

**Minutes
(Draft)**

**Faculty Senate Meeting
Friday, December 2nd, 2011
Ferrell Hall 305
1:30 p.m.**

Call to Order: The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order by Senate chair, Dr. Tim Ruhnke at 1:30 p.m.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the October 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting were read. **Motion to approve the minutes was carried with a few minor corrections.**

Minutes from the November 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting were also read. **A motion to approve the minutes with revision to remove some commentary was carried.**

Reading and Approval of Agenda: **A motion to approve the Agenda was carried**

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT CARTER – Dr. Carter did not attend the meeting and no report was given.

PROVOST / VP of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS. Dr. Byers submitted a written report (available on-line). Dr. Byers made a point to single out and praise the work done by the Honors Committee, giving them special recognition for the quality and speed of which the work was done.

Dr. Byers also added items that were not available on the written report. These items included two scheduled open meetings on December 9th regarding qualifications for the presidential search. The first meeting would take place between 1-3:00 and would be an open meeting for faculty, then second between 3-5 would be open to staff. During each of these times, the groups would be meeting with the search consultants.

Dr. Byers discussed information he passed on to the Academic Leaders and Academic Affairs Council regarding upcoming accreditation. He stated that he has begun the process of forming committees to deal with the process. He stressed that recent events have put a spotlight on WVSU and both the HEPC and the Legislator are closely monitoring the school. In terms of accreditation, Dr. Byers stated that we have made some good progress, however, there are still areas that need improvement. These include: technological issues and financial problems. In response to these issues, he stated that we are currently working on each of them, including making sure that all

required material is on-line by next year and that HEPC has been working with us to shore up financial problems.

Dr. Byers also informed the senate that with the leaving of Chancellor Noland to ETSU that the interim head of HEPC would be Paul Hill.

Orlando McMeans will be the speaker at the Spring 2012 commencement.

Concluding his report, Dr. Byers was asked: in light of the publicized situation at state, what could the faculty do / say in order to recruit students. Dr. Byers recommended stressing the positive aspects of the school: 120 years of history, long accreditation, good faculty, etc. The key will be to talk positively about the school.

A request was made that a report might be given to the Senate on what academic items were accomplished on Dr. Berry's trip.

A second request was made that there continue to be budgetary transparency.

VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS. VP Casto submitted a written report (available on-line). Highlighting areas in his report, VP Casto presented the new webpage for all scholarships after which he also took suggestions on how to improve the page and added that if there are any discipline-specific scholarships, to have someone get in contact with his office to have them listed.

He also mentioned the planning of a "math open house" and asked for some help from the faculty to make it a success. The goal in this venture is to have potential students meet professors and sit in on classes in order to have them get a "feel" for state. VP Casto mentioned that this technique is the same one they use for athletes since recruits who meet the faculty are more likely to join the program.

The final highlight focused on the Metro Tuition project and how it could be made even more successful if faculty were willing to travel to areas in order to promote the school.

FINANCE. Mr. Jones was unable to attend the meeting as he had a meeting scheduled prior to the Faculty Senate invitation. Provost Byers stepped in to give information and answer questions. The senate was informed that the process for payment to WVSU with a credit card had been completed and that by Dec. 5th all payment functions will be able to be handled in Banner.

Several changes to the layout of where payments will happen have taken place, centralizing the location of ID cards and parking stickers.

In terms of fundraising, at the last BOG meeting it was reported that the database would not be fully updated as the information of 10,000 alumni was "stuck" on paper. Dr. Byers reported that this information was not accurate.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG). Dr. Guetzloff reported the search for a new president was moving along. At the time of the meeting no contract had been signed with a firm to conduct the search, however, that information would be made available as soon as the following Tuesday.

The process for the search would consist of creating a search committee comprised of BOG, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni. The goal for the committee would be to find 3-4 candidates to bring to campus. Names of candidates would not be made public until campus visits were planned.

Dr. Guetzloff also informed the senate that the BOG passed the budget. He was a dissenting vote as the budget did not have any deficit reduction plan.

ADVISORY CONUCIL OF FACULTY (ACF). Report is available on-line. No questions or comments were generated from the report by the Senate.

EPC (Dr. Anderson). Written Report available on-line. Some of the proposals were sent back to the departments for not following guidelines. It was noted that when making a change to a course, it is important to fully fill out the form and present the correct information in order for EPC to pass the proposal. This includes looking at a course where only the prerequisites are being changed. In these cases, it is important to note it is looked at like a "new" course, and the paperwork should reflect it as such. **A Motion to accept the report was passed.**

RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT. (Dr. Hankins) A written report was presented, but the chair was not present to answer questions. **A motion to accept the report was passed.**

Old Business:

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Annual WVSU holiday party took place on December 15th at Shawnee Park (a property in which the school manages). It was reported that no foundation or institutional resources were used to support the party. Many questions about the party were brought up by the Faculty Senate. Of chief concern for many members was the PR generated by having the party and the image of the university because of it. Some

questioned where the money actually came from to finance the party, however, the answer to these questions were unknown.

FIANCIAL STATUS OF THE UNIVERSITY

It was reported that the current budget for the university is "holding." The Faculty Senate was also notified that all plans for commencement were still moving along as they have in the past (commencement at the Civic Center and a Friday night dinner for graduates). It was mentioned that the December commencement had been moved back to the Civic Center because of logistical problems. Again, the problem of bad public relations came up in discussion. The question was posed: "Considering the tight budget, will we continue to do the same thing, or reduce?"

FLEMMING HALL UPDAE

Dr. Guetzloff stated that no "official" update has been given to the BOG except to say that the construction is "on pace."

Part of the recent delay came because the HEPC wanted to look back over the plans as it seemed that more money was going towards addition as opposed to renovation. The current plan is to do everything in the approved proposal. It was stated that the "Dream Plan" was about \$2,000,000 off.

New Business:

120 HOUR DEGREE PLAN

Mike Lewis stated that there was a need for some programs (including business) to find alternative ways of producing a major that only required 120 hours by simply reducing electives. Discussion came from the floor on possibilities of how to help alleviate some of the strain on departments and, hopefully, allow for more flexibility. Dr. Pietruszynski, as Coordinator of General Education stated that the GE committee had already begun looking into options but was open to a motion from the Faculty Senate charging the committee with the task.

The following motion was made:

The Faculty Senate Charges the General Education Committee with examining ways to give departments flexibility in reducing the required hours for a major to 120 by looking, specifically, at possible changes to the General Education Curriculum. Motion Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Pietruszynski, Secretary
Faculty Senate