not. Faculty Assembly meeting schedule is well known. It is highly unusual if another meeting scheduled the same time. As member of the Assembly, Department Chairs have a choice and could object to such a meeting. A Department Chair could not attend the meeting and asked one of his faculty to attend that meeting instead of the Faculty Assembly meeting. I will request that CEO Long bring this to the attention of all involved in this matter and to be more sensitive in scheduling a meeting and not to conflict with the Faculty Assembly meeting.
- At the February 17, 2014 Cabinet meeting Dr. Davari expressed the importance of collaboration between Tech and Campus faculty and the main campus. This will bring resources that we do not have, help in recruitment of good faculty and retention of them. These types of one-on-one connections should be facilitated by deans, chairs and then faculty.
- The search committed for the Chief Academic Officer is in the process of reviewing applications for this position.
- There has been discussion in regard to non-faculty such as Dean of Students be on stage in regalia and other staff members to have the option to wear regalia during the Commencement.

This was brought to the Faculty Assembly Council. Because commence is a faculty related event, and faculty approve the graduation and diploma, it was decided not to accept this practice.

- It is time for election. It is highly important for all of us to participate in faculty affairs. I hope to see many volunteers for serving in different capacities. Also please be receptive when you are asked to serve. Remember service to the institution is part of our expectation. I have appointed a Nominating Committee and Election Committee and I am thankful for them accepting to serve on the committees:
  - Nominating Committee – Patricia Kihn, Brian Dickman, Melissa Sartore, Carl Wellstead
  - Election Committee – Mark Wilson, Cortney Barko, Scott Hurst, Matthew Williamson

#### V. Committee Reports

- Status Committee – Dr. Paul Rakes
  - The Promotion and Tenure document has been reviewed and cosmetic changes made. At this point the Status Committee does not see any issues and will review again.
- Academic Awards – Dr. Robert Mitrik
  - Please submit nomination of students for Academic Awards as soon as possible so students can be approved.

#### VI. Senate Report – Dr. Sandra Elmore

- The WVU Senate Executive Committee met Monday, February 24, 2014. The next Senate Executive Committee meeting is March 24, 2014.
- The next WVU Senate meeting will be April 14, 2014.
- The Senate Executive Committee was involved in the decision to offer President Gee a permanent Presidential position. As well, faculty in the WVU system had input on whether or not they would consider Gee as a permanent president.
- WVU Faculty leaders will visit Tech on March 31, 2014.

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

- Tuesday – SB 409 passed the House Education and went to the house floor. Transfer of credits between institutions or there will be a 5% penalty on appropriation funding. Currently it still has language accepting alternative certification. ACF wanted that removed and incentives for teachers added
- SB 426 – HEPC, CTC and BOG members can only serve 30 days after their term is over unless reappointed. Passed Senate and is in House Education
- SB 483 – Renaming administrative heads at Potomac State College and WVU Tech – Passed and on House floor.

#### IX. Strategic Planning – Dr. Lisa Ferrara

- The Strategic Plan has been online since last October with comment period. There were 6 responses to the website. Comment were:
  - More degree programs
  - More team sports
  - Better relationship with city of Montgomery
  - Student life improvement
  - Too much emphasis on STEM
  - Improve highway – Route 61
- Comments from faculty assembly:
  - Increasing globalization is a part of the plan. Teaching, they all teach but how are we different?
  - Is there any contradiction of Promotion and Tenure document?
  - Faculty will be asked to help with implementation of the Strategic Plan

IX. Agenda

- There was no new business for this meeting.

X. Adjournment

- There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Douglas RN MSN