**WVSU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, February 12, 2010**

**1:30pm 305 Ferrell Hall**

**Members Present:** Michael Anderson; Kenneth Barber, Dave Brock, Sean Collins, Tom Guetzloff, Rob Harris, Tom Kiddie, Michael Lewis, Paula McCoy, Raphael Mutepa, T.J. Park, Jeff Pietruszynski, William Porterfield, Richard Stevens, Carolyn Sturgeon, Aaron Settle, Frank Vaughan, Deb Wells, Xiaohong Zhang.

**Ex-Officio:** Dr. Hazo Carter and Dr. Charles Byers.

**Parliamentarian:** Jack Magan.

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm
2. **Approval of the minutes:** The motion to accept the amended Faculty Senate meeting minutes from 1/22/2010 passed by vote (the names of 3 attending members were added).
3. **Approval of the agenda:** The motion to approve the amended agenda was approved by vote (Two new business items were added- i. an update on recent on-campus criminal incident (update from Major Porterfield); ii. A comment on WVSU website and storage capacity (Dr. Raphael Mutepa).
4. **Comments from the Chair (Dr. Aaron Settle):** Dr. Settle reminded the Senate that the WVSU faculty has an opportunity to provide the WVSU BOG with a short presentation for the purpose of highlighting our needs and concerns at the April 23rd, 2010 BOG meeting.

**I. Reports:**

1. **Cultural Activities and Educational Assemblies Report:** Postponed to next Senate meeting at committee request.
2. **Educational Policies Committee Report (Dr. Paula McCoy):** Dr. McCoy reported that the EPC had approved 3 requests for new courses- 2 from Criminal Justice and 1 from Math; The new math course generated considerable discussion from the meeting: College Algebra Math 120 will replace Math 100 and 101; Dr. McCoy stressed that this now brings WVSU into compliance and alignment with other state university courses at this level. Michael Anderson informed the Senate that the 2 lower level Math courses that Math 120 replaces will be offered during the upcoming transition period needed for this change. Dr. Magan noted that this will also require a number of changes to the WVSU course catalogue for courses affected by this change; and Dr. Byers suggested an approach that allowed for such large-scale updates to the catalogue should be employed. Mike Lewis asked Dr. Byers what precautions are in place to address issues that will arise owing to the fact that these remedial math courses are relied on very heavily by other WVSU departments. Dr. Byers agreed that this is an area of focus and concern for the administration. In discussion it was noted that an ACT math score of 20-23 would be placed into the new Math 120 course. ***The motion to accept the report from the January 2010 EPC Meeting was approved by vote.*** Dr. McCoy reminded the Senate that Feb 26th is the closing date for approval of any course changes that are to be included in the Fall 2010 Course Catalogue.
3. **Library Report**: Postponed to next senate meeting at committee request.
4. **Program Review Report:** not present.

**II. Other Reports:**

* 1. **President Carter:** Dr. Carter’s report provided an update on the new Metro Tuition Rate Plan; as well as an update on the Capital Campaign, which has hired 2 new associates who will improve fundraising activities for the campaign; the Economic Impact Study released by the HEPC details the significant impacts WVSU has on the state’s economic activities; Dr. Carter announced that the plan to added WV Rehabilitation Center facilities to the WVSU campus has continued to move forward, and would included the auditorium, gymnasium, pool, chapel and other buildings. Funding from the state to update the buildings would be needed and sought. Dr. Carter praised the work of the faculty involved in creating new degree programs, such as the Bachelor of Science in Sports Studies starting in Fall 2010. The approval of these programs represents a lot of commendable hard work by the faculty, and new opportunities for students, the community and the university. Dr. Carter commented on the recent change in management personnel at Bayer CropScience, and that the new manager Steve Hendrick had arranged for a meeting with Dr. Carter and Dr. Cassandra Whyte on Feb 26th, and Dr. Carter extended the invitation to Senate Faculty and others who have been involved in this issue. Dr. Carter announced the Memorial Service Planned for 1 pm on February 15th for the late Dr. Andrew Ahart; in addition to events commemorating Black History month on campus, there is an upcoming Higher Education Day at the State Capital, and a WVSU Day there on Feb 24th as well, and Dr. Carter asked that all interested faculty consider getting involved and contributing to these 2 opportunities. WVSU Day will allow for student groups and each College to be present at the event, and there would be transportation provided to and from campus.
  2. **Academic Affairs Report (Dr. R. Charles Byers, Office of Academic Affairs):** Dr. Byers apologized to the Senate for having ongoing office computer problems, apparently the victim of a computer virus; his written report will have to be sent electronically when his computer is up and running properly. Dr. Byers reported to the senate that the upcoming Title III budget will allow for some significant physical classroom improvements, and he would like the college deans and faculty to create a list of specific requested actions and updates needed to improve their classroom instruction capabilities and Dr. Wohl is gathering these lists from the other Deans; an Inclement Weather Policy for the WVSU is being worked on and should be released in the future.
  3. **BOG Report (Dr. Guetzloff):** Dr. Guetzloff updated the Senate on actions taken during the January BOG meeting in which 3 new degree programs and the Institutional Compact were all voted on and approved by the BOG in January.
  4. **ACF Report (Dr. Sean Collins):** Dr. Collins did not have an ACF meeting report to present.

