

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 9/20/22

Senators Present: Dr. Robert Gall (Chair), Dr. Gregory Chase, Dr. Sherry Rocchio (Finance Chair), Dr. Hilary Bougher-Muckian (Secretary), Dr. Ken Sexton (alternate), Dr. Ronald Hulewicz, Dr. Brian Fitzpatrick, Dr. Gerard NeCastro (Vice-chair), Dr. Corey Reigel, Matthew Harder (alternate), Dr. Sylvia Senften, Dr. Anna Stephen-Robinson, Jeremy Dann, Amanda Francis, Hannah Hart, Dr. Ray Holsapple (Policies Chair), Dr. Rose Kutlenios, Dr. Zachary Loughman, George Vopal, Michelle Yadrick, Carol Zambotti, Dr. Darrin Cox (ACF Representative), Douglas McCall (Parliamentarian), Sara Alig (alternate)

Senators Absent: Dr. Aaron Huffman, Dr. Courtney Huffman, Dr. Jeffrey Grubbs

Invited Guests: Provost Dr. Cathy Monteroso, President Dr. Franklin Evans, Dr. Jason Metz (BOG Representative), Dr. Richard Whitehead

Guests: Dr. Monique Akassi, Dr. Nicole Ennis, Dr. Ann Saubier, Dr. Eveldora Wheeler, Dr. Karen Kettler

Meeting called to order at 3:31PM

Chair Gall called for nominations for secretary. Motion by Dr. Loughman to nominate Dr. Hilary Bougher-Muckian. Dr. Cox seconded. Motion for a new senate secretary passed unanimously.

President Dr. Franklin Evans Update:

1. Transportation for students on campus is an issue. Campus transportation is a goal.
2. Angie Zambito Hill is providing fund manager training for all required.
3. WLU website currently under revision. Changes and update requests should be sent to colleges. The new website will launch July 1st.
4. Homecoming will take place on October 22nd and will include a recognition banquet, Wall of Fame Alumni Breakfast, and tailgating.
5. Water leakage on campus has been an issue. Fixing the pipes on campus is a 1 million dollar project. Ultimately, this will save us \$250,000 a year in water bills. WLU is applying for a loan through the HEPC (10 year interest free).
6. The executive cabinet toured residence halls.
7. Retention plan has been updated due to the new HEPC funding formula. In 2 years WLU will need to provide an updated report on retention.
8. The following are events/activities planned to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month: trivia lunch, Hispanic Heritage Luncheon, book display, West Liberty Elementary students on campus day.

Dr. Monteroso, Provost Updates:

1. HEPC Series 10 has been revised. A new template will be designed by University Effectiveness and the Assessment Committee. This template should be available February 1st.
2. HEPC's updated goals are promoting student success and removing student barriers.
3. WLU's updated priorities include increasing enrollment, maintaining financial stability, fostering student success, enhancing engagement, managing accurate/timely data, promoting unity, and boosting workplace satisfaction.
4. HEPC's updated funding formula is based on the following: number of students accumulating 30, 60 hours, and 90 hours, Associates Degrees awarded, Bachelor's Degrees awarded, Master's Degrees awarded, Doctoral and Law Degrees awarded, and Research Development.
5. Faculty compensation date is October 8th using the following formula: 50 percent equity (high equity >20 percent; equity 1-19 percent) and 50 percent merit (high merit, merit, no merit). Faculty will receive a letter detailing the raise amount, merit, and rationale.

6. Student, faculty and staff travel is permitted for the following reasons: recruiting, required for accreditation, required for grant, required for program, and presentations.
7. WLU has received high rankings as #27 university in the south and #12 in social mobility.
8. Open resource textbooks are highly recommended to make textbooks more accessible.
9. Personnel issues on the agenda and at will employment is covered under HEPC 133, Series 55.

Dr. Jason Metz, Faculty Representative, Board of Governors

1. At the most recent BOG meeting a public vote was taken on President Evans contract. A motion to extend President Evans contract by 1 year failed, 8 to 4. President Evans' contract was not renewed.
2. A presidential search committee was formed. One additional faculty member needed to serve. The BOG is hoping to add an additional staff member due to Ryan Glanville having been elected by BOG.
3. The search committee has set a deadline for hiring a new president as January 1st.
4. A survey was sent to faculty and staff for feedback on presidential search and desired qualities.

Question from Dr. Loughman regarding how many candidates the search committee will consider.

Dr. Metz' response: The committee would like to narrow it down to 3-5 for on-campus interviews at the end of November. They may be looking at using an outside firm to find candidates.

Dr. Darrin Cox, Faculty Representative, WV Advisory Council of Faculty

1. Dr. Cox made a request for suggestions for issues to bring to ACF.
Discussion ensued. Issues raised included legislation on tenure, guns on campus, and critical-race theory.
2. ACF Retreat is in November. Legislators will meet with ACF representatives before the legislative session starts. In December they will visit the legislature.
Motion by Dr. NeCastro to discuss opposition to amendment 2. Dr. Holsapple seconded.
3. Amendment will remove revenue taxes. There is concern that counties will lose money and the legislature will have more power to pass policies impacting the counties. Universities may see a secondary impact, and lose additional funding.

