

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 2/21/23

Senators Present: Dr. Robert Gall (Chair), Dr. Gregory Chase, Dr. Hilary Bougher-Muckian (Secretary), Dr. Ronald Hulewicz, Dr. Brian Fitzpatrick, Dr. Corey Reigel, Dr. Anna Stephan-Robinson, Jeremy Dann, Hannah Hart, Dr. Ray Holsapple (Policies Chair), Dr. Rose Kutlenios, Dr. Zachary Loughman, George Vopal, Michelle Yadrick, Dr. Jeremy Larance (ACF Representative), Dr. Aaron Huffman, Dr. Courtney Huffman, Matthew Harder, Dr. Zachary Loughman, Dr. Jeffrey Grubbs, Dr. Gerard NeCastro (Vice-chair), Dr. Jason Metz (BOG Representative), Dr. Douglas McCall (Parliamentarian)

Senators Absent: Carol Zambotti, Dr. Sherry Rocchio (Finance Chair)

Invited Guests: Dr. Monteroso (Interim President), Dr. Shulman (Interim Provost), Dr. Saurbier (HLC Liaison), Patrick Kelly (Director of Purchasing)

Meeting called to order at 3:29PM.

Dr. Cathy Monteroso, Interim President Updates:

1. Dr. Mark Shulman is the new Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
2. Employee Appreciation week is next week with events put together by the Employee Engagement Committee. Events include Happy Hour at the Dirty Dogs, 10 gift card drawings, free coffee and tea in the Union, free lunch on Thursday in the Bear's Den, Nailor's ticket raffle.
3. Campus Carry, The Campus Self-Defense Act (SB 10), passed in the House and now goes to the Governor Justice to sign the bill.
4. Program reviews update- Five programs were submitted February 1st as part of the pilot. Annual reviews will be submitted in May. HEPC has new guidelines for forms for annual and 5-year reviews. Due to these updates, the committee for program reviews will be expanded.
5. The 30-Day-Review period for policies must be started by March 16th in order to have sufficient time for review before the end of the semester.
6. West Liberty will no longer be utilizing the West Liberty University Highlands Center. This is the final semester.

Questions: When will Policy 123 go out for a 30-Day review? When will Campus Carry go into effect? Will there be another off-campus site for West Liberty? What is Dr. Shulman's role and why did we need to utilize a registry to find a candidate rather than hiring internally? What is the end date for the Interim Provost role? How will we store guns when individuals cannot carry them into restricted areas, and how will this facility be funded? Will instructors be able to electively not allow guns in their classrooms, similar to what was done with the mask policy?

Response: President Evans rejected Policy 123. The policy will need to go back through the approval process.

Campus Carry will go into effect on July 1st, 2024. There are stipulations and restrictions on what buildings allow concealed carry such as those with police presence, areas with live animals, and buildings with a larger capacity, such as the ASRC. There is language about an 18-month stipulation to make campus adaptations.

We will consider other off-campus locations and locations such as the Downtown Wheeling location.

We are operating with thin staff as is so The Registry was the best option. The decision to utilize The Registry was made by Dr. Monteroso, the Board of Governors, and the President's cabinet.

There will be a gun storage area and potentially fees associated with utilization. The HEPC has included a stipulation in their funding model to help with funding the new infrastructure needed.

There is also a DEI bill currently in committee that is very concerning to campus.

Dr. Lawrence: There is nothing in the Campus Carry bill that would allow individual instructors to determine whether students can carry guns into their classrooms. The DEI bill would abolish diversity statements, race-based hiring practices, ban mandatory DEI training, and ban funding DEI-related activities. This bill is currently in the house educational committee.

Dr. Mark Schulman, Interim Provost Updates:

1. Dr. Schulman has met with Dr. Gall, senate chair.
2. Dr. Monteroso was in both roles of Interim President and Interim Provost, and utilizing The Registry was an expedient option. In addition, The Registry has a stipulation that Interims hired cannot run for positions after their term.
3. Dr. Schulman has experience as a faculty member, department chair and president.
4. Dr. Schulman intends to assist with items such as the faculty handbook, program planning, and year-long scheduling.
5. Internal communication issues are a focus of both Dr. Schulman and Dr. Monteroso. They are working to address this issue and keep faculty and staff more informed.

Questions: Will colleges who are piloting be able to schedule classes in their major or across the entire university, including general education? This is an issue for equity with underclassmen students being able to register before juniors and seniors, and securing spots in courses.

Dr. Monteroso's Response: Teacher Education (COEHP) will be piloting graduate students and seniors only in Teacher Education. The College of Business is piloting the MBA.

Dr. Saurbier: The majority of the students in these pilot programs will be scheduling major-level courses rather than general education courses, due to their senior or graduate status.

Dr. Jason Metz, Faculty Representative, Board of Governors

1. The last BOG meeting did not have any action or discussion items.
2. The undergraduate retention rate and graduate retention rate are 75 and 84 percent, respectively.
3. Annual Day of Giving is April 5th. Encourage your students to participate in fundraising.
4. Applications and Housing Applications are up. The College of Business and College of Education and Human Performance had an increase in applicants. The other colleges were only slighting down in the number of applications.
5. The next Presidential Search Committee Meeting is on Monday, February 27th. AGB will be doing training for the search.
6. The goal is to have a contract sent out by the end of the semester and a new president by July 1st.

