

**West Virginia State University Board of Governors
Meeting of January 27, 2011**

ITEM: Faculty Senate Presentation

ADMINISTRATIVE AREA: Faculty Senate

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information Item

PRESENTER: Dr. Tim Ruhnke
Chair, Faculty Senate

BACKGROUND

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Discussions of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee led to establishing a theme of "Institutional Improvement and Accountability" for AY 2010-2011. Actions taken by the Faculty Senate (see below) are consistent with that theme. The Faculty of WVSU has concerns in several areas of University function. These include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

1. *University finances and agreements with the KV-CTC.* Faculty members have voiced concerns about budgetary transparency at WVSU for years. These concerns have never been satisfactorily addressed. The severance of the community college (now KV-CTC) has resulted in multi-million dollar loss of funds for WVSU. Even though an agreement with the KV-CTC has been reached, it is unclear to the Faculty how fiscal policy with respect to KV-CTC will be carried out in the future. Furthermore, the looming full administrative separation in terms of services will create an additional seven figure budgetary hole in WVSU's budget. There does not appear to be a plan to address this eventuality, although President Carter mentioned seeking legislative fiscal redress in a report to the Faculty Senate. Given these present and future fiscal deficits, the decision to forgo tuition and fee increases for AY 2010-2011 seems ill-advised. Future staffing and salary increases for faculty are dependent upon needed revenues and rational budgeting. The WVSU Faculty Senate urges the WVSU Board of Governor's to demand better planning in this area. Given that WVSU faculty have not received salary increases for several years, it is of the utmost importance that a plan for salary increases be developed for AY 2011-2012.
2. *Institutional fundraising.* Discussions of an annual campaign at WVSU have been ongoing for over two years. As of yet, no such campaign is as of yet active. The endowment of the WVSU foundation is woefully inadequate when compared to the institutions with which our university competes for students. Simply put, other higher educational institutions have more to offer potential students. This negatively impacts the institution in assembling a quality student body. Given the poor fiscal environment WVSU in which WVSU finds itself, the lack of urgency in fundraising is troubling.

3. *Recruitment of students.* Separation of the community college from WVSU resulted in a loss of approximately 33% of the student body. The low student retention rate can be attributed to numerous factors, but in general is a result of too many students not ready to engage in university-level academic work. At this time there is no staff member dedicated to leading retention activities at WVSU. In Spring, 2010, the Enrollment Management Committee substantially revised the institutional enrollment management plan. A plan was made to involve faculty in recruiting activities, but does not appear to be being actively pursued. Growing the quantity and quality of the student body at WVSU is imperative, but as with institutional fundraising, the lack of urgency is troubling.

The Faculty of WVSU have embraced the concept of institutional improvement. Faculty are beginning implementation of an honors program for AY 2011-2012. A more robust program of early intervention of students has been enacted. AmeriCorps volunteers are contacting non-attending/poorly performing students. An ad hoc committee of the Faculty Senate will meet this semester to consider policy changes regarding administrative removal on non-attending students, and to examine policies related to academic probation/suspension and financial aid probation/suspension.

**Faculty Senate Action Items
May, 2010-December, 2010**

General Faculty Meeting, May 14, 2010

Motion: *Move all WVSU faculty evaluations online by spring of 2011.*

Action taken by General Faculty: Table and send to Executive Committee for August Meeting.

Current Status: To be reconsidered by WVSU faculty in May, 2011

Motion: *The Senate Executive Committee should peruse the establishment of both the "buy-out" and "phased-retirement" programs during the 2010-2011 academic year.*

Action taken by General Faculty: Passed unanimously.

Current Status: It is unclear as to what action has been taken by the WVSU administration. Concerns on this issue were voiced by WVSU faculty members during their January, 2011 meeting.

Motion: *The Faculty rejects any rejection in raises for promoted faculty. All promotion should be based on performance criteria as specified by the HEPC.*

Action taken by General Faculty: Passed with one dissenting vote.

Current Status: Promotional raises were given for AY 2010-2011.

General Faculty Meeting, August 17, 2010

Motion: *Faculty Senate will be charged with appointing any positions necessary for the parking appeals committee.*

Action taken by General Faculty: Passed unanimously.

Current Status: Faculty were elected to a parking appeals committee.

Faculty Senate Meeting, Sept. 10, 2010

Motion: *Faculty Senate tables the ACF report until the Senators can relay information to the general faculty and receive feedback.*

Action taken by Faculty Senate: Tabled.

Current Status: Remains tabled.

Motion: *To create an ad hoc committee of the senate to investigate the global aspects of a university honors program. The committee will consist of : College Deans, a Representative of each College, the Chair of EPC, and a member of the GE committee. Their task is to recommend viable options for the creation of an honors program and report back to the senate by the December 2010 meeting*

Action taken by Faculty Senate: Passed unanimously.

Current Status: Ad hoc committee reported by to Senate on December 3, 2010.

Motion: *The Faculty Senate recommends to the Board of Governors that the BOG Policy #38 (Parking of Vehicles on Campus) be amended so that Faculty and Staff parking tags be allowed for use on multiple cars.*

Action taken by Faculty Senate: Passed unanimously.

Current Status: Notice of the Faculty Senate's action was forwarded to Dr. Greg Epps on 12-21-2010. Dr. Epps has not replied to the Faculty Senate Chair Ruhne.

Faculty Senate Meeting, Oct. 8, 2010

Motion: *The faculty is in disagreement with the changes in the Intellectual Agreement that occurred after revisions were made and agreed upon during the January 2010 General Faculty Meeting. As such, the changes made and voted on will be offered as comments during the BOG policy comment period with a specific charge for a response by the BOG on why the suggested revisions were not made.*

Action taken by Faculty Senate: Passed unanimously.

Current Status: Recommendations from Faculty for change to the policy were accepted.

Motion: *The Faculty Senate expresses its support for a campus-wide recycling program and approves Amanda Solomon's Proposal.*

Action taken by Faculty Senate: Passed unanimously.

Current Status: A campus-wide recycling program is being developed.

Faculty Senate Meeting, November 5, 2010

Motion: *The Faculty Senate moves that WVSU should move forward with investigation of the administrative removal of non-attending students.*

Action taken by Faculty Senate: Passed.

Current Status: The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has forwarded a recommendation to establish an ad hoc Faculty Senate committee to study and develop policy on this issue.

Faculty Senate Meeting, December 3, 2010

Motion: *The Faculty Senate moves that WVSU accept the report of the ad hoc committee on university honors, and recommend to the full faculty adoption of such a program.*

Action taken by Faculty Senate: Passed unanimously.

Current Status: The full Faculty voted unanimously to adopt an honors program on January 12, 2011.

Motion: *The Faculty Senate moves that the Faculty Senate endorse establishment of a restricted account through the WVSU Foundation for the WVSU Faculty Scholarship.*

Action taken by Faculty Senate: Passed.

Current Status: This item will be discussed by the Faculty Scholarship Committee.