

Faculty Senate Meeting**Jan 20, 2009**

Senators Present: Mike Blackwell, Chuck Ramer, Gail Smith, Leigh Bovaird, Richard Brown, Brian Fencil, Matt Harder, Robert Gall, Leonard Rinchiuso, Susan Herrick, Erik Root, Teresa Faykus, Hollie Buchanan, Bob Fless, James Vopal

Senators Absent: Jane Wallace*, Gibbs Davidson, Linda Cowan, Tammy McClain, Rose Briggs

*Note: Annette Godown was present in Jane Wallace's stead.

Guests Present: Donna Lukich, John McCullough, Mike Turrentine

Guests Absent: Robin Capehart

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Gall at 3:05pm in room L16 of the Elbin Library on the campus of West Liberty State College.

Gail Smith moved to approve the minutes from November 18th 2008. Bob Fliess seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

John McCullough's report:

He reported that the Institutional Compact and the Institutional Master Plan are on the agenda for the next meeting of the HEPC.

A progress report is being prepared and will be sent to HLC regarding our recent reaccreditation. Said document is the "1-year follow-up".

"University Week" is scheduled for April 27th – May 3rd 2009. Ron Witt is planning many events and activities for this week.

Dr. Lukich's report:

The following faculty positions are open: Chemistry, Dental Hygiene, Biology, Foreign Language, Business Management, Nursing, Theater, Graphic Design, and Computer Information Systems.

Screening committees are meeting for the Dean positions in Education and Business. Dr. Lukich was asked if there would be a search for the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts. She stated that no decision has been made to that effect. Dr. Herrick asked if the position announcement for the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts will require the applicant to have a background in "Media Arts". Dr. Lukich stated that no decisions have been made regarding a potential search.

The Division of Music received approval from HEPC to plan a Bachelor of Music degree. The Division is currently formulating the full curriculum for the proposed degree. The Division of Music also received notice that The National Association of Schools of Music has deferred accreditation renewal of the music program at West Liberty pending further documentation. The music faculty is preparing a response and anticipates a positive outcome.

The Education department is preparing for NCATE.

The 1st Masters cohort currently has 24 students.

Dr. Lukich said that there is "still a significant amount of money" in the Faculty Development fund. She encouraged the Senate to participate and to encourage other full-time faculty to participate. Adjunct faculty are not eligible to request Faculty Development funds.

Dr. Lukich is developing a Post-Tenure Review Policy. Professor Fliess commented that it would "be nice" to have some input from tenured faculty at this early stage of drafting the policy.

Dr. Lukich said that there are currently ca. 2300 students enrolled for the Spring semester. This is the highest Spring enrollment in about 5 years. This number includes the 14 students in the "Try College" program.

There is a brand new Drivers Education program. The College will save 5% on insurance premiums if all faculty and staff who drive College vehicles complete the online process. More information is forthcoming from Pat Henry.

The Highlands project has been delayed again. The College is optimistic that classes will begin at the Highlands on August 1st 2009. Mr. Fliess asked how teaching load will be determined for those that teach classes at the Highlands. Dr. Lukich said that it varies.

Mike Turrentine said that the next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for February 11th at 5pm in the Boyle Conference Room. The agenda will likely include a legislative update and the 2010 budget.

Susan Herrick gave her ACF report:

Regarding recent PEIA rate hikes, Dr. Herrick suggested that we contact our Northern Panhandle delegates in the legislature to express our discontent.

She pointed out that the ACF recognizes the need to seek higher pay for adjunct professors in WV.

Mohammed Youssef and Mike Blavkwell are on the International Studies Committee. As a side note, Mike Blackwell will be traveling to Mexico for a study abroad program.

Committee Reports:

Academic Policies and Procedures – Chuck Ramer – no report

Finance – Bob Fliess – the committee is meeting to discuss Faculty Pay with regards to seniority and gender bias.

Personnel – Brian Fencl – no report

Social – Rose Briggs – no report

Student Advising – Linda Cowan – absent

Announcements:

The comment period for two policy proposals on the Board of Governors' agenda will end on January 26th 2009. The policies in question are "Campus Bookstore" and "Student Privileges and Responsibilities". Please visit the BOG webpage (www.westliberty.edu/facultyandstaff/bog) for more information and to review these policies for possible comment. If you have a comment, please inform Chairperson Gall and he will present it to the Board of Governors on behalf of the Faculty Senate. Again, the comment period ends on January 26th 2009.

Action Items:

Faculty Emeritus Status – Bob Fliess moved to recommend all the people on the list for Faculty Emeritus status. Those people are:
2007-08 – Charles Cornell, Mary Ann Ehle, David Javersak, David Linden, Richard Lizza, Linda McGinley

2006-07 – Charles Baker, Sarah T. Coyne, Arden J. Welsh

2005-06 – James R. Forrester, Jr., Willis M. Gordon, Jr., William W. Hanna, Nels Leonard, Jr.
Erik Root seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote. The motion carried.

The Seal – Bob Fliess moved to recommend that a NEW version of the OLD seal be adopted as the official seal of West Liberty University. This would replace the current “Bell Tower” seal. The motion was seconded by Erik Root. The Motion carried.

Policy 210 – Faculty Load - Bob Fliess moved to accept a revision of Policy 210 that had been presented by Chairperson Gall. The revision would change the official full-time teaching load from “12-15 hours” to simply “12”. Discussion ensued. Questions and comments: Do other schools have ranges? What about 4-credit courses? Should loads be calculated yearly instead of by semester? More information is needed. Just because we’re a University, let’s not pile more work on the faculty without some sort of compensation. Dr. Lukich suggested that the motion be tabled. Hollie Buchanan moved to table the motion pending further investigation into ramifications. Dr. Brown seconded the motion to table. The motion to Table carried.

Faculty Forum:

Hollie Buchanan suggested further action toward bringing an official recycling program to campus. Gail Smith mentioned that the Honor’s Program DOES run a recycling program on campus. Many ideas were brought forth. Senators were asked to encourage their constituents to make recycling a reality on campus.

Bob Fliess brought up a recent incident in which the registrar did not allow a faculty member to drop a student who did not show up on the first day of class. Policy states that faculty members are allowed and empowered to do so. Dr. Lukich said she will look into the matter with Scott Cook and the Registrar.

Bob Fliess moved to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Future Meetings of the Faculty Senate are scheduled for February 17, March 17 and April 21 2009.

Minutes deferentially submitted by Dr. Matthew D. Harder, recording secretary