

## **WVSU General Faculty**

### **Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, May 7, 2013, 1PM

W122

- Election of ACF representative, BOG representative, At-Large member of Senate Exec, Program Review
- Faculty Senate Activity – 2012-13
- Discussion of the Degree Completion Task Force

### **DEGREE COMPLETION TASK FORCE**

#### **GENERAL FACULTY MEETING – 5/7/13**

Task Force Members: Tim Ruhnke (Chair), Tim Alderman, Sandra Orr, Jeff Pietruszynski, Aaron Settle, T. Ramon Stuart, Kelly Toledo.

President Brian Hemphill formed the Degree Completion Task Force in August, 2013 and the inaugural meeting held August 28, 2013. The charge of the Task Force is to address three of the recommendations given in the West Virginia College Completion Task Force:

- 1) reduce the time it takes for students to earn a college certificate or degree
- 2) improve developmental education
- 3) increase adult completion rates.

The goal for the Task Force is to come up with a plan for enhanced degree completion at WVSU by January, 2014. The Task Force group has met one or two times per month throughout the year. A number of issues/ideas have been discussed by the group in AY 2012-13. Some notable examples were:

- Making the University Catalog an online, searchable document. Work on this is in progress.
- Full implementation of Degree Works. The present build-out of Degree Works was demonstrated to the group this past Spring.
- Development of an administrative withdrawal policy, combined with a small slate of 9-10 week courses
- Advising
  - A campus-wide assessment on how advisement is done.
  - Advise for 15 hours!!!
  - Intentional advising – go back to “hard” drop/add for students in first 60 hours
  - Ability to make advising appointments online
  - Advisors enter schedule during the advising session. Make sure there is student sign-off.
  - More usability of MyState (ex. listing of advisors, using pre-requisites to limit in appropriate enrollment in courses). Expansion of the feature use in MyState is ongoing.

- Possible creation of an Academic Advising Center, with a focus on students who have less than 60 hours
- Changes in developmental education.
- Expanded summer school offerings, especially with respect to online courses.
- Development of block scheduling for students in first 60 hours.

The Task Force also conducted a Survey Monkey survey of faculty attitudes with respect to academic advising. In general, it seems that Faculty are for the most part comfortable with advising within their program (76% very comfortable), but a greater percentage of respondents reporting being only somewhat comfortable with knowledge of the General Education curriculum (31%). Faculty were also of the opinion that WVSU needs a better advising program for incoming and transfer students and a majority felt that an academic advising center would be a good addition. The back of the survey contained a menu of responses for faculty to choose from regarding improved advising. The faculty were also given the opportunity to provide open ended, written responses, and number of them chose to do so.