**General Faculty Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, December 17, 2009**

**12:20pm – 2:00pm**

**Attendance:** Michael Anderson, Frank Vaughan, Michael Fultz, Ernest Sekabunga, Tim Ruhnke, Marek Krasnansky, Cyrus Aleseyed, Janet Dindorff, Abainesh Mitiku, Andrew Sedl, Phoebe Levine, Kicki Wolfe, Gerald Hankins, Bonnie Dean, Mary Frye, Carolyn Sturgeon, Barbara Henry, Barbara Ladner, Sean Collins, Jonathon Eya, Tom Kiddie, Time Alderman, Jack Magan, Billy Joe Peyton, T.J. Park, Gerry Beller, Rob Harris, Tom Guetzloff, Michael Lewis, Debra Wells, Sonya Armstrong

1. **Call to Order:** 12:30 pm
2. **Reading of previous minutes and approval**- motioned and passed without change.
3. **Approval of Agenda**- passed by vote.
4. **Comments from the Faculty Senate Chair-**
Dr. Aaron Settle asked that a 3rd faculty member consider being added to Dr. Vicki Wolfe’s newly created Recycling Committee. That committee now consists of the 3 faculty: Vicki Wolfe, John Stevens, and now, Dr. Tim Alderman who volunteered.
5. **Business**
	1. **Bayer Science Solutions/work of the senate (Chair Dr. Aaron Settle )-** Dr. Settle updated the general faculty regarding recent Faculty Senate actions: Drs. Tom Guetzloff and Gerry Beller have been working with the Environmental Safety, Security and Parking Committee (ESSP) and others in the Administration to address the state of campus safety as it exists; and the need for a new Senate Standing Safety Committee, which will be NOT established. Also it was noted that there have been 3 postponements by Bayer officials of scheduled safety meetings with WVSU. A January meeting has been scheduled with the ESSP committee and Bayer; the reasons for cancelling are not known as yet. Dr. Guetzloff expressed his overall confidence that the current ESS & P committee is positioned and able to handle the current needs of the campus community regarding overall safety issues.
	2. **Intellectual Property Rights Agreement Vote (Dr. Settle)**:
	Dr Settle reminded the faculty of the timeline regarding review of this document, generation of questions and concerns, and ultimately a vote today reflecting the faculty’s view of the entire document. During considerable discussion, Dr. Harris questioned numbers in a Table regarding distributions of monies involved; Dr. Jerry Hankins considered it similar to others he’s familiar with, even generous in distributions, not unreasonable, but he does see other problems with the document as it stands: issues such as possible collaborations with other non WVSU inventors/collaborators (this is common); also vague language on page 5 such as “reasonable time” to notify inventors of future decisions (the document needs specific language here); also on p 5 “anticipated discoveries” to be revealed to the Office of the VP as soon as possible- this appears problematic also. On Page 9 the determination of ownership rights: “decisions of VP shall be final” raises questions here that need to be addressed and corrected as this is a bit vague and open ended and there needs to be specific time tables here. Also- the issues involving private investors may not be mentioned here. ***The motion to Table this vote until a future meeting, in order to allow greatly and more detailed review and analysis by interested faculty was made and passed, and the faculty request that Dr. Byers grant the faculty the time needed to provide him with these requested changes and details for the IPRA.*** Also, Dr. Hankins and other faculty will provide some candid details regarding these concerns. Dr. Settle will receive these suggestions and requests from the faculty, accumulate them and bring them to Dr. Byers.
	3. **Early Retirement Vote**: During discussion, Dr. Levine suggested that there is obvious administration savings language in the plan, but not much for faculty incentives; payouts per year appear to be limited; and there was disagreement over the language of whether there is a $250,000 payout over 5-8 years for example; Michael Lewis expressed concern over a limited pool of money available for this policy, such that large numbers of participants would swamp or overwhelm this plan, and with lots of incentive, there would be lots of participants; this resource drain would come from other needs, such as other retires, benefit funds, etc. Also- do medical benefits appear to remain intact for ERP participants; Dr. Jim Spencer suggested that perhaps the administration could limit participants if money does not added up. It was also noted: a private company will be paid to administer this plan; those over 66 years old would receive a lump sum of $250,000 and then have no further University medical benefits (instead you must go over to Medicare). Doubts and uncertainty regarding the affects of the various details within the document, as well as the apparent lack of detail in some areas, were strongly expressed, ***a motion to Table this vote was made and passed: the faculty requests time needed to generate a list of specific questions and concerns regarding the current Early Retirement Plan document; the faculty also asks for the opportunity to invite a representative from the company administering the plan to the January 2010 General Faculty meeting to discuss and address these issues during if possible.***
	4. **Registration/Add/Drop and Student Status irregularities of concern to the Faculty** (Dr. Tom Guetzloff)- General discussion of the not uncommon occurrences in which changes in a student’s official status, as reflected by the MyState rosters, changes during a semester, without explanation, and in ways that are damaging to the student. A student may be removed from the MyState roster (perhaps for financial/payment issues), and the student stops attending class. Then, sometimes much later in the semester, the student’s name will reappear on the class roster and stay there, without a possibility of earning a passing grade in the course. The faculty feels this should be explored for explanation and correction.

 ***The motion to request that the Executive committee look into these happenstances where student names appear, disappear and reappear on office course rosters, particularly after the Drop deadline.*** The motion was passed by vote.

1. **Other Business:**

A. Parking Issues (Dr. Tom Kiddie)- Dr. Kiddie discussed the practicality, efficiency and convenience of implementing a fee payment option for faculty in which the Parking Fee is automatically subtracted from the payroll to pay the annual fee and new Parking Permits are distributed through the mail or offices. This would be a voluntary, sign up option, applicable to all renewals of the same motor vehicle. ***The motion to recommend to the administration that a voluntary, sign up option to pay Parking Fees through an automatic payroll deduction for all Parking Permit fee renewals of faculty vehicles, be considered and implemented if acceptable, was passed by vote.***

 B. A second Parking issue that Dr. Kiddie introduced for discussion regarded the start of each semester when parking in faculty spaces becomes very difficult, as students assume a 2 week grace period of no ticketing on campus allows them to be scofflaws. Also discussed was the apparently common student attitude of ignoring parking restrictions if necessary, and even some whose philosophy is to simply accumulate parking fines up to the point of what a Student Parking Permit would have cost them initially. ***A motion to ask the administration to consider enforcing Faculty Parking and Red Zone Permit compliance immediately at the start of each semester, while allowing a 1 week grace period of no ticketing for Student designated spaces, allow this time for payment of their Student Parking Permit fee, was passed by vote.***

 C. **Status of the Admissions Office**- The discussion recalled that the Faculty Senate has already asked that Dr. Byers and the administration consider the need to move the Admission Office into the Office of Academic Affairs in the past. This was in response to the faculty’s stated concerns here. A motion was passed that has requested that the administration consider the need to relocate the Admissions Office from the Office of Student Affairs, to the Office of Academic Affairs. Issues of proper resources and professional staffing within this vital office needing to be raised significantly were discussed in depth, detail and definitive terms as to their considerable urgency. A motion made by Michael Lewis was made: ***The WVSU faculty request that the administration consider moving the Admissions Office into the Office of Academic Affairs, and allocate enough resources to adequately staff the Admissions Office with enough professionals to enable it to function at a higher level for the University, was passed by vote.***

1. Being no further business for the general faculty, adjournment was motioned and called at 2:20 pm.

Kenneth Barber

Faculty Senate Secretary