

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

Absent members: Mohamed Youssef, Matthew Zdilla

Administrators, Representatives, and Honored Guests: Stephen Greiner (*President*), Sylvia Hawranick-Senften (*ACF Representative*), James Haizlett, (*BOG Representative*), Sarah Schimmel, (*Education*), Pat Garrett, (*Arts and Comm.*)

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

President Greiner:

- HLC – team concluded visit. President Greiner asked faculty to thank Melinda Kreisberg for her tireless work in preparing for the HLC visit. He also thanked Jon Serra and Sara Sweeney and all members who helped with this important visit.
- MS Programs – President Greiner received an email that both the MS Dental Hygiene and Clinical Psychology programs have been approved. This will now go to HLC for review.
- State Budget – President Greiner recently disseminated an email and video to clarify false reports about a 5% raise from the State. The State is only funding 1.5%. Any raise above 1.5% would result in a budget cut. West Liberty would have to cut over \$500,000 in order to allocate a 5% raise as proposed from the State. Any raise over 1.5% must be funded from the University budget. President Greiner stated that we were all misled about a 5% raise, he does expect to have a conversation with the Board of Governors to see if we can do more.
- Legislation – The second legislation (guns to be allowed on campus as long as they were locked in cars) did pass. President Greiner reported that West Liberty already has that was legislation in place, therefore we don't have to make any changes.
- *Questions from floor* – 1) Is there a percentage range that you would like to target? President Greiner reported that “if possible” he would like to have a 3% increase. Faculty positions that were lost 2-years ago have been filled and he doesn't want to see the University go back again.

Provost Crawford:

- Higher Learning Commission – Thanks to everyone over the last few “years” who helped West Liberty prepare for this site visit. Provost Crawford reported that “it seemed to go fairly well” a full report should be available in the upcoming months.
- Faculty Evaluation – The Assistant to the Provost has been talking about ways to take the Faculty Performance online. This plan has been shared with a draft to the Deans and Program Directors and Department Chairs. With luck tests will take place over the summer and be implemented next fall. The greatest advantage is to be able to upload evidence to include picture, audio, and video files. More information will be provided soon.
- *Questions from the floor* – 1) Policy 231 – clarification of “dead-week”. Final exams should not be given during the last week of the semester. If there is a final exam for the course it should be given during finals week. Discussion followed.

Sylvia Hawranick-Senften – ACF Representative:

- PEIA – meeting scheduled meeting for campus was canceled. The decision to implement GO365 was delayed. Dr. Senften reported that participation is still an “option”. A task force was created and then additional members were added to the committee due to complaints. Complaints included lack of representation by women and lack of regional representation. Dr. Senften believes that people are hearing that PEIA needs to be revamped. The downfall of the current situation is pulling money from the rainy day funds to cover cost of premiums.
HEPC – HEPC “report card” is available for review. WL looks “good by comparison” of other institutions. Our enrollment is staying steady, student debt load is around \$28K per student at graduation, which is decreasing for our students, and West Liberty has one of the lowest rate of defaults on loans among state institutions. These are all components that are evaluated. The report card also includes information by institution for faculty by rank. Faculty are encouraged to review online report:
<http://www.wvhepc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Report-Card-Final-Draft.pdf>
- Legislation – passed budget. Dr. Senften reported this is the first time that she can remember of having a passed budget. Reports are that revenues are higher than expected.
- *Questions from the floor* – 1) HEPC report card. Discussion followed.

Jim Haizlett – BOG Representative:

- BOG had not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting. April 4th is the next meeting. Jim is expecting to be voting on a pay raise based on the President’s reports.
- *Questions from the floor* – 1) No Questions.

Chad Kuhns – General Studies:

- The General Studies committee had not meet since the last Faculty Senate meeting.
- Course Reviews - Fall 2017 reviews have been reviewed by the committee and returned to Faculty.
- *Questions from the floor* – No Questions.

Sarah Schimmel and Pat Garrett – General Studies:

During the February meeting Senate tabled the proposal presented by Sarah Schimmel. Senate agreed to take the proposal off the table and discuss.

Background – This proposal aims to 1) better align Secondary Education General Studies' requirements with the Elementary General Studies requirements and 2) fixing an error within Elementary Education General Studies and aligning Fine Arts to be more conformed to other programs. Pat Garrett – has been teaching the course since the course went from 3 credit hours to 2 credit hours and has been teaching the same course the “same” way without any modifications to lower the content. Pat reported that he was told that the course would be taught in a 2-hour format.

- Motion – Sarah Schimmel made a motion to accept General Studies parts A., B., and C. Linda Cowan, seconded.
- Discussion occurred.
- *Vote* – Faculty voted, Motion: 12 Yea, 4 Nay, 2 Abstention - Motion Passes

Pat Garrett reported that he had not serviced the faculty well with information submitted for the March meeting. Due to national guidelines there should be an agreements between elementary and secondary programs. One recommendation from the Provost was to reduce the program hours down to 120 credit hours. Music currently has a 153 credit hour requirement. This proposal aims to offer some relief to the number of credit hours needed without sacrificing the quality of General Studies. This proposal aims to reduce the General Studies requirements from 12 to 6 credit hours. This reduction equates to about only six students across campus.

- Motion – Linda Cowan made a motion to move to accept the 6-hour General Studies reduction. Corey Reigel, seconded.
- Discussion occurred.
- *Vote* – Faculty voted, Motion: 10 Yea, 6 Nay, 2 Abstention - Motion Passes

Aaron Harper – Academic Policies Report:

- Senator Harper will soon be meeting with the ombuds personnel. Anyone with any comments or feelings about how the program is working, or not working should contact Senator Harper.
- *Questions from the floor* – No discussion.

Darrin Cox – Finance Report:

- Currently working with the Provost and HR to drastically revise Policy 245. This policy should be out for comment by the end of the semester. Senator Cox believes this revision will establish new procedures such as the promotion past terminal promotion.
- *Questions from the floor* – No Questions.

Dominique Hoche – Personnel Policies Report:

- No Report –
- *Questions from the floor* – no questions.

Darrin Cox – Faculty Workload

- An announcement has been sent requesting volunteers. Anyone interested in serving should contact Darrin Cox. Faculty are reminded that this is an “ad-hoc” committee which is intended to continue with the next Senate session.
- *Questions from the floor* – No discussion.

Announcement

- Reapportionment – an announcement will be sent to Colleges for Senate elections. The new Senate will meet April 24 for elections.

Faculty Forum:

- Various topics were identified and discussed.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The Senate adjourned at 4:44 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Pfister, Senate Secretary