

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 10/19/21

Senators Attending: Sean Ryan, Kimberly Underwood, Jeffrey Grubbs, David Hanna, Diana Barber, Zac Loughman, Brian Nichols, Eveldora Wheeler, Brian Fitzpatrick, Anna Stephan-Robinson, Fuha Chen, Vishakha Maskey, Jon Serra, Darrick Brake, Stephen Richards, Cory Reigel, Kenneth Sexton

Meeting was called to order at 3:32pm.

Chair Ryan update:

1. Moving forward, the Senate agenda will contain more action items rather than discussion items in order to follow the appropriate process followed by Senate.
2. Senate may be creating a sub committee to work with the IT department so faculty know about decisions IT is making and can offer insights from faculty, if needed.
3. Senate could create a bylaws committee in order to address some issues with missing, necessary bylaws or revisions that are needed to bylaws.
4. Chair Ryan has appointed Dr. Brian Fitzpatrick to be the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.
5. Approval of September 2021 Senate meeting minutes: Dr. Zac Loughman motioned to approve minutes, Dr. Anna Stephan-Robinson seconded minutes being approved.
 - a. Vote to approve minutes: 12 approve

President W. Franklin Evans, update –

No update was provided; President Evans did not attend the Faculty Senate meeting.

Provost Dr. Bonnie Suderman, update –

1. Some students have ended up in her office expressing frustration over lengthy discussions about plagiarism during their classroom time.
 - a. This does not mean that if it is relevant in the classroom, you cannot talk about this topic. If the course is designated as a topic unrelated to the topic of plagiarism or academic integrity issues, professors should avoid discussing this issue during those times.
 - b. If a Professor is discussing the topic of plagiarism related to teaching students how to avoid plagiarism because it is relevant to papers they are writing, etc. professors should certainly still be discussing those topics.
 - c. Professors are also able to share information about events happening related to the campus community. However, be sure class time is devoted to discussing topics related to that particular class.

Question from: Chair Sean Ryan

Dr. Suderman's response:

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Policy 202- faculty frustrations with the new additions of verbiage indicating students “must” be included on certain committees has been brought to her attention, which she will be discussing with the President in a meeting soon. How to change policy (and what constitutes a substantive change that would warrant another 30-day comment period) is vague. There are continued discussions about whether substantive changes, and what constitutes “substantive,” is still being reviewed/determined.

ACF Representative Dr. Darrin Cox, update–

1. ACF met last week. It appears the legislators have an agenda to try to bring up a bill on campus carry again.
2. Legislators are also discussing raising the issue of critical race theory.
3. Other on-going discussions: There are many on-going discussions that are in draft form. There are discussions with all University and College presidents about outcomes that the HEPC and other interested parties are using to frame a discussion about funding.
4. This draft posits that different features of higher education institutions would grant them different levels of funding. There is a strong emphasis in the initial draft on retention and graduation rates.

Questions from: Dr. Underwood, Dr. Stephan-Robinson, Dr. Richards

Dr. Cox’s responses:

For any Colleges/Universities that struggle with retention or graduation rates, this could result in a decrease in funding for the institution.

They are not using this information to potentially increase funding; they are using it to potentially decrease funding for institutions that are struggling.

Faculty Representative to the Board of Governors, Dr. Jason Metz update–

1. The HEPC approved a new aquatic center for Dr. Loughman’s research project.
2. Dr. Horzempa filed for a new patent and was granted the patent, making it the first ever achieved at WLU.
3. The weight room was just reconstructed/revamped in the ASRC.
4. Also, a building on campus may be able to be used for new Graduate students and Professors who are seeking on-campus housing options. Topper Village III Apartments are complete and the lease just began on that facility.
5. Our enrollment was not quite as bad as it was projected to be. Instead of being down 150+ students in the Fall, WLU was down 139 students this semester.
6. CMCA- Cost savings for the water bill on campus are better than expected, saving us closer to a total of \$500K per year. There may be other complexities to investigate in terms of why we are saving so much money currently.

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Policies Committee Chair Dr. Diana Barber, update –

1. As Dr. Suderman has conveyed via email to faculty, the policy on when grades are due is going through a trial run this Fall semester to see if it is feasible to get grades for graduating seniors out sooner rather than on the normal timeline.
2. As mentioned earlier, Policy 202 has some issues concerning the new changes implemented in the policy after the comment period closed with no comment period following some substantive changes.