Dr. Jeremy Larence, Faculty Representative, WV Advisory Council of Faculty Members

1. The Campus Self-Defense Act (SB 10) passed in the House today (8 to 14). Shawn Fluharty and Eirkka Storch voted against the bill. It is very unlikely due to the timeframe and number of votes that the Governor will veto and, even if he does veto, there are enough votes to override.
2. The Anti-Racist Act, an anti-Critical Race Theory bill, is currently in process but does not include higher education.
3. There is a bill banning the use of TikTok on Government devices in process.
4. There is a bill to encourage dual-enrollment. The state would pay for dual-enrollment.
5. In God We Trust signs may need to be posted on the doors of all federal buildings soon.

6. HEPC will be establishing a behavioral health workforce initiative.
7. There are a few bills in process that would broaden Promise and National Merit Scholarships.
8. There are bills in process broadening allowances for philosophical exemptions for vaccinations.

Questions: What is happening with the PEIA bill?

Response: There is a 57-page document on PEIA that is in process.

Dr. Monteroso- The bill would not allow spouses to be on insurance if they have another option through their employer. The bill would also make PEIA insurance an 80/20.

Patrick Kelly, Director of Purchasing

1. In July 2022 we started a new contract with Barnes and Noble.
2. Barnes and Noble would like us to start a First Day Complete Program. This program allows students to have all their materials on the first day of class and shipped to their home. Students can opt out and into the program. Students can buy their books at the end of the semester.
3. Faculty will continue to have complete freedom over their materials and resources.
4. The estimated cost would be \$21.00 per credit-hour per student. Currently the university recommends \$800 for textbooks per semester. The university would bill these students \$21.00 per credit hour each semester.

Questions: Will the books sent out be loose-leaf or hard bound books? How will this impact students who have courses that require them to use the same book for multiple semesters? Will this be utilized in graduate school? How are online materials handled? Will books be discounted if they choose to purchase at the end of the semester?

Patrick Kelly's Response:

The store team will identify any needs for students to keep materials across semesters and flag these materials. The buy out will be less than the original retail price and is based on availability and need of the book. Our goal is to get the books back so they can be rented again and keep down program costs. Currently the program will only be for undergraduate students but it has been implemented for Master's students at other institutions. Online materials will be sent directly in the learning management system,

Dr. Ann Saurbier, HLC Liaison:

1. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an accreditation system of regional peer review. The HLC accreditation process is a review of our progress in meeting our mission.
2. Our last HLC 10-year review was in 2018. WLU prepared a self-study report on our mission.
3. HLC identified strategic planning as an area of concern. HLC asked us to report back on our activities related to the strategic planning, which was reported in 2020.
4. In 2022 we prepared for HLC a 4-year Interim Assurance Argument. This document provided an update from 2018 to 2022. HLC identified one area of concern, student retention. We will need to report back in 3 years regarding student retention.
5. We need to create defined goals for retention, persistence, and completion. We would like to retain 85 percent of our students. HLC also wants us to make data-driven decisions and data-driven program decisions. HLC also wants us to look at program-specific retention.
6. Thus far Bill Sliwa, Interim VP of Student Affairs and Enrollment, has been working in Banner and Degreeworks to organize and clean data so that it can be utilized to set goals. Year-long planning is a component of the plans for retention. This year-long schedule will assist students planning for longer terms and students who change majors.

Dr. Sherry Rocchio, Chair, Finance Committee:

1. Absent

Dr. Ray Holsapple, Chair, Policies Committee:

1. The Policy Committee met in January. Two revised policies, Policy 250 & Policy 123, will be up for approval at the March meeting. The Policy Committee is near the final stages of editing policies 210. Policy 210 will be ready for review in March or April.

Action Items:

- I. Policy 217

Dr. Chase motioned to discuss. Dr. Loughman seconded.

Discussion & questions -

If this change passes, what process would Deans follow for promotion?

Dr. Monteroso - There is a policy denoting that a committee is selected by the provost. This committee submits their recommendation directly to the provost.

Dr. Huffman motioned to table discussion until the appropriate policies can be identified and clarified. Dr. Reigel seconded.

Dr. Chase called for a vote. The vote was unanimous. Motion tabled.

- II. Faculty Success

Dr. Loughman motioned to discuss. Dr. Chase seconded.

Discussion- Faculty Success does have issues; however, if we eliminate it this will create more issues and work for faculty who have already created all their materials in Faculty Success. Some faculty have had to switch platforms multiple times already. Can the items in Faculty Success be adapted to match Policy 214? FPARs are not being uploaded to Faculty Success for faculty.

Several faculty suggested that the motion be revised to omit the section on suspending Faculty Success. Faculty members suggested that the motion instead be that a special committee is formed to identify and fix existing issues within Faculty Success.

Dr. Monteroso's response: Dr. Monteroso met with Sarah West. Sarah West suggested that the system and features can be modified to meet the needs of faculty.

Dr. Huffamn made a motion to amend the motion. Professor Yadrick seconded.

Dr. Gall called for a vote on the amended motion. The vote was unanimous. Amended motion passed.

- III. SB 10

Dr. NeCastro motioned to discuss. Dr. Holsapple seconded. No discussion.

Dr. Gall motioned for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Forum Items:

We should consider reinstatement of the Ombudsman Program. This would offer an alternative to the grievance process. This is potentially something that could be addressed through the policy committee. Several faculty questioned why the Ombudsman Program was eliminated.

Motion for Adjournment- Motion to adjourn and seconded. Motion unanimous. Adjourn at 5:00PM.