

Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

Friday, March 1st, 2013

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 previous Senate Meeting were read. **Motion to approve the minutes was carried**
- III. **Reading and Approval of Agenda:** **A motion to approve the Agenda carried**
- IV. **Comments from the Chair:** Dr. Ruhnke let the Faculty Senate know that both President Hemphill and VPAA/Provost Byers would not be in attendance as they were attending Lou Myers Funeral. Myers was an alumnus of WVSU.
- V. **Reports:**
 - a. **PROVOST / VP of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS.-** Not in attendance, however, an online report / letter will be sent out from his office.
 - b. **ADVISORY CONUCIL OF FACULTY (ACF).** (Written report available on-line) Dr. Ford informed the Senate that the ACF was ramping up its work with the beginning of the Legislative session. There are several education bills that we, as a faculty, should be concerned with. These included a bill that would allow Higher Education Employees the ability to run for a Legislative position, a bill on outcome based funding for Higher Education, the K-12 initiative which has a lot of momentum right now, but leaves out Higher Education, and a Bill that would allow graduates with an area specific concentration to teach in schools without the Education degree component. Dean Harrison responded that the current Senate Bill (14) identified 7 criteria for fulfilling vacant teaching positions in public schools and that the biggest problem is that this is not being used. In that Bill (14) a candidates qualifications, NOT seniority, should be the first measure. Dr Ford encouraged faculty members who felt strongly about a Bill to get in touch with his/her representative. He ended his report by reminding the faculty that the ACF is voted on yearly and will need to be voted on for the upcoming year.
 - c. **BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG).** (Written report available on-line). Dr. Guetzloff presented the Senate with information from the last BOG meeting. Of particular interest was that the Board was considering a tuition increase between 5-10% to make up from the "dis" appropriation (removal of funds) by the mandated 9.4% across the board state funding cuts. He also presented to the Senate minutes from the Dec 9th, 2011 Safety Committee meeting where recommendations were made to begin emergency preparedness by purchasing and placing "low ticket" items (plastic wrap, duct tape, water, etc) in SHIP rooms and work to apply for grant funding for SHIP and emergency procedures. He felt, and discussed with the board, that the campus has become complacent in the area of SHIP and emergency safety procedures.

d. ACADEMIC APPEALS – (Written Report available on-line) Dr. Collins presented the recommendations for 4 grade appeals made to the committee. In each case, the person making the appeal had the opportunity to have his/her evidence heard by the committee. In each case, the committee did not find enough grounds for changing of the grade. Asked about meeting deadlines, Dr. Collins responded that the committee attempts to resolve ALL conflicts and if a student misses a deadline by a few days, they still work to provide a solution to the problem. However, it should be pointed out that all actions from this report were taken within the assigned window.

VI. Old Business:

- A. CONSIDERATION OF GRADUATION POLICY** – Dr. Ruhnke provided the Senate with a draft copy for language that would create a policy for students to participate in the graduation ceremony even if they do not fulfill all requirements in the final semester (due to failing courses). The Faculty Senate engaged in a long discussion of the proposed policy. Although most members were in favor of such a policy, there was a disagreement as to how lax the policy could / should be. In the language provided, a student who was cleared for graduation could walk in the ceremony if he/she failed every single class they attempted that semester. Some members felt that this was a “loophole” in the policy and wanted to impose a course or hour limitation. Dr. Harris wanted to make clear that the language in the policy has to be clear enough that the members of the faculty would be comfortable with the policy and not feel that this was something forced on them by the administration. Dr. Stewart responded by assuring that the language in the policy (as well as the idea for the policy itself) came in response to faculty requests and was written with the consultation of the President of the Senate and the BOG rep. After others weighed in on other possible scenarios not covered in the policy, it was decided by the Faculty Senate that the Executive Committee would take another look at the language and bring it to the April meeting.
- B. REVISION OF FACULTY HANDBOOK / CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS** – Dr. Ruhnke informed the Senate that this was an on-going process with a proposal of how to proceed being discussed by the Executive Committee and a draft of revisions will take place with the assistance of various committees, administrators, and faculty.
- C. EXTENDING DROP/ADD PERIOD:** Dr. Ruhnke informed the Senate that this was a matter discussed in the Degree Completion Task Force meeting and that we currently have an add/drop date that ends before some students had not even taken a class. **Motion: The Faculty Senate requests that the Add/Drop date for courses be moved to the Tuesday after the first week of classes. Motion made by Dr. Harris and Seconded by Dr. Marrash-Minnerly. Motion passed unanimously**
- D. POLICY ON ADMINISTRATIVE REMOVAL OF STUDENTS** – The Senate was informed that this was a procedure that was being discussed in the Degree Completion Task Force and worked in connection with other changes being

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made. Although nothing has been proposed yet, progress on this front is being made.

VII. New Business:

A. ISSUES WITH SHIP, OTHER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES - The faculty discussed the state of emergency procedures on campus, specifically SHIP readiness. It was stated that in these emergency situations, no one feels safe, but we need to work to be better prepared. Mr. Jones, invited by Dr. Ruhnke, informed the Senate that matters of SHIP are taken seriously in his office and on campus. As his former jobs required knowledge of the dangerous of chemical disasters, he personally, understood what was needed. Mr. Jones than asked for all issues / problems with our current SHIP procedures be sent directly to him where they will be quantified and discussed (with aim at solutions) at the next meeting. VP Jones was asked if anything was learned at the end of the last drill, and specifically, if SHIP will work if we NEED it. Dr. Fultz asked about the University Emergency Response Committee and if they would meet. Mr. Jones said that his office is taking under consideration all areas where help can be given and that the University President is committed to safety. Dr. Pietruszynski reminded everyone that SHIP do to a chemical emergency is not the only issue in terms of safety and asked when the last time the Safety Procedures were updated. He asked if it were possible for the Campus Police to provide a forum to discuss what our procedures are. Mr. Jones responded by informing the Senate that we wanted such a venue, he would make it happen.

B. NOMINATIONS FOR SENATE EXECUTIVE POSITIONS, AY 2013/14 - The senate was reminded that all executive positions were yearly appointments and elections were coming up.

VIII. Adjournment: There being no further business or announcements, **a motion to adjourn the general faculty meeting. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Pietruszynski, Secretary
Faculty Senate