

Minutes

**General Faculty Meeting
Friday, January 12th 2011
Wallace Hall Room 122
10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

- I. **Call to Order:** The General Faculty Meeting was called to order by Senate chair, Dr. Tim Ruhnke at 10:35 am.
- II. **Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from May, 2010 General Faculty Meeting were read. **Motion to approve the minutes was carried.**
- III. **Reading and Approval of Agenda:** **A motion to approve the Agenda as modified was carried.**
- IV. **Comments from the Faculty Senate Chair**

Dr. Ruhnke began the meeting by reviewing the Senate and General Faculty action items of the previous year (see attachment) and took time to focus on two important issues: upcoming committees and problems with the faculty scholarship fund.

One upcoming committee of importance according to Dr. Ruhnke was a committee that will be assigned to review policies concerning non-attending students and the possibility of administrative removal. He did not elaborate on this committee as discussion of the policies would take place during new business.

Dr. Ruhnke then discussed the current problems with the foundation board in terms of the contract. The basic premise is that the faculty (especially the faculty scholarship committee) were at odds with the foundation's board (please see notes from the electronic report provided by the scholarship committee). Information given during the last senate meeting was made clear, including the amount currently in the scholarship fund (\$50,000). At issue is the way money is taken out of the account. The current agreement is that all new money will be added to the principle of the scholarship fund. Once it is added to the principle, the money becomes untouchable as only the interest is delegated for scholarships. (see attachment of action items for motion passed by the faculty senate to fix the situation)

V. **New Business:**

A. **Faculty Referral Program (Kellie Toledo and Wayne Smith)**

Kellie Toledo reported on efforts from last semester's faculty referral form program. She informed the general faculty that during weeks 1,3,5, and 8 of the previous semester, over 600 forms were turned in. She went on to let the faculty know that this process will be moving to an on-line form available in each instructor's "MyState" account and that each step of the process will be documented on-line. Wayne Smith then gave a demonstration of how the new form will work and what information is needed for a successful process.

Several questions from members of the faculty were asked. When asked if there were any results from the last semester, Kellie responded that, as of now, there were no cumulative results or feedback. The major problems from last semester were that 1. There were more forms handed in than expected and 2. The majority of the contact information for the students was incorrect because the student had not updated his/her information (or put it in incorrectly in the first place).

The faculty asked that there be follow-up communication published onto the form so that the faculty member who referred the student could keep updated on the process. Ms. Toledo responded positively to the comment and made a note to add that information to the referral form.

Dr. Ruhnke followed up the report by stressing how important it is to keep a record of students who do not attend as these numbers affect several issues within the university. He also mentioned that this was a step in a possible move towards administrative removal of non-attending students.

B. Consideration of University Honors Program

The General Faculty was informed that the Executive Committee of the Faculty had recommended an ad hoc committee to determine if there was a possibility of creating an honors program for the University. This committee had finished its work and provided a recommendation of creating an honors program using the existing classes and faculty (report attached)

Questions from the report included:

Is there a resource problem in offering honors classes (the model created is the most conservative model, using existing resources to create the program)

What was the faculty response to an honors program? (the surveys came back overwhelmingly positive and in support)

What are the future goals of the program? (this is both to help elevate student performance as well as help increase retention and graduation rates)

Motion:

The General Faculty endorses the creation of an honors program and an honors program committee as presented by the faculty senate ad hoc committee.

Motion passed unanimously

At-large members of the committee were then elected with college representatives to be elected during college meetings. The faculty unanimously agreed to allow the EC to stagger the terms for committee members. It was determined that AH and NS initial terms would be 2 years (following members would serve 3 years) and Business and PS would start (and continue) with 3 year terms.

C. WVSU Service Agreement with KVCTC / issues of legislative redress

The faculty senate was informed that the service agreement issue with KVCTC was finally agreed upon and that the university would be receiving \$1.6M. However, this money will only come in while the CTC is on campus. Once they leave campus, that income goes to zero.

Dr. Carter is currently seeking legislative redress for the lost money as other universities (Marshall and Fairmount) have had money added to their base budget to make up for losses from CTC's leaving their campuses.

Dr. Ruhnke then reminded the faculty that WVSU's Day at the Legislator would be February 1st and that we should make an effort, as faculty, to be visible at the capitol and let the legislators know what we are looking for.

D. WVSU Finances / Tuition increases, faculty COLAs

A very brief discussion on current attempts for raises took place. It was noted during this discussion that if money were added to the base budget (as with Marshall and Fairmount) then designing a package with salary increases would be much easier.

E. Phased Retirement

Dr. Ruhnke informed the General Faculty that the EC had not received any information on phased retirement and therefore would add the issue to the EC agenda for the coming semester.

F. Faculty Remembrances

The passing of the following former faculty members were remembered.

- VI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business or announcements, **a motion to adjourn the general faculty meeting. Motion carried.** Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Pietruszynski, Secretary
Faculty Senate

Action Items

**General Faculty Meeting
August January 12th 2011
Wallace Hall Room 122
10:30 – 12:30 am**

Motion:

The General Faculty endorses the creation of an honors program and an honors program committee as presented by the faculty senate ad hoc committee.

Motion passed unanimously