

Note from Senate Secretary – Due to a fire alarm the meeting was temporarily suspended and resumed in the campus library.

Senators present: Michael Aulick, Brian Fencl, Jeff Pfister (*secretary*) Gregory Chase, James Crumbacher, David Hanna, Hannah Harnar, Aaron Huffman, Ryan Koenig, Darrin Cox, Aaron Harper, Dominique Hoche, Peter Staffel, Corey Reigel (*vice-chair*), Theunis van Aardt, Fuhua Chen, Jon Serra (*chair*), Mohamed Youssef

Absent members: Linda Cowan, Chad Kuhns, Matthew Zdilla

Administrators, Representatives, and Honored Guests: Stephen Greiner (*President*) Brian Crawford, (*Provost*), Sylvia Hawranick-Senften (*ACF Representative*), James Haizlett, (*BOG Representative*)

Senate was called to order by the Senate Chair, Jon Serra at 3:30 p.m. in Campbell Hall, room 304.

Announcement

- Next Senate meeting will be held Tuesday, January 30th.

President Greiner:

- Budget – tracking as expected. Some expenses are just a little over due to some start of year supplies that are used throughout the year, but overall the budget is as expected.
- Construction - look for parking lot near baseball field will be closed for construction of new soccer complex. Parking is available near the tennis courts. Once project completed, 2 new parking lots will be available.
- Black & Gold Day – Faculty were reminded that they are the most important person to speak with perspective students when they come to campus, it is important to speak with perspective students to “seal-the-deal”. The upcoming Black & Gold Day is expected to bring 50 families to campus.
- SouthWest Energy – the university has signed a leased land agreement with SouthWest Energy. This agreement will install a waterline partially over a couple hundred wooded acres. Provost Crawford will be allocating part of the revenue to academic units. The other part will be held in reserve in case there are some unforeseen cuts from the state. This is the first time in “many” years that there is no sign of a mid-year budget cut from the state.
- *Questions from floor* – 1) Could the loss of parking lots during the construction cause additional constraints on the campus parking when it appears that parking is a concern now. Discussion followed.

Provost Crawford:

- Higher Learning Commission – an accreditation team of 5 has been announced to arrive March 19th and 20th. Although the schedule for meeting with faculty is not yet known, faculty are encourage to marked the dates on their calendar and anticipate meeting with the members.
- Academic Program - MSDH and MA Clinical Psychology are still waiting for site visits. Delays have occured but it is anticipated that a visit will occur in late January. Following approval from HLC the programs will then have to be approved by U.S. Department of Education.
- Plagiarism Policy – faculty are encourage to submit incidents of plagiarism using the online form found on the Provost’s site. Once a complaint has been submitted the Administrative Assistant to the Provost should log the report and check to see if the student is a multiple offender. The faculty member or Program Chair should then be notified and consider the penalty accordingly. Some faculty are reportedly better at reporting these incidents but “we are not getting them all.” Look for future catalogs to include more detail about what could happen to the student.
- Faculty Salary – a small committee has been formed to consider faculty salaries. Part of the committee’s tasks will be determined through Faculty Senate.
- Critical Response Team – responding to questions from faculty about “what do we do” during an emergency, the committee recently met with a consultant, the Ohio County Sherriff’s, and the Fire Department to determine what to do if an event would occur. Look for information in January about some future training sessions and possibly some mandatory meetings.
- *Questions from the floor* – 1) Regarding the Provost’s Office procedures at what point does Administration follow the traditional 3-strike rule. 2) How much money will be allocated from the SouthWest Energy agreement.

Sylvia Hawranick-Senften – ACF Representative:

- ACF
 - “D”, “F” re-peat policy – one considered option is to allow students to retake any “D” or “F” course until the student reaches 21 credit hours.
 - Textbook affordability – studies show a 156% increase in costs associated over the last 13 years. The option of using Open Education Resource (OER) materials may be used for teaching General Studies courses is being reviewed. Faculty teaching General Studies courses are encouraged to review OER materials and to provide feedback.
- BOG Policy 56 – HEPC anticipates that the issue will return for further discussion. HEPC further suggests that institutions reaffirm policy. Dr. Senften suggests that Faculty Senate add the Reaffirmation of Policy 56 to the January meeting.
- PEIA – reduced the number of public meetings, there were no meetings in Wheeling (Charleston and Morgantown were nearest locations)
- *Questions from the floor* – 1) OERs use and accessibility, 2) “D”-“F” repeat, students could retake a 1-hour course up to 21 times, 3) Textbook Affordability

Jim Haizlett – BOG Representative:

- Next BOG meeting – Wednesday, November 29th
- Policy 34 and Policy 59 have been tabled. President Greiner further stated that both policies will not return for review. Both policies were written by the WV Attorney General Office and will not be considered. WLU already has policies in place for both issues.
- *Questions from the floor* – no questions.

