

Senators present: Jane Wallace, Mike Blackwell, Chuck Ramer, Gail Smith, Richard Brown, Linda Cowan, Brian Fencil, Matthew Harder, Robert Gall, Leonard Rinchiuso, Susan Herrick, Tammy McClain, Erik Root, Rose Briggs, Teresa Faykus, Hollie Buchanan, Bob Fliess, James Vopal

The Meeting was called to order at 3:02pm by Dr. Richard Brown, Chair of Faculty Senate.

Dr. Brown moved to approve the minutes from 4-29-08 and 4-15-08. Motion was seconded. An amendment to table the approval of the minutes from 4-15-08 was made because said minutes had not been distributed. Motion carried.

Dr. Brown formally resigned as Chair of the Faculty Senate citing his duties as Interim Chair of the Department of Arts and Communications.

Election of a new Chair ensued. Dr. Susan Herrick and Dr. Robert Gall were nominated. A secret ballot was distributed, collected, and counted. Dr. Gall was elected Chair of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Herrick remains Vice-Chair.

Election for Dr. Gall's previous position, Recording Secretary, commenced. Dr. Matthew Harder was nominated. No other Senators were nominated. Dr. Harder is the new Recording Secretary.

Election for Chair of Student Advising committee commenced. Some discussion ensued about what the Student Advising committee does. Dr. Cowan provided some explanation. Dr. Cowan was the sole nominee and she accepted the title.

Election for Academic Policies and Procedures committee ensued. Chuck Ramer was the sole nominee and he accepted the position.

Bob Fliess requested that other committee chairs, etc. be recognized for informative purposes. The Vice Chair is Susan Herrick. The Corresponding Secretary is Gail Smith. The Chair of the Personnel Policies committee is Brian Fencil. The Chair of the Finance Committee is Bob Fliess. The Social Secretary is Rose Briggs. Bob Fliess accepted the position of Parliamentarian.

President Capehart gave his report to the Senate.

- He expressed his desire and intention to meet with smaller groups of faculty, students, and staff in order to further communications between these bodies and the administration.
- The school's finances are in "good shape". WLSC has about \$6 million of "reserves" on hand. The President said that the #1 Priority of the state of the College's budget is to avoid layoffs. The "reserve" money is meant to alleviate any possible layoffs in the short term.
- We have the largest freshman class in about 19 years – a 10% increase over last year.
- Metro-rate enrollment is up 38%
- 6-7% increase in on-campus housing – about 1200 students living on campus
- 21% increase in Elbin scholars.
- 14% increase in corporate giving.
- Last year's budget produced roughly \$500,000 in surplus, which was added to the "reserves"
- Half a million dollars has been set aside for "campus emergencies".
- Revenue increased 8.2%
- Utilities are forecast to increase 10%, Gasoline up 22%, Postage up 32%
- New custodial contract gives us a savings of 42% from previous contract
- The Highlands – could provide classes for 3000-4000 students potentially
- Student Affairs budget was increased from \$30,000 to \$125,000
- Washington Internship support was increased from \$2000 to \$28,000
- Staff Development funding was increased from \$3000 to \$20,000
- Faculty Development funding was increased from \$20,000 to \$80,000
- There is an anticipated surplus of \$323,000 for this year.
- The President briefly discussed the concept of the "institutional master plan"
- "The way WLSC will survive, is if we become known for something"
- The College's institutional status was changed by the HLC so as to allow us to offer the Master's degree.
- University status is still pending final approval by the HEPC. It is anticipated for Spring 2009. The President plans to organize a very large celebration.
- The President suggested bringing Lecturers from the community to WLSC. The administration will promote such lectures as "The Community Lecture Series."

Some discussion about the "Policy on Policies" ensued. Concern was expressed by several Senators that the handouts given at the beginning of the meeting were not clear. It appeared as if the Faculty had been removed from the list of people who could suggest policy changes. It was the general consensus that the Senate needs clarification about exactly what is being proposed for the Policy in question.

John McCullough's report

- The Highlands will possibly open in January for classes.
- There will eventually be 25 or 26 classes taught per semester at the Highlands.
- 30 laptop computers will be available for in-class use at the Highlands
- The Presidential Colloquium is an opportunity for Faculty to present research/professional work to colleagues/community.

Dr. Lukich's report:

- We have a very large pool of new faculty this year. 103 total full-time faculty.
- Masters degree classes will begin in October.
- Assessment for General Studies—What we should be doing to bring a higher level of studies.
Lukich asks us to please respond to the comment on Student Outcomes
- The Music Division is preparing a reply to NASM's report after their visit last Spring.
- NCATE report: Jan, 2009, Specialty Program Areas report
- Open House is Nov 1st.
- Deans Musser and Robinson are retiring.

Bob Fliess commented as to whether the Senate will have input into the posted job announcement for these Dean positions. Specifically, "Will the announcement require the candidate to have an earned doctorate?" The Provost's reply was "Probably either a doctorate 'in-hand' or ABD" but she is not sure yet.

- Faculty Development request forms should be available by the end of this week (Friday, Sept 19) or early next.

Mike Turrentine gave a brief report from the Board of Governors.

- It may be time to bring Faculty Compensation before the Board.

Susan Herrick gave the Advisory Council report.

She moved that the Senate approve the ACF Legislative Agenda as outlined on a handout that she provided. The motion was seconded by Gail Smith. The motion carried.

Discussion Items:

- Policy on Policies. Faculty should send comments to Chairman Gall, who will represent the Faculty's opinion to the administration.

- Relevance of Faculty Senate. Bob Fliess expressed concern about the relevance of the Faculty Senate at West Liberty State College. Some discussion ensued. Dr. Fliess expressed concern that the hiring of the current Interim Dean of the School of Liberal Arts may set a precedent for the hiring of future Deans. Dr. Fliess moved to table the discussion until the next meeting. Dr. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was a motion to adjourn. It was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

The next meeting will be October 21st 2008 in the same room – Main Hall 209.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Matthew Harder
