

Minutes

**Faculty Senate Meeting
Friday, February 4th, 2011
Ferrell Hall 305
1:30 p.m.**

- I. **Call to Order:** The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order by Senate chair, Dr. Tim Ruhnke at 1:30 p.m.
- II. **Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the November 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting were read. **Motion to approve the minutes was carried with a few minor corrections.**
- III. **Reading and Approval of Agenda:** **A motion to approve the Agenda was carried**
- IV. **Comments from the Chair:** Dr. Ruhnke informed the senate that the Executive Committee had taken action on the ad hoc Honors Committee and that he, personally, would be contacting members to create and convene the meeting. Also mentioned that he was working on ways to reconcile the difference between policies of Financial Aid and current grade suspensions. In terms of concerns to be brought to the Board of Governors, four specific items were discussed (Budgeting (especially in terms of the separation with KVCTC), Faculty Raises, Fundraising, and Recruitment). Dr. Ruhnke concluded by informing the Senate that the EC has begun discussion of possible reorganization of the University administration structure.
- V. **Reports:**
 - a. **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES** – Dr. Anne McConnell submitted a written report of the committee's past and future actions, especially noting new and exciting events. Many voices of appreciation for the number and quality of events were expressed. When questioned about budget issues, Dr. McConnell informed the Senate that with the separation of KVCTC, the budget has been reduced do to a loss in student fees. This loss may require faculty and student fees for some activities in the future. Also mentioned was a possibility for possible underwriting of future activities by corporate sponsors. **The report was accepted by the Faculty Senate.**
 - b. **EDUCATIONAL POLICIES** – No New activity took place between reporting dates.
 - c. **LIBRARY** – (See Written Report) The director of the library delivered the report and discussed that the committee has been a huge bonus for acting as a sounding board for concerns. Thus far, the committee has worked on creating a new mission statement, discussed which concerns were most needed to be pressed. Reports of operations of the library collected over the last year have been especially helpful. These reports included faculty committees concerning research by faculty and increased graduate programs. Questions asked included if faculty had the opportunity to look at and procure books earmarked for recycling (Yes (to schedule a time, please contact the library). Other concerns included budgetary issues and a lack of funds to increase electronic holdings. It was noted that the increase in price adds to this problem (an

increase that is not deemed necessary) **The report was accepted by the Faculty Senate**

- d. **PROGRAM REVIEW** – (Written Report) The committee reported that they were in the process of reviewing all of the final reports provided by the departments who are currently under program review. **The report was accepted by the Faculty Senate.**
- e. **PRESIDENT CARTER** – Dr. Carter's report began by providing information on the Capitol Campaign and announcing that the next meeting will be on Feb 11th and will include 17 members of the University (including faculty , staff, and administration). 2-3 of them faculty on this committee will also be part of the formation of an action committee for the campaign.

Dr. Carter discussed the University budget and the cuts required by HEPC and the legislator. Even with budget concerns, Dr. Carter assured the senate that of concern to the BOG in the upcoming year is an increase in salaries for employees of the university.

On December 23rd a ruling between WVSU and KVCTC's service agreement came down. The final number was 1.6 M to be paid to WVSU for services. Dr. Carter noted that KVCTC is receiving the same number of services from WVSU as during the 2010 academic year.

The Fleming Hall refurbishment is moving along on schedule. Feb. 8th is the next date for the planning committee

Dr. Carter also discussed plans for the state to give the adjoining Rehabilitation Center to WVSU for future expansion. This would consist of between 100 – 140 acres of land and buildings.

Questions posed to Dr. Carter included a clarification of possibility of pay raises (and general happiness to hear of them). Of most concern was that if raises were given, what "hole" would be formed due to them. Dr. Carter assured the senate that these issues were already planned for. When asked about specifics about the Capitol Campaign, Dr. Carter stated that he would provide a breakdown of funding for the money would be available for viewing / discussion.

- f. **VP of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS.** (Written Report) Dr. Byers informed the senate that the coming Tuesday will be his last "full-time" day in the office for a while as he will be rearranging his schedule due to a family illness. Dr. Byers called attention to some specifics in his written report. This included the AA Council's work on an institutional academic plan, work done by the research and graduate education council, and planning for facilities in the future.

Questions asked of Dr. Byers included a request for an addition to the University Style Manual for using PowerPoint. Also noted was that, although encouraged to use the style manual, there are currently no legal repercussions for NOT using the manual (something that will be looked at

in the future). A question on the inclement weather policy (especially concerning how decisions are made) was asked. Dr. Byers stated that the University has a step-by-step policy for decisions and the major concern is safety on campus (clear walkways, salted steps, etc.).

- g. BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG).** (written and on-line) In addition to the information discussed in the written report, Dr. Guetzloff reported at the Oct. meeting of the BOG financial concerns about the Child Development Center (CDC) were discussed. The CDC began in 1991 and has been operating at a loss to the University. Investigation into the records of the CDC were stalled due to a loss of information that was destroyed in a flood. More investigation was needed to look into debt held by the CDC as it currently serves 6 full time employees and 10-12 part time ones. The senate agreed that there was a need for someone to justify the accounting practices of the CDC.

- h. ADVISORY CONUCIL OF FACULTY (ACF).** Report online

VI. Old Business:

A. Faculty Raises

The senate discussed the need for addressing a lack of faculty raises in the past 4 years (Dr. Carter reminded the senate that this was a high priority for himself as well as the BOG). Provided to the senate (from the State Auditor's website) was data for comparison of salaries. Also discussed was that the faculty was (once again) in the midst of salary inversion (new hires making as much or more than faculty who have been working for years). Currently a merit system is in place (rewritten 3 years ago), however, dates have never been given or the procedure followed to implement a new plan. Also, due to lack of funds, no raises have come from it. Mike Lewis stated that the bottom line is that with no raise in the last 4 years University workers are 15% worse off in purchasing power than 4 years ago.

Discussion moved to what could be done to rectify the situation as salaries at WVSU are not equal in relation to our professional peers. Dr. Carter assured the senate that plans were in place to increase salaries in the coming academic year.

VII. New Business:

A. Fundraising

Dr. Carter was asked to provide information to clear up confusion among faculty as to what will be included in the Capitol Campaign. Dr. Carter provided an early draft for the statement of support and a draft of the plan for funding. The senate discussed a need for annual fund raising and ways to make fundraising more effective (including having students actively involved). Also of concern were questions asked by current fundraising techniques (one staff member was put aside by being asked "do you want your supervisor to know" (that no money was given)).

B. WVSU Merit Based Scholarship

A proposal for a merit-based scholarship was offered by the VP of Student Affairs Mr. Parker. This scholarship would be offered to students who did not

quite meet the standards for obtaining a promise scholarship. Basically, this would be a "tuition discount" that would be offered to the student and would be contingent on remaining a full time student and had a specific GPA (To be determined by the scholarship committee). The goal of the scholarship would be to improve retention.

Motion:

The faculty senate accepts the proposal of a merit based scholarship and moves to matter to the Faculty Scholarship Committee to begin to work out the details as discussed during faculty senate..

Action taken by Faculty Senate:

Passed

- VIII. Adjournment:** There being no further business or announcements, **a motion to adjourn the general faculty meeting. Motion carried.** Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Pietruszynski, Secretary
Faculty Senate

Action Items

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February 4th 2011

Ferrell Hall 305

1:30 p.m.

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