Question(s) from: Dr. Cox

Dr. Suderman's response: What we're hoping to do at the December 2021 semester is to have faculty submit senior's grades before graduation so that the certificate can be handed out directly at graduation.

3. Some faculty have brought up significant concerns with Policy 123 and Policy 202.
4. Policy 214 – Our current policy to FPARs, if we use Faculty Success with no modifications, we will be in violation to Policy 214 (especially in connection to the documentation noted in Appendix 2). We will be following Policy 214 dictated FPAR format, to be submitted through Faculty Success.
5. We're working with Joe Rodella and Lucy Kefauver to have a simple way to track faculty member's office hours to see if they are being held/are being hosted by faculty. If that is possible, there will be a small rewrite to Policy 250.
6. The apportionment of Senators from Colleges will need to be adjusted before the vote occurs in the Spring 2022 term.

Finance Committee Chair Dr. Eveldora Wheeler, update -

1. Dr. Wheeler met with Laurie Hudson to review opportunities for the Finance Committee to work with the Fiscal Affairs department to collaborate on goals and visions with the Vice President of Fiscal Affairs. The Finance Committee will act as a liaison.

Dr. Ryan response/comment: President Evans has made a request that faculty provide suggestions to the Finance Committee on ways in which the University budget can be met more effectively by reducing costs.

2. Comments from Ms. Hudson provided/read by Dr. Wheeler: "Ms. Hudson directed members to the FY 22 operating budget status in the board packet. WLU is currently undergoing three separate audits at the same time. The financial statement audit by CLA, due in the next couple days; the HEERF funds audit by Ernst & Young, which should have been completed in January of 2021; and the NCAA Agreed-Upon Procedures audit for FY20, which has not been completed due to issues in that area. Having started with

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the University on August 16, Ms. Hudson stated that the Business Office is still without a controller and an accountant. The financial document was discussed in detail with the Finance Committee and Ms. Hudson expanded on what Mr. Cook explained. With regard to the budget that was created for this fiscal year, we knew we were going to be down in tuition and students. It appears that the created budget will be okay if you project in graduate and undergraduate enrollment. Student housing will not be sustained. Expenses you see were only three months in and currently looks okay, but we were made aware there was also a large cut to the budget in order to balance. \$800,000 was cut from the budget and Ms. Hudson, along with Attorney Hooper, have been downloading detailed information from the past five years; trends, line items, personal service, and labor line items, to put together and operate on a real budget.”

3. If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Wheeler.

File Sharing System Committee Chair Dr. Jeffery Grubbs, update –

1. Our committee is still exploring and getting familiar with SharePoint, so there is no update at this point in time.

Action Items

1. No nominations offered for Senate Vice Chair position.

Discussion Items

1. Prayer at University functions: discussion ensued
2. Faculty Stipends: discussion ensued
3. Senate response to follow-up with plagiarism events: discussion ensued
 - a. Motion to affirm vote from faculty. Dr. Cox made motion to vote, Dr. Brake seconded the vote.
 - b. Vote to suspend the rules/minutes to take a vote on further action: Dr. Cox made the motion, seconded by Dr. Loughman. Vote: 14 yays, 0 nays, 2 abstentions
 - c. Vote from Senators to affirm the outcome of the faculty survey as the position of the Senate: 13 yays, 1 nays, 2 abstentions
 - d. Dr. Loughman motioned to return to the rules, Dr. Grubbs seconded. Vote: 16 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
 - e. Dr. Loughman motioned to have another meeting next Tuesday (10/26) at 3:30; seconded by Dr. Hanna. 15 yays, 1 nay, 0 abstentions
4. Gaps in Policies-

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- a. Should we add a policy on faculty/administration/staff consequences for plagiarism? (Anyone representing WLU would be held accountable.) Dr. Hanna made a motion to make this policy a priority for the Policies Committee, seconded by Dr. Barber. Vote: 15 yays, 0 nay, 0 abstentions
5. Updates on Provost search process- discussion ensued
6. Protocol during National Anthem at University functions- discussion ensued

Faculty Forum: discussion ensued.

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Stephan-Robinson, seconded by Dr. Loughman.

DRAFT