Discussion ensued. Questions were raised regarding the impact on higher education, directly, and the state surplus.

Chair Gall called for a verbal vote: 1 nay, 1 abstention, and the remaining yays. The motion to oppose Amendment 2 passed.

Dr. Ray Holsapple, Chair, Academic Policies and Procedures Committee:

1. No update. Please send policy requests to Dr. Holsapple.

Dr. Sherry Rocchio, Chair, Finance Committee:

1. Dr. Rocchio attended the finance committee meeting on September 3rd.
2. Dollar General may purchase 2 acres of university owned land on Gerdy's Point to build a new location.

Discussion ensued. Point raised regarding how Dollar General will impact campus beauty.

Action Items:

I. New Program Proposal (Ed. D)

Motion to consider proposal by Dr. Loughman. Dr. Stephan-Robinson seconded.

1. Dr. Whitehead presented. The program will be an accelerated 3-year doctorate in Educational Leadership and will be hybrid (remote and in-person). The Education Doctorate will not require any new full time faculty until year 4. A feasibility survey was sent to all counties in West Virginia and 50 percent of respondents said they would be “likely or extremely likely to apply.”

Discussion ensued. Concerns raised include increased workload for graduate faculty, differences in this program and those at WVU and Marshall, superintendent certification, and the tuition rate.

Responses from Drs. Monteroso, Whitehead, & Ennis: Graduate faculty in education who are teaching in the Ed.D. will switch to 9, 9, 9 course loads, also teaching in the summer term. This is needed due to the accelerated schedule. The program may apply to K-12 administrators and higher education. Superintendent requirements in WV do not require a certification. Differences in our program and WVU and Marshall programs are checkpoints (Years 1, 2, and 3) and lower tuition rates.

A vote was taken: 1 nay, remaining yays. Proposal for Ed. D. passed.

II. Selection of Faculty Senate Representative to President Search Committee.

Chair Gall called for nominations for a faculty representative to the presidential search committee. Dr. NeCastro nominated Keith Bell. Dr. Cox seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Keith Bell was nominated as faculty representative.

III. Academic Integrity Policy

Dr. Stephen-Robinson made a motion to consider the policy. Dr. Holsapple seconded. Discussion ensued. Concerns raised included the chain of command and timeframe.

Dr. Rocchio motioned to refer the policy back to committee. Dr. Chase seconded. A vote was taken and was unanimous. The Academic Integrity Policy was referred back to committee.

IV. Travel Funding

Dr. Cox made a motion to hear the travel funding item. Senator Yadrick seconded.

Dr. Cox asked for clarification on state travel guidelines and requirements for travel to be approved.

Dr. Monteroso's response: There is no travel ban for out-of-state travel from the Governor's office; however, there are, at times, bans on out-of-country travel. Recruiting, grants, presenting, program development, student travel, and accreditation are areas of travel that are permitted.

A verbal vote was taken. The motion to encourage more funding for faculty travel passed unanimously.

V. Amendment 2 (Property Tax in WV)

See above section from ACF representative, Dr. Cox.

VI. Promotion/Tenure Deadlines

Dr. Bougher-Muckian motioned to consider the action item on extending promotion/tenure deadlines. Dr. NeCastro seconded. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

VII. Final Exam Schedule

Motion by Dr. Cox to consider. Dr. Steften seconded.

Discussion ensued. Several senators raised concerns regarding the final exam schedule being changed after the start of the semester without an announcement. Other concerns included negative impacts on course finals, faculty planning and grading, and a lack of shared governance.

Provost Monteroso's response: This change was to allow for more time for grading. Dr. Ryan (previous chair) was consulted and gave approval. Anecdotal evidence showed student approval of 4 day week versus 5 days.

A vote was taken: 8 Yays, 10 Nays. Motion to reinstate original final exam schedule failed.

VIII. Fall Holiday/Perpetual Calendar

Dr. NeCastro motioned to hear. Dr. Cox seconded. Discussion ensued. Concern raised regarding the lack of shared governance.

Provost Monteroso's response: The procedure was looked at in February and approved in August. The existing schedule negatively impacted first and second half classes and the number of hours required (Carnegie Hours). Provost has received recommendations to eliminate the perpetual calendar.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity and purpose of the fall holiday.

A verbal vote was taken: 1 nay, remaining yays. Motion to urge administration to follow policy on the perpetual calendar passed.

IX. Censure of Provost, Human Resources Director, & President

Motion by Dr. NeCastro to censure the Provost, HR Director, and President. Dr. Cox seconded.

Senator Chase made a motion to table the action item on the censure until HEPC 133, Series 55 can be thoroughly investigated. Senator Sexton seconded. A verbal vote was taken: 1 nay, remaining yays. Motion to table censure passed.

X. Selection of Faculty Representative to Policy Review Committee

No action taken. Need nominations.

Faculty Forum Items:

Dr. Fitzpatrick suggested that faculty workloads need to be re-examined.

Motion for Adjournment- Motion to adjourn by Dr. Senften and seconded by Dr. Loughman. Motion unanimous. Adjourn at 5:13PM.