

Faculty Senate Minutes - 3/16/21

Senators present: Ryan McCullough, Anna Stephan-Robinson, Samuel Turrentine, David Hanna, Darrick Brake, Brian Fitzpatrick, Kimberly Underwood, Eveldora Wheeler, Diana Barber, Fuhua Chen, Brian Nichols, Mark Pissos, Jeffrey Grubbs, Steve Richards

Absent members: Jon Serra, Kenneth Sexton, Zachary Loughman

Professor McCullough called the meeting to order at 3:31. He explained that Chair Serra was unable to join the meeting so Professor McCullough would be directing the meeting.

Dr. W. Franklin Evans – WLU President, update:

1. Rich Lucas, BOG Chair, thanks faculty for opportunity to meet with Senate. He welcomes any comments or questions from faculty in the future.
2. Dr. Evans is excited to continue meeting with faculty across campus. Meetings have been somewhat limited to date, possibly due to poor weather, time of the semester, etc.
3. Dr. Evans will be discussing how WLU is prepared to meet the needs of our community and students in our area in light of Bluefield College's proposal to open a satellite campus in Wheeling, WV.

Questions from floor: Dr. Senften, Professor McCullough

- a. Dr. Evans: I encourage you to reach out to legislators to voice your concerns about any upcoming bills that may or may not be voted on in the near future, such as bills about ability to carry guns on campus or potential tax changes. Jason Koegler will provide more details about these topics.

Dr. Crawford – Provost, update:

1. Update on new programs:
 - a. Masters in Science in Exercise and Physiology has been approved by the HLC. It will be moving along to the U.S. Department of Education for their approval in the near future.
 - b. Masters in Science in Speech Language Pathology: site visit team that was on campus is giving their approval. It will be heading off to the HLC for their next meeting May 3-4.
 - c. Masters of Arts and Art Therapy in Counseling: site visit team indicated there were some concerns. The program is preparing to submit an errors of fact document to point out errors of fact in the draft report. WLU will have a final opportunity to rebut the concerns. This program should also be on the HLC agenda for review May 3-4.
2. Digital Measures work flow: Allows campus to conduct faculty reviews more smoothly. The link is supposed to be shared with faculty today or tomorrow via Deans and Chairs. It goes live the evening of 3/16/21.
 - This program will be used for faculty annual evaluations beginning this academic year (2020-2021).

Faculty Senate Minutes - 3/16/21

- This tool comes from the company Watermark, which provides our program for student evaluations. These tools should work seamlessly with each other.

Questions from the floor: Dr. Stephan-Robinson, Dr. Fitzpatrick, Dr. McCullough, Dr. Grubbs

- Questions about required trainings can be directed to Human Resources. There are new tools we have available to us at the University to have needed training.
- The designations that are assigned to courses in the Fall semester, that should be decided by Chairs in conjunction with faculty who teach each course.

Jason Koegler, Vice President of External Affairs report:

1. Excited to present to Faculty Senate; his first invitation in 13 years.
2. Jason outlined his work/areas of focus: TopperStation, downtown center, the Highlands campus, corporate/organizations/individual partnerships, internships, advisory boards.
 - a. Introducing President Evans to a new campus and community
 - b. Set up meetings with numerous key members of the community, WV legislators, alumni, etc.
 - c. State funding has diminished significantly over time for the education of students; any expense not covered by State funding must come from 1) tuition, or 2) private funding.
 - i. In 1991, about 85% of funding came from State. Currently, 18% comes from State.
 - d. There are many bills that have been voted on/passed or may be voted in in the future that are considered “threats” to either the University, funding for students, or to our immediate community.
 - i. Be sure to review these bills and, if you are inclined, let your legislators know how you feel about the bills (whether you are in favor or not).
 - e. Questions from: Dr. Wheeler, Dr. Grubbs, Dr. Fitzpatrick

Dr. Senften ACF update

1. Dr. Senften encourages people to reach out and give their opinion on legislation, if they are so inclined.
2. Dr. Senften can write a letter as an ACF member indicating the standpoint that ACF is against proposed policies/laws that would allow campus carrying (of weapons).
 - a. The Faculty Senate would need to be in charge of drafting a collective letter on behalf of WLU faculty to WV legislators to make a statement about our position on campus carry.

Faculty Senate Minutes - 3/16/21

3. Next ACF has set a Zoom meeting with the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Education for this upcoming Friday (3/19/21).
4. Next ACF meeting is on April 9, right at the end of the State legislative session.

Dr. Cowan, BOG Faculty Representative update:

1. Go through MaryAnn Edwards if you would like to join the meeting (either via Zoom or over the phone).
 - The next meeting is 3/31/21 at 4pm.
 - Contact MaryAnn at least a couple of days prior to the meeting if you would like to join the meeting.

Committee Reports

Dr. Diana Barber, Policies Committee:

- a. The committee is meeting soon, but there are no other updates at this time.

Dr. Eveldora Wheeler, Finance Committee:

- a. The committee gathered some information recently from HR and the committee is gathering more data to report by the end of the semester to Senate.

Dr. Kimberly Underwood, Space Utilization Committee:

- a. We are having a meeting soon; logistics are being worked out to hold a meeting. We will meet at the end of the semester (after the semester concludes) so that information can be used by Maureen in the Provost's Office when placing or moving classes in buildings for the Fall 2021 semester.

Questions/comments from the floor: Dr. Stephan-Robinson, Dr. Cowan

- b. The committee will also note special details about rooms, such as if there are large instruments or other tools present in the room that are specific to certain academic programs (such as a piano in the room for Music).
- c. Also, the committee will note if the room does not meet certain ADA requirements. (Will meet with Joe Mills to determine certain factors that would indicate non-compliance.)

Dr. Jeffery Grubbs, File Sharing System Committee:

- a. We have had two meetings as a committee.
- b. At the first, the committee identified certain questions and possible issues to address in the SharePoint system and/or roll out to faculty.

Faculty Senate Minutes - 3/16/21

- c. In the second meeting, the committee met with Jill Murray to get a demo of the SharePoint system and discuss details of the system. The resources covered in that meeting, along with an outline of what was discussed, will be shared with Senate soon.
 - a. Details of the SharePoint system and its many uses were outlined by Dr. Grubbs.
- d. The committee will likely meet again before the end of the semester.

Discussion Items:

No discussion items.

Faculty Forum:

Discussion ensued.

Senate adjourned at 3:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kimberly Underwood, Senate Secretary