

Senators present: Jeff Pfister, Anna Stephan-Robinson, Vishakha Maskey, David Wolfe, Aaron Huffman, Ryan Koenig, Steve Richards, Darrin Cox, Aaron Harper, Corey Reigel, Kim Underwood, Robert Kreisberg, Jon Serra, Mohamed Youssef

Absent members: Linda Cowan, Aaron Huffman, John Float, Chad Kuhns

Administrators, Representatives, and Honored Guests: Stephen Greiner (*President*), Brian Crawford (Provost), Sylvia Senften (*ACF Representative*), Robert Gall (*BOG Representative*)

Guests: Sara Alig, Matt Harder, Jeremy Larance, Gerard NeCastro,

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

Minutes – Senator Youssef identified 1 spelling error and Chair Cox noted 2 grammatical errors. Senate approved the corrected minutes from the November 19, 2019 meeting.

President Greiner:

- Main Hall Renovation – Beginning after graduation Main Hall will receive a new HVAC system and updated high efficient LED interior and exterior lighting. Other interior and exterior lighting fixtures across campus will also be updated. The project budget is \$5.5 million. Personnel with offices in Main Hall should expect to be displaced during this time. It is not yet known how access to the Main Hall computer labs will take place during this renovation period. The expected completion date is August.
- WV’s Council of Presidents – recently met to establish legislative agenda. President Greiner identified 2 items produced for the agenda. 1) Funding Formula, which is similar to the Tennessee model and 2) Deferred Maintenance funding.
- *Questions from floor* – Senator Serra asked what faculty should remove from their offices during the Main Hall construction. President Greiner stated that faculty should remove the items that they will need for teaching during those months. Faculty will be permitted access to offices provided that they provide advance notice. Senator Youssef asked about the need to remove laboratory equipment. Construction is planned to work around the IT Department network and phone equipment in the basement of Main Hall however lab equipment that will not be used during the summer months will stay. Chair Cox asked about travel funds for faculty being restored. Provost Crawford reported that travel funds would not be restored. Chair Cox inquired about creating a “Day of Giving” fund for raising funds for faculty travel. Both President Greiner and Provost Crawford agreed that the funds could be created. Senator Koenig asked about transferring funds for travel, such as transferring funds to travel from a supplies budget. Provost Crawford reported that this practice has been allowed in the past and would be accepted.

Provost Crawford:

- New Academic Programs – Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology is proceeding well. Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling proposal was approved by Graduate Council and should be presented to Senate in February. Master of Science in Exercise Physiology proposal is expected soon. College of Arts and Communication submitted a Bachelor of Arts in Music proposal to complement the Bachelor of Music requiring no new faculty or courses.
- *Questions from floor* – No Questions.

Sylvia Senften – ACF Representative:

- Legislation – Dr. Senften identified bills that are currently being discussed but cautioned that some legislation has been reintroduced, each year, every year; HB2032-Campus Carry, HB2393-PEIA premiums, HB7525-PEIA premiums for 3 years, SB127-BOG removal of faculty tenure.
- *Questions from the floor* – No Questions.

Robert Gall – BOG Representative:

- Presidential Search – Dr. Gall provided an overview of the search process timeline: applications are due at the end of January, review of applications will begin during the first week of February, Skype interviews are planned for the third week of February, campus visits are planned for after spring break, a candidate should be identified by April 9.
- BOG vacancies - Dr. Gall asked President Greiner about the status of the 2 BOG vacancies. President Greiner stated that the Governor has the recommendation for 1 person and has had this recommendation for some time. President Greiner reminded Senate that it recently took the Governor 6-months to re-appoint one of our BOG members.
- *Questions from the floor* – Chair Cox asked if a specific number of candidates had been established for visiting campus. President Greiner reported that it hadn't been determined.

Scott Cook – Vice President of Student Services/Registrar:

- Chair Cox reported that Scott Cook was ill and could not attend the meeting. A request would be made for Mr. Cook to attend the February meeting.

