

**Faculty Senate Minutes****Tuesday November 18 2008**

## Senators and Guests Present:

Jane Wallace, Mike Blackwell, Chuck Ramer, Gail Smith, Richard Brown, Linda Cowan, Brian Fencl, Matt Harder, Robert Gall, Leonard Rinchiuso, Susan Herrick, Tammy McClain, Erik Root, Teresa Faykus, Hollie Buchanan, Bob Fliess, James Vopal, Jack Hattman, Mike Turrentine, Robin Capehart, Donna Lukich, John McCullough

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gall at 3:02pm.

President Capehart gave his report:

He received a letter from a law firm in Virginia indicating opposition to our proposed name change to West Liberty University. He does not consider the intentions of this law firm to be a serious impediment to either our College attaining University status or the approval of our name change to West Liberty University.

He discussed the Institutional Master Plan by listing several projects and reiterating that it is a 5-year plan. General ideas about the possibility of a new science center (building) on campus were mentioned.

The President then discussed the "Try College" program as a way for WLSC to boost student enrollment for Spring semesters. He stated that the College has a perennial 10% reduction in enrollment entering the Spring semester due mostly to graduations in December. He stated that the program would encourage individuals over the age of 23 to take one free college course in order to entice them to become degree-seeking students at WLSC again (or for the first time). He also mentioned that a currently enrolled student would never be "booted" to make room for a "Try College" student.

The President encouraged the faculty to create "Academic Centers" at the College. The centers would be supported and sponsored by the College and would involve community outreach, academic research, etc.

President Capehart mentioned the College's desire to hire a Student Internship coordinator and create a center for International Studies.

The President indicated that the school is very interested in building a Health Sciences Center and that the WV Legislature is also interested in this type of development.

The Highlands project is moving along - slowly. The lease is in place and building should begin in April or May with classes beginning in August 2009.

The President ran through a list of building/renovation projects on campus: Main Hall renovations, the possible razing of The Hall of Fine Arts, student housing, Athletic complex, softball complex, parking, Blatnik Hall, soccer field, Shaw Hall, sprinklers in College Hall.

Prof. Fencl stated concern about the possibility of moving the Fine Arts Department to Arnett Hall. He and other Fine Arts faculty would like to be kept informed of ANY proposals or decisions made in this matter. The Fine Arts Faculty would very much like to have a voice (or voices) on the committee that is discussing these issues.

The President commented on the recent student altercations and campus safety in general. He lamented the local media's treatment of these stories.

Dr. Gall expressed concern about the faculty of WLSC not knowing the facts on these incidents. He suggested that an "official word" be sent out via email by the administration.

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A possible date for "University Day" (my term) is May 3rd of 2009.

Bob Fliess asked what President Capehart's feelings were about the proposed increase in health Insurance premiums and other costs from PEIA. The President said he did not like the proposal. The faculty echoed that sentiment.

President Capehart has a blog: [westlibertyonline.us](http://westlibertyonline.us)

Dr. McCullough gave his report.

The College is proposing an increase in the number of counties to include in the "Metro" rate plan. The plan would extend the total number of counties outside of WV to 17.

Dr. Lukich gave her report.

Faculty positions in Chemistry and Dental Hygiene are being sought for the Spring 2009 semester. Faculty Positions in Foreign Language, Nursing and Theater are being advertised for the Fall of 2009.

General Studies progress reports are due in January.

The Music Division's Intent to Plan document will be filed with HEPC this week. The document describes a proposal to develop a Bachelor of Music degree program. The Music Division's NASM report reply has been submitted and we anticipate renewal of accreditation.

SPA reports for NCATE are being drafted. NCATE is encouraging states to delay accreditation visits by one year - possibly due to the current economic situation. This is good for the College because we would like to have had our Master's program in place for a while before they visit.

Advertisements have been placed for the various Dean positions. Prof. Fliess asked if there would be a search for the Dean of Liberal Arts. Dr Lukich replied: (paraphrasing) Not this term. Perhaps in the Spring. The Presidents wants to do a National search for the Liberal Arts Dean, but the Administration wants to fill the positions vacated by retirees first. Dr. Herrick stated that Dean's should be full Professors with Tenure and NOT be ABD. Fliess: The qualifications put into the announcements seem to be arbitrary.

Dr. Herrick asked about a Faculty Listserv. Dr. Lukcih suggested asking Jim Clark.

Board of Governor's representative Mike Turrentine gave his report. There are three new Board members: Jim Stolts, Richard Carter and ?????? The next Meeting is Dec. 10 2008.

Advisory Council representative Dr. Susan Herrick gave her report. The ACF will be looking in to the PEIA matter this week.

Academic Policies and Procedures Chair Dr. Charles Ramer gave his report. Dr. Ramer handed out several reports regarding the matter of switching the College's class schedule to a MWF/TR system. Dr. McCullough responded to the notion that the Highlands center would require a MWF/TR system. He said that this is NOT the case. The Highlands classes would be mostly block classes which only meet one day per week.

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The Academic Policies and Procedures Committee is asking for a unified Faculty Senate voice on this issue. Discussion ensued. Nursing expressed concern. Music expressed support. Dr. Gall said there will be an action item on the Faculty Senate's January agenda. Dr. Lukich suggested that, in a given week, a MWF/TR system would DECREASE the number of possible class sections.

Robert Fliess, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, had no report.

Brian Fencl, Chairperson of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Committee gave his report. Human Resources DOES have a policy on sick leave. He added that it is rather informal, but it seemed to be favorable in a majority of the cases in recent memory.

The Social Committee Chair, Rose Briggs, had no report.

The Student Advising Committee Chair, Dr. Linda Cowan, had no report.

Dr. Gall gave some announcements. The Senate should ask their constituents about retired faculty who might be eligible and deserving of Emeritus Status.

Senate Website. Dr. Matthew Harder, recording secretary of the Faculty Senate, is the person to contact with suggestions, etc: mharder@westliberty.edu

Dr. Harder has since received the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws from Dr. Lukich as was discussed during the meeting.

An Ad Hoc committee was established to revisit the Senate Constitution and By-Laws in order to fix typos, references, etc. the committee is chaired by Erik Root. Prof. Fliess and Prof. Vopal are also on the committee.

Action Items: ROTC

More concern arose from the Faculty about how the Faculty Senate was excluded from participating in the decision-making process that brought ROTC to campus.

Motion: The Senate would like a written explanation and justification of the ROTC program.

The Motion carried.

Motion: In accordance with Article VII of the Constitution, the Faculty Senate should be consulted in any and all Academic matters on Campus. Prof. Fliess cited several examples of the Administration's failure to consult the Senate: the recent Dean searches, the changing of the Summer School schedule, and, most recently, the ROTC program.

The motion carried.

Faculty Forum:

Jack Hattman expressed his disappointment with how the recent Dean searches were conducted. He noted particular disdain for the wording of the job posting for the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts which stated that the ideal candidate should have (I'm paraphrasing) "media arts experience". Hattman said that "media arts experience" changes the very definition of the Dean's position.

Dr. Brown moved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 4:30pm.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be January 20th 2009, room TBA (possibly in the library).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dr. Matthew Harder, recording secretary.