

Faculty Senate Minutes – September 16, 2014

Senators present: Linda Cowan, Lihua Chen, Greg Chase, Judy Stechly, Ken Sexton, Aaron Huffman, Herb Minch, Matthew Inkster, Jim Haizlett, Jeff Pfister, Aaron Harper, Jeremy Larance, Sheli Bernstein-Goff, Susan Herrick, Corey Reigel, Ronnie Warrington, Fuhua Chen, Jon Serra, Matthew Zdilla, Dave Blowers, Rick West, Sylvia Hawranick Senften

Absent members: Tracy Zang

Honored Guests: George Couch (*Chair of the Board of Governors*) Sylvia Hawranick Senften (*ACF Representative*), Keith Bell (*MS in Criminology*)

Absent: Robin Capehart (*President – on leave*), Brian Crawford (*Provost*), Frank Nobel (*BOG Representative*)

1. Senate was called to order by the Senate Chair Linda Cowan at 3:31 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes: Corey Reigel made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Jon Serra. Minutes approved.

3. Honored Guest: George Couch (BOG)

Mr. Couch discussed how the BOG's goal is a balanced budget. He described how enrollment and State budget cuts have a strain on the budget. Our "product" is our student body. He was very positive in his remarks concerning what is happening at West Liberty University. He extended his email address (georgecouch@comcast.net) and asked that any questions or concerns that faculty may have that they are free to contact him by email or call him directly at Wheeling Hospital.

Robin Capehart, President: (absent and on leave)

Brian Crawford, Provost: (absent)

Sylvia Hawranick Senften (ACF Representative)

Prior to the meeting, Sylvia emailed detailed notes and information concerning the ACF Summer Retreat. She also included the Unity Agenda.

- SB 330 (personnel) – is on the books as law (repeated that there is no money for compensations)
- SB 409 did not pass however HEPC believes it will be reintroduced (concerns transfer of credits across the State rather than just with local articulation agreements.)
- Unity Agenda – concept is that we provide a clear message and that message being that we cannot afford any more cuts in the budget.
- "Rainy Day Funds" will need to be tapped again this year in order to balance the budget.
- Education must be available to all students (the assembled agreed that WLU does do a good job in helping students in making education available to all).

Discussion included the issue that we are limited in the number of classes we can offer and/or teach and having more faculty and more classes, more students could be served.

Sylvia will bring up at the next ACF meeting how students would benefit if library services were shared across colleges.

Jeremy Larance (General Studies Committee Chair)

Jeremy reported that this fall, a LiveText subscription became a requirement in ENG 101 and COM 101. So far, the process has been smooth with little-to-no negative feedback from students or faculty. ENG 101 and COM 101 instructors received training before the school year, and students will be assessed at some point during the semester. Next spring, the same process will take place for ENG 102, all Geography classes, and Biology Labs (as well as ENG 101 and COM 101). If all goes as planned the majority of General Studies classes will be required to use LiveText in the fall of 2015. In the coming

semesters, the General Studies Assessment Committee will meet with chairs and instructors to discuss what outcomes can be appropriately assessed in each General Studies course.

At this time, there are no immediate plans to alter any of the current General Studies offerings. First and foremost, the GSAC wants to collect data (via LiveText and meetings) so that they can make decisions based on real information and not conjecture.

David Thomas (*Green Initiatives*)

Linda read a report submitted by Dave. It detailed the progress made and the steps for further implementation of the "Green Initiative" across the campus. Linda asked Dave if he would continue to Chair the committee and he has accepted. Should there be questions, please forward to Linda or directly to Dave.

Keith Bell (*MS in Criminology*)

Keith gave a complete overview of the Masters Program being developed for Criminology. He also addressed questions concerning the need for this program at WLU when other universities do have and what can one do with a Masters in Criminology. The program has gone through the Deans' Council, the Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate. Of concern is the fact that if the program is to move forward additional faculty are needed. The President and Provost have indicated (promised) support for the program. (At this point in the meeting Senators voted to suspend the rules of Senate and move up a vote on the MS in Criminology. Motion to approve, Jon Serra, second Aaron Huffman, one opposition, motion carried.

4. Announcements:

Creation of Ad Hoc Committee: Green Initiatives Committee

Dave Thomas has agreed to chair the committee.

5. Action Items:

Approval of ACF Agenda

Motion to approve Susan Herrick, second Ken Sexton, motion carried

Appointment of a Parliamentarian by Chair

Jon Serra volunteered

Emeritus Professor nomination: Professor Alfred R. de Jaager

Matt Inkster moved to recommend to President Capehart that Professor de Jaager being given Emeritus Professor status. Second Corey Reigel

Graduate Representatives: Announcement: Linda announced that in all probability as the graduate programs grow, there will be a Graduate Council; however, until that time, representatives from the Graduate programs will be part of the Faculty Senate: Rick West (Education) and Dave Flowers (PA Program)

Vote on Creation of Standing Committee: Policy 214, Chair, Policy 214 working group

The new draft of this policy has been completed by the Provost. This committee will be directing conversations with the faculty. Matt Inkster will chair. (Matt was self nominated, Ken Sexton closed the vote and vote and all voted in favor.)

Vote on Creation of Standing Committee: Policy 215, Chair, Policy 215 as an advisory group

This committee will take more of a consultation role. (Jon Serra was self nominated, Matt Zdilla closed the voting, second by Sylvia Senften and all voted in favor.)

Vote on Creation of Standing Committee: Ethics

Sylvia Senften nominated Aaron Harper, Susan Herrick moved to close, seconded by Corey Reigel,

Voting included 1 abstention.

Policy & Procedure Committee:

Rick West will chair. (Rick was self nominated, Ken Sexton closed the vote. Voting included 4 abstentions.

6. Faculty Forum

The following items were discussed at the forum:

- Parking – Is it possible for the parking fees to be raised? Discussion ensued. Action: Linda will look into more for the next meeting.
- Faculty Lounge – The future use of the lounge is currently being reviewed.
- Plus & Minus Grading – Is it possible to further pursue the possibility of changing our current system. The “cost” may be the deterrent. Discussion ensued.
- Letters of Appointment – Some confusion exists concerning the Letters that will be given employees. Is the format of the letter consistent across the Schools? Discussion ensued. Because of the many questions, Linda will gather questions from senators and invite Provost Crawford to address the questions at the next senate meeting.
- Smoking on – a suggestion was made that a place be designated for smokers as students are currently smoking across the street off-campus, near private homes.
- Linda brought up the requirement of a 4-day work week across campus. Discussion ensued. It was decided that not all colleges seem to have this requirement, and that there is no current college policy which defines faculty work week. There was much confusion among the Senators. Linda will take this matter up with the Provost.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The Senate adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Stechly
Acting Secretary

The next Senate meeting will be October 21, 2014, 3:30 pm.