Chad Kuhns – General Studies: (Senator Kuhns was not present at the meeting. Senate Chair, Serra read a report prepared by Senator Kuhns)

- SPA 252 and 352 - Recommended proposals to remove SPA 252/352 as a Foreign Language option under the Bachelor of Arts. (The committee's reason for this was that all other courses in the foreign language grouping under which these fell are assessed with Oral Communication outcomes, and 252/352 cannot, in the opinion of the committee, be assessed under this rubric.)
- MUS 134 - Recommended proposal to add MUS 134 to GS.
- General Studies – The committee is working to develop a plan to measure GS integration to be announced before the semester's end.
- LiveText - Collected data in LiveText is being disseminated to faculty teaching GS courses for purposes of assessment in those courses. This has already begun and will continue, first data from courses that have been, or are being this semester, reviewed by GSAC, and then more broadly.
- *Questions from the floor* – no questions.

Shannon Halicki – Removal of SPA252 and SPA352 from the BA, General Studies:

- Background – Sign Language was originally intended to service the Speech Pathology and Audiology Program, it was never intended to serve as a General Studies course. These courses were not assessable under the current Oral Communication General Studies rubric.
- Motion – Shannon Halicki made the motion to remove SPA252 and SPA352 from the General Studies BA program, Mohamed Youssef seconded motion. Discussion – 1) Justification for not making the SPA252 a 100-level course, 2) Alignment of expecting students to take 3 courses when only 2 courses are required, 3) Procedures of testing out, 4) WV State code which considers Sign Language to be considered a Foreign Language, 5) Why the BS and BA program follow two different assessments (Perceptions and Cultures vs. Oral Communication), 6) Removing Sign Language would limit available options to only Spanish and French, 7) Scheduling issues/conflicts with Spanish/French courses
- *Vote* – Faculty voted, motion passes: 9 Yea, 8 Nay, 1 Abstention

Mitch Grecco – Adding MUS 134 to Interdisciplinary Studies:

Background – Course is scheduled for Spring 2018. A study of music and culture from the human context, instead of a musical theory.

- Motion – Mitch Grecco made a motion to add MUS 134 as a General Studies Fine Arts Self Cultural Awareness option, Sylvia Senften seconded.
- Discussion occurred.
- *Vote* – Faculty voted, motion passes unanimously

Aaron Harper – Academic Policies Report:

- Policy 229 - under review for outdated language, currently seeking feedback from Athletics and Registrar's Office
- *Questions from the floor* – no questions.

Darrin Cox – Finance Report:

- Policy 245 rewrite – the intent of the revision is to utilize the same “language and rigor” regarding patterns of salary equity.
- Motion – Darrin Cox made a motion to accept the policy as revised, Peter Staffel seconded.
Discussion – 1) Explanation of tiers
- *Vote* – Faculty voted, motion passes, 15 Yea, 2 Nay, 1 abstained
- One Time Equity Salary Adjustment – Darrin Cox reported that 45% of our faculty receives 20% below the National average for pay based on rank and discipline. The purpose of this policy would provide the Board of Governors a more effective means of targeting the underpaid segment of the faculty.
- Darrin made a motion that Faculty Senate endorses this request that should there be another incremental raise in the near future that the raise target these specialized individuals rather than the general population, seconded by Peter Staffel. Discussion – 1) Explanation of merit tiers
- Meeting temporarily suspended due to fire alarm. Reconvened in basement of Library.
- *Vote* – Faculty voted, motion passes, 10 yea, 3 nay, 0 abstained

Theunis van Aardt – May 8th:

Committee Closed – see Spring 2018 schedule disseminated by Provost Office

Matthew Zdilla – Calendar:

Committee Closed – lack of interest

Faculty Forum:

- Various topics were identified and discussed.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The Senate adjourned after 6:00 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Pfister, Senate Secretary