

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2011

Dr. John Thralls called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. Those additional members attending were: Dr. Tom Guetzloff, Mr. William Lipscomb, Attorney Larry Rowe, and Dr. Ann Smith. Guests present included: Mr. David Bennett, Dr. R. Charles Byers, Dr. Katherine Harper, Mr. Robert Loughery, and Dr. Brenda Wamsley.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 9/22/11 meeting: Attorney Rowe moved that the minutes of the September 22, 2011 be approved, Dr. Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

2. Update on Master of Social Work collaborative degree with Concord University proposal: Dr. Brenda Wamsley, Chair of the Department of Social Work, reported to the Committee and others made comments summarized as follows:

- Both Concord and WVSU submitted a proposal for a Master of Social Work degree and at the encouragement of the HEPC decided to collaborate.
- Since the negative publicity has been published in the newspaper regarding WVSU's financial situation, we are perceived by some to be a "sinking ship" and "mentioned in the same sentence as WVU-Tech."
- In an e-mail from the Chancellor's office we were notified the Chancellor would not approve the collaborative at this point; we are essentially on hold.
- Dr. Byers said he has not heard from HEPC on this. There has been an administrative change at Concord with a new Vice President for Academic Affairs whom he has thus far been unable to reach regarding this.
- It has been reported that Concord has Social Work faculty that they can move into their graduate program; WVSU will have to hire additional faculty members.
- Dr. Thralls suggested we give Dr. Byers a chance to talk with Concord's leadership to obtain their input.
- Dr. Byers said one of the reasons he has not further contacted Concord is that Dean Robert L. Harrison, Jr. believes we have the stronger program and we should proceed with our program.
- Dr. Wamsley observed this is a very expensive program and it would be very difficult to move ahead without the collaborative.
- Dr. Thralls asked Dr. Byers to contact Concord's senior academic level administrator, with the desired outcome that they will return to pursuing the collaborative proposal and, concurrently, that he and staff in the Social Work Department assess WVSU's capacity to proceed on a stand-alone basis to assess the viability of doing that with an eye toward a "marriage" later among somewhat equal partners.
- Attorney Rowe said the Chancellor and his Board are coming to WVSU on 11/29/11 to meet with administrators; he felt we need to bring this to their attention and express that we are surprised and disappointed about the collaborative and we wish they would give us their support.
- Attorney Rowe asked if there are other schools with which we could partner? Dr. Wamsley said Marshall University has said they are preparing an Intent to Plan.

3. Work Plan: Dr. Thralls introduced a work plan for the full Board which sets policies and objectives and assigned certain items to committees to achieve.

- For this Committee a possible new program proposal may be a Master in Public Administration.
- Staff is to monitor the activities as the agendas are prepared.
- Some items are regular activities of this Committee, like Program Review, and some are an outgrowth of the Board of Governors Chairman's 2011-2012 Board Plan For Policy and Review.
- A copy of this document should be brought to each meeting of this Committee and included on each agenda.

4. Discussion of proposal for possible changes to the Conditional Admissions policy:

Attorney Rowe said the policy now is that 10% of the admitted students may be classified as conditional students.

- Mr. Rowe's possible recommended changes to the conditional admissions policy would include
 - these students would have to have a 2.0 gpa from high school
 - a recommendation of the counselor
- None of the University's academic standards would change following acceptance – this gives the student no additional privileges – if they don't meet the grade, they will be out the door.
- The number on which the 10% is based is sometimes determined too late and at that point we can't call students to tell them they can be admitted.
- Dr. Guetzloff asked what is the percentage of that conditional number who graduate? We really don't know since we don't have those data but Mr. Casto said traditionally those who enroll late didn't have a very high graduation rate. Dr. Guetzloff observed this will hurt us with regard to graduation rates.
- Attorney Rowe said he doesn't think we will just take students willy-nilly or late but those admitted under this proposal who are really trying to get into the University to succeed. Dr. Thralls said he hopes the institution has done some appraisal of students who have been admitted conditionally. Mr. Casto said that for many years those students who were not admissible to the University were defaulted to the Community & Technical College where there was an open admission policy.
- When Series 23 first became effective, it posed such a challenge to our enrollment that we may not have enforced it fully because of the drop in enrollment it would have caused. It is now significantly enforced.
- Attorney Rowe said he would like to see his revised policy replace the current conditional admittance policy. One concern he expressed is that we aren't admitting as many African American students as we should – the average African American student scores 17.6 on the ACT whereas he believes 20.6 is average for other students.
- Dr. Byers felt the recommendation should come from the counselor **and** at least 2 classroom teachers, perhaps in major subjects.
- Dr. Thralls said he is very supportive of providing opportunities to those who wish to be successful but his sense is that we need to remain very aware of the graduation rate issue where WVSU's numbers are pretty dismal.
- Concerns expressed as we try to figure out how to do this in the "right" way included
 - concerned about how we handle this if we move down this road,
 - concerned that the perception of WVSU is that our academics aren't where they need to be,
 - concerned about doing anything that would contributed to a public perception that we are less than an institution with standards.
- Attorney Rowe said we could call it a pilot program for a period of time and that we are going to assess it at a specific time. He said he believes the Chancellor would entertain this since we need to get our African American students into college.
- Dr. Thralls suggested perhaps this committee needs to entertain whether or not we are receptive to a defined proposal from Administration that we do this. We need a document to come before us that would apply to both in- and out-of-state students of all ethnic backgrounds.

- Mr. Casto said academics as well as admissions need to be on board with this but it needs to start on the academic side for a proposal.
- Dr. Thralls asked the Committee if it would support in concept the development of a more flexible conditional admission standard that would be brought back to this Committee after consideration by stakeholders of the University. Dr. Smith moved that the Committee entertain development of a more flexible conditional admissions policy; W. Lipscomb seconded the motion.
- Dr. Guetzloff asked in a discussion point, will the stakeholders include faculty and Faculty Senate?
- Dr. Thralls asked who is likely to take the lead in developing a revised conditional admissions policy. Dr. Byers said admission is a faculty decision; Student Affairs carries it out. They will work jointly on it, he said. Dr. Thralls said he wants to be sure the faculty are involved.
- Dr. Byers said the proposal would come from the Deans Council to the Academic Leaders to the Faculty Senate.
- Upon vote, the motion passed.

5. Report on WVSU's on-line course offerings: Dr. Thralls asked whether or not we are on the uptick in offering on-line courses.

- David Bennett said we are and by the most conservative of estimates, we are looking at \$1M revenue from these on-line course offerings in tuition and the on-line course fee.
- D. Bennett was asked to be prepared to make a brief presentation on this topic in the full Board meeting later that day.

With the time for the meeting expired, the remaining items on the agenda were deferred to a future meeting. Dr. Guetzloff made a motion to adjourn; Dr. Smith seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of Academic Affairs