**III. Old Business**

1. **Bayer CropScience (Tom Guetzloff):** Dr. Guetzloff reminded the Senate about the February 26th on-campus meeting with the new manager of Bayer CropScience in Institute, which will include Drs. Carter and Whyte, as well Dr. Gerry Beller and Dr. Guetzloff, who invited other Executive Committee members and interested faculty to contact him about attending. Questions about the safety concerns that Bayer presents WVSU included whether a better communication system between Bayer and Emergency First Responders personnel has been put in place yet. It was noted that Bayer maintains its own EMT unit.
2. **BOG meeting Faculty Senate presentation (Dr. Settle):** Dr. Settle discussed the upcoming BOG meeting on April 23rd: Organizing this faculty presentation is underway, with the Executive Committee considering priority issues to be presented during this upcoming opportunity. Any faculty with concerns and ideas that should be included in this presentation should contact their college senator or an executive committee member asap. Some comments included concern for the future of the tenured faculty status, and the need to outline the critical role tenure plays in higher education, as it provides for the academic freedom vital to public education. Dr. Carter agreed that tenure is a vital part of education and the concept of Shared Governance of WVSU. He suggested that the BOG plays a basic role in setting University policy in the area of academics and they would be most interested in policy reviews, revisions and updates affecting academics at WVSU.
3. **Proper procedure to remove CTC Faculty placement from the WVSU Senate Committees (Dr. Settle):** Dr. Settle noted that Dr. James Spencer has already provided an amended copy of the WVSU By-Laws in which he has specifically removed all the language related to the placement of CTC Faculty on WVSU Senate Committees. This document has been posted on the faculty senate webpage for faculty to review. After some discussion, ***a motion to accept the changes made by Dr. Spencer to the WVSU Handbook and By-Laws regarding Senate Committee membership was approved by vote.*** A second related item regarding the placement of Gus R. Douglas Institute Faculty into positions on WVSU Faculty Senate Committees was also discussed and tabled for the next Senate meeting.

**IV. New Business**

* + 1. **WVSU Day at the Capital Building (February 24, 2010)**: There will be a WVSU Faculty Senate Booth available during WVSU Day, and volunteers for the 8:30 am setup, 9:30 opening, and 1 pm take down are needed. Drs. Settle, Guetzloff and Richards agreed to attend and organize the Senate Booth. The ACF legislative agenda was suggested for inclusion at the Senate booth, and Dr. Byers agreed to help with printing costs for materials to be distributed at the booth.

New Business Items Added:

* + 1. **On-campus crime incidents:** A recent incident in Ferrell Hall was described by Major Porterfield in which at 5:30 pm a female student was accosted by an unknown male in a Farrell hallway, who apparently “flashed” her, verbally assaulted her and followed her up a stairwell and attempted to trap and confront her there, but she managed to elude him and called Campus Safety, who responded and may have an ID on a potential suspect. During discussion, Dr. Carolyn Sturgeon talked about such safety issues and concerns she has regarding teaching night classes in Farrell Hall, which she was doing during this incident. Public Safety is concerned and has begun to address these issues. Major Porterfield also discussed an incident that occurred earlier in the semester in Wilson Student Union, in which 2 non-students and 1 student were arrested after a shooting; also, a Sullivan Hall student was very recently arrested for possessing a gun and illegal drugs. In discussion, the question of concealed weapons on campus was addressed and Major Porterfield informed the senate that institutions and facilities such as WVSU have the right to impose a complete firearm ban of their own, which WVSU has already done. Only authorized Public Safety officers and police officers may carry firearms on campus; all others are prohibited from carry firearms on the WVSU campus at all times.
    2. **WVSU Website and Storage Capacity:** Dr. Raphael Mutepa informed the Senate of recent updates to the university computer system, including replacing Terradon Systems and converting to a new University server, which may have resulted in a temporary reduction in storage capacity available to departmental webpages and other areas on the university system. Dr. Mutepa and others suggested that concerned faculty should contact the new webpage manager in Computer Services regarding any of their webpage needs. Dr. Byers also noted that in March 2010, a workshop will be held to help faculty work on developing their own departmental webpages for teaching and research purposes.
    3. **Final note:** A discussion about WVSU’s Commencement activities, including the need to postpone the December 2009 Commencement, and the need for 2 yearly Commencement events took place, with the tone set during discussion that the Commencement event serve the students and their parents, who want a commencement ceremony for both Fall and Spring semesters, and they pay a fee to cover these costs. Dr. Byers noted that families feel strongly about this, and Commencement affects donor giving strongly as well. He noted that a plan to hold all Commencement events on the WVSU campus is being worked on. Finally Dr. Byers noted that the postponement of the December 2009 Commencement was based on the fact that power to the Civic Center for the duration of the Commencement event could not be guaranteed with any certainty due to the inclement weather, and the decision to postpone was the only sensible action. This caused problems for those families involved in travel and planning, but could not be avoided. The Spring 2010 Commencement event will also include the December 2009 graduates.

Being no further business for the Senate, the meeting was called to adjournment and approved by vote at 4:00 pm.

Kenneth Barber

Senate Secretary