Committee Reports:

Policies: Chair, Ryan Koenig

- Policy Research – Chair Cox displayed the summary report prepared by the committee. The report identified approximately 50 committees. Senator Koenig noted that the Honorary Degrees and Awards committee (which may also be referred to as Honorary Degrees and Recognition committee) was questioned during the November Senate meeting as having no elected faculty member serving on the committee. The Admissions and Credits committee policy also states that one member of faculty should be elected by Faculty Senate. Senator Koenig stated that we should either attempt to sync with the policies that were previously approved or change the policy. Chair Cox stated that we should 1) determine a way to populate committees that require a member of faculty, 2) match faculty expertise to the need of the committee, and 3) provide service opportunities for junior faculty. Chair Cox referred to the catalog that Faculty Senate should elect someone to serve on Honorary Degrees and Awards committee. He offered to serve on the committee if someone were to suspend the rules.
- Motion – Senator Richards made a motion to suspend the rules, Seconded by Senator Koenig. Chair Cox announced that the rules were suspended.
- *Vote* – Faculty Voted on Chair Cox to serve on the Honorary Degrees and Awards committee: 12 – Yea, 0-Nay, 3-Abstention. Vote for Chair Cox to serve on the Honorary Degrees and Awards committee was passed. Provost Crawford stated that he would make a note to set a meeting.
- Provost Crawford stated that the list of committees produced by the Policy committee was helpful and that they should meet to discuss further.

Finance: Chair, Kim Underwood

- Senator Underwood reported that the committee would be meeting soon to review the columns, percentages, and wording of the faculty evaluation form. Chair Cox reminded Senate that we previously approved policy to evaluate workload using the terms “Significant, Reasonable, Reasonable” instead of “Significant, Significant, Reasonable.” Senator Underwood stated she and Chair Cox reviewed the comments of opposition received during the 30-day comment period and felt that the comments were not directly specific to changes of the names of each category. With prior approval from Provost Crawford, Chair Cox displayed the comments received and discussed each at length, adding that the only other institution requiring Significant, Significant, Reasonable is West Virginia University. Discussion continued with questions, comments, and points of clarification from Senator Underwood, Chair Cox, and various Senators.
- Chair Cox called for a vote for Senate to reaffirm policy.
- *Vote* – Faculty Voted: 9 – Yea, 2-Nay, 1 -Abstention. Vote to reaffirm the policy workload change as approved in April 2019 passes.
- Chair Cox asked the Provost to reconsider and recommend to the President the policy workload changes.
- Senator Koenig made a request that Chair Cox reinstate the rules. Chair Cox agreed to return to the rules and continued the meeting.

Space Utilization; Chair, Kim Underwood

- Establishing protocol for scheduling meeting rooms. The committee is working with the Provost to establish a procedure for booking rooms for meetings. The committee is also working with Joe Rodella and the web designer to display classroom information. Members of the committee will also be meeting with deans and chairs to collect information about offices and meeting rooms.
- *Questions from the floor* – Senator Serra asked about construction occurring in the basement of Main Hall.

Faculty Medical Leave; Kim Underwood

- Modified Duties – Dr. Underwood asked the Provost about the status of the policy. Provost Crawford stated that policy is being reviewed by Stephanie Hooper, General Counsel.
- *Questions from the floor* – No Questions.

Action Items:

Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology; Dr. Stephanie Bradley

- Dr. Bradley provided an overview of the Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) program currently at West Liberty University. Graduates of the BS program must earn a MS if they want to work in the field. Currently only West Virginia and Marshall Universities offer a MS SLP program. The MS program was stated to be competitive as these institutions receive between 200-400 applications but only accept around 30. Employment in the SLP field is also in demand as there are 70 postings for educational, pediatrics in the state at this time. The MS SLP is a 54-credit hour program consisting of didactic and clinical course work. Graduates of the program will receive a Masters, plus 30.
- *Questions from the floor* – Senator Richards asked about a clinical certificate after completion. Senator Serra asked to clarify that the license was national and not just regional. Chair Cox inquired about receiving a license prior to completing the 30 additional credit hours. Questions and discussion continued.
- *Motion* – Senator Reigel, made a motion to approve the MS SLP proposal, Seconded by Senator Kreisberg.
- *Vote* – Faculty Voted: 15 – Yea, 0-Nay, 0-Abstention. Motion to approve the MS SLP proposal passes unanimously.

Discussion:

Recent BOG actions

- Chair Cox stated that the body of Executive Senate had discussed recent actions of the Board of Governors. Those actions being: not to conduct an evaluation of the President and to appoint faculty and staff members to the president's search committee without seeking nominations. Chair Cox asked Senate if this was a concern. Senator Harper asked Dr. Gall about the board's reaction asking about not conducting an evaluation of the president. Senator Youssef stated that with losing 2 members of the board we should not have these expectations. Senator Kreisberg stated faculty in his department were concerned about BOG not following policy. Chair Cox reported that this was the general feeling of his colleagues as well. Chair Cox surveyed Senate for other feedback. Senator Serra reported that he did not receive feedback on the president's evaluation however he did receive concern for how the faculty representative for the search committee was chosen.

Faculty Forum:

- Various topics were identified and discussed.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The Senate adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Pfister, Senate Secretary