

## Faculty Senate Minutes – November 17, 2020

**Senators present:** Jon Serra, Ryan McCullough, Anna Stephan-Robinson, Vishakha Maskey, David Hanna, Kenneth Sexton, Darrick Brake, Brian Fitzpatrick, Kimberly Underwood, Eveldora Wheeler, Diana Barber, Fuhua Chen, Zachary Loughman, Brian Nichols

**Absent members:** Mark Pissos, Jeffrey Grubbs, Steve Richards

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

Senate was called to order by the Senate Chair, Dr. Jon Serra, at 3:30 p.m. via video conference Zoom.

**Minutes** – Chair Serra asked if there were any revisions or corrections to minutes from April or August 2020 Senate meetings. No corrections were submitted.

### **Dr. Stephen Greiner, President update:**

- Enrollment numbers finalized; close to enrollment numbers last year
- Meeting same housing numbers as last Fall was impossible due to need to separate students in on-campus housing
- It is important for incoming potential students to meet with faculty, especially in their major
- WLU still expecting to have in-person courses offered in Spring 2021
- Farewell remarks and well-wishes for Senate and WLU faculty
- If any faculty would like to be tested for Covid, they can elect to do so, without limit, throughout the semester.
- Questions from Senators; examples include:
  - Are faculty members being notified when one of their students tests positive for Covid? Is there a breakdown occurring from OH County Health Department in notifying faculty and others when students test positive for Covid and are in in-person courses in the semester?

### **Dr. Linda Cowan, BOG Representative update:**

- Unfortunately, Dr. Cowan was elected as BOG rep during the time when the Presidential Search Committee was narrowing down candidates for the search, so she was not included in the narrowing down process.
- However, hit the ground running; joined all faculty, open, and search committee meetings in person with Presidential candidates.
- Meeting with Search Committee about interviews. Asked for questions from Senators on immediate matters they wanted expressed at the Search Committee meeting.

### **Dr. Brian Crawford, Provost update:**

- Site reviews occurring for some programs in Spring 2021

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- BA in Music is being presented today in Senate
- Spring 2021 course offerings look similar to Fall 2020- increased use of remote learning options by faculty
- Faculty have been doing well addressing the needs of students throughout this unusual time
- The smart catalog is out; it was a huge undertaking. Changes to catalog can now happen on time
- Many questions were asked by Senators; examples included:
  - Are students indicating they want one type of class format from faculty for classes?
  - What do you mean “continue to help students, as needed?”
  - Dr. Fauci is indicating a potential light at the end of the tunnel. Do you have plans to keep remote/synchronous options available into the future even after the pandemic is more resolved?
  - HEPC is recognizing that students have increased mental health needs due to the conditions of the pandemic. How might these issues be addressed on campus?
  - What is being done to help students with tech needs not being met/lacking in terms of things like not having consistent internet, access to reliable computer, etc.
  - I encourage the Provost’s office to email faculty to reach out to students enrolled in Spring 2021 courses and offer a brief outline of what their remote teaching looks like for the next semester.
  - When will the Owl technology be ready to be used- Spring semester?
  - Some students are experiencing issues with registration in general studies courses- when is that issue handled and how?

### **Dr. Sylvia Senften – ACF Representative:**

- A meeting is coming up on Friday 11/20/20
- Changes have occurred with the recent election cycle
- There may be some research grant/opportunities coming?
- Course equivalency discussion

**Action item:** vote on BA Music program presented by Dr. Mitch Greco and Dr. Matthew Harder; 13 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Congratulations were offered by some faculty to those who put the program proposal together on doing such a great job.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Dr. Barber, Policies Committee Chair:** Little to report for now; committee is hoping to tackle some specific policies/tasks next semester.

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**Dr. Eveldora Wheeler, Finance Committee Chair:** Met with Joe Rodella; training is coming soon for faculty to use some of the new technology; committee just met and more updates will come next semester

**Dr. Kimberly Underwood, Space-Utilization Chair:** We have not held a committee meeting yet because the one main task on our agenda is to update the classroom/technology audit on campus. We want to wait to see when there will be a safe (or the safest) time to conduct the audit on campus. We will be meeting next semester to discuss when to meet to collect data.

### DISCUSSION ITEM

Dr. Fitzpatrick's discussion item on cancelling or postponing a study abroad topic:

- Discussion ensued
- Dr. Loughman expressed concerns about experiences in the past where other faculty provided feedback on a proposed study abroad course that expressed concern over the content of the trip, not just the concerns over safety, such as due to a terrorist attack or health issue/pandemic, etc.
- Dr. Mahskey: it is good to have the Internationalization Committee input just to offer a more objective view of the proposal.
- Dr. Barber: suggestion- add wording that articulates that this new procedure/policy is concerned with addressing the cancellation needs of a trip AFTER it has already been approved initially.
- Dr. Serra: suggestion that Dr. Fitzpatrick should work with Dr. Loughman to continue to improve the study abroad procedures and cancellation procedure

**Faculty Forum:** Discussion ensued.