

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 11/21/23

Senators Present: Dr. Robert Gall (Chair), Dr. Gregory Chase, Dr. Brian Fitzpatrick, Dr. Corey Reigel, Jeremy Dann, Dr. Ray Holsapple (Policies Chair), Michelle Yadrick, (Vice-chair), Dr. Sherry Rocchio (Finance Chair), Carol Zambotti, Dr. Ronald Hulewicz, Dr. Jeffrey Grubbs, , Dr. Fuhua Chen, Jenna Cook, Dr. Hilary Bougher-Muckian (Secretary), Dr. Aaron Huffman, Rachel Wiechman, Dr. Courtney Huffman

Senators Absent: Dr. Gerard NeCastro, Matthew Harder, Hannah Hart

Invited Guests: Douglas McCall (WV ACF Representative), Dr. Robert Kreisberg (BOG Representative), Dr. Cathy Monteroso, Dr. Tim Borchers

Meeting called to order at 3:30PM.

Dr. Tim Borchers, President Updates:

1. Strategic Planning Differentiation Workshops will be scheduled with faculty across the university. We will be looking at factors that differentiate WLU. There will also be a general differentiation meeting on December 1st at 10am.
2. We held environmental scanning sessions. One more is being planned for 4PM on a TBA date. Data is all available on the sharepoint website. Use your email address and password to access.
3. The next strategic planning meeting is December 1st. Regular presentations will be held starting next semester.
4. Section II of Policy 43 is being changed to allow a benefit for the EdD program. The limit on the number of semesters has not changed and is based on state law.
5. All employees are invited to the president's house on Thursday, November 30th 2-5PM for the Employee Holiday Party.

Dr. Cathy Monteroso, Interim Provost Updates:

1. The calendar will be going out again for next academic year, 2024-2025.
2. August 12th and May 16th NOA dates based on pay periods.
3. The calendar period is being moved back to August 26th which will ensure that Thanksgiving break is not followed by finals week immediately after.
4. The schedule must be set by the end of February.
5. We should be planning the schedule out two years in advance.
6. At the graduate level full time equivalent is 9 hours. We also have fast track programs where students are taking both undergraduate and graduate courses. These students pay the undergraduate rates.
7. The Provost is planning to form a committee examining BA/BS designations. Dr. Criniti is leading this committee.
8. Faculty excellence awards are under review by the committee.
9. Policy 250 is being sent back to committee due to questions from administration.

Questions: Can we revise to make Thanksgiving break a whole week? Could we move the schedule back two weeks in August and have a longer break for Thanksgiving and Christmas break? Why were the pay periods changed? Should appointment times be extended without pay increasing? Is there going to be a permanent director hired for the writing center and are there going to be job listings put out for new faculty hires?

Response: We cannot revise unless we eliminate Fall break. We are already close to the minimum for Carnegie Hours. State legislation changed it from 24 to 26 pays. Our new HR Director is processing approved hirings.

Dr. Robert Kreisberg, Faculty Representative, Board of Governors

1. There has not been another BOG meeting since October.
2. There will be another email asking for shoutouts for positive recognitions of faculty and programs.
3. The next BOG meeting will be December 6th.

Dr. Douglas McCall, Faculty Representative, WV Advisory Council of Faculty Members

1. ACF met for the retreat a couple of weeks ago.
2. There was a lengthy discussion regarding campus carry.
3. HEPC will be doing a listening forum for constituent groups and administrators.
4. Some of the questions posed: How will campuses handle P-12 students on campus regularly? Who is going to finance the campus updates?
5. Some bill expectations coming forth include DEI and tenure. There are no major PEIA changes expected.
6. ACS student issues brought up included decreasing enrollment rates, retention, the Hunger Free Campus Act, state wide service initiatives, and Green Bandanna Initiative.
7. ACF is hoping to increase funding for dual enrollment and continue OER grants for next academic year.
8. The next meeting will be in January. Please reach out to Dr. McCall with questions to bring to the meeting.

Dr. Rocchio, Chair, Finance Committee:

1. The next finance meeting is on November 29th.

Questions: There was a news article about a 10 percent premium increase for PEIA. Is there any merit to this article?

Responses: The president met with legislators and made a plea to keep prices low and to provide funding for campus carry campus alterations. The president is unaware of any upcoming changes to PEIA.

Dr. Ray Holsapple, Chair, Policies Committee:

1. We will be examining Policy 250 again next semester.
2. In the coming weeks we will be examining the Policy 227 section on IT. This section is on access to email and university assigned computers for Emeritus Faculty.
3. Paragraph 3C6 of Policy 214 is being revised to clarify the process and include usage of Faculty Success. Please send suggestions for the policy to Dr. Holsapple.

Action Items:

- I. Action Items: Policy 227—Emeritus Appointment

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

Discussion and Questions - Can we add a section saying this policy can be altered due to extenuating circumstances? Why are we making this change? Could the requirement be somewhere between 10 and 20 years?

Dr. Gall Response - This change was suggested by Dr. Konchar-Farr because there were two faculty who recently retired who had been here for 18 or 19 years and did not meet the 20 year designation but they had made significant contributions to the university. Based on Dr. Konchar-Farr's research, many universities have a 10 year requirement and 10 years seems to be the norm. The number of years simply makes an individual eligible; however, they may not be granted the status if they are not deemed to have made significant contributions.

Dr. Aaron Huffman motioned to amend the motion to 15 years for eligibility for Emeritus Status.

Dr. Courtney Huffman made a motion to table the discussion for time to research policies related to Emeritus Status. Dr. Loughman seconded.

Dr Gall Called for a vote. Vote: unanimously in favor of tabling the motion.

II. Motion to suspend the rules by Jeremy Dann. Dr. Loughman seconded. Vote: unaminus to suspend the rules. Dr. Gall asked for nominations for Faculty Senate Representation to the Provost Search Committee. Dr. Halicki has self-nominated. Dr. Loughman has also self-nominated.

Dr. Gall called for a ballot vote: Vote: Dr. Loughman:15; Dr. Halicki: 4.

Dr. Loughman was nominated as the Faculty Senate representative for the Provost Search Committee.

Faculty Forum Items:

- *None*

Motion for Adjournment- Motion to adjourn and seconded. Motion unanimous. Adjourn at 4:21.