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Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

October 11, 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 1:35 p.m.
- II. **Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the previous Senate Meeting were read. There was a motion (Vaughn, Harris) to approve the minutes as read. The motion was carried.
- III. **Reading and Approval of Agenda:** There was a motion (Harris, Vaughn) to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion was carried.
- IV. **Comments from the Chair:** Dr. Ruhnke reported that Dr. Hemphill was at a meeting off campus and would be unable to attend the Senate meeting. There are several conflicts associated with the normal Tuesday morning footprint for the State of the University address; as such, Dr. Hemphill's address has been moved to next Friday at 10:00. There will be a number of items presented that will be of particular importance to faculty.
- V. **Reports:**
 - a. **President .** No report
 - b. **Provost / VP of Academic Affairs.** Dr. Byers sent out a written report to all faculty via e-mail. He encouraged faculty to attend the President's convocation and thanked the Senate for its hard work and its dedication to shared governance. Dr. Byers discussed the role that GRDI is supposed to play as part of a Land-grant university. He believes that WVSU is "still a house divided" since we are, in many ways, not functioning the way that we should. He pointed out that the \$13 million per year brought in as a result of Land-grant activities benefits. The chair reminded the Senate that the University still is not able to offer academic appointments to Land-grant faculty.
 - c. **Faculty Scholarship Committee.** A written report was provided by the Chair, R. Conner. A total of \$6,944 was awarded to eight students for fall 2013. Each college received \$1,736 to award. The report indicated that VP Schumann has attended committee meetings and has worked to allay frustrations that many have felt in the past regarding the Foundation's handling of our funds. There was a motion (Vaughn, Ray) to accept the report. **The motion carried.**
 - d. **Educational Policies Committee.** A written report was provided by the Chair, S. Swindell. In a few instances, the title of the course was not clear. There was a motion (Pleska, Harris) to accept the report with two "flagged items"- the Chair will seek

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clarification. **The motion carried.** It was generally felt by senate members that future written reports should follow the template developed by C. Pleska.

- e. **BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG).** The Academic Compact is due to HEPC in November. The BOG will be having a special session to work with the Academic Affairs compact. Dr. Guetzloff announced that the BOG is working on the evaluation of the President. Also, it was announced that the gas well drilling is scheduled to begin next month.

VI. Old Business:

- A. **Plan for classroom technology needs in light of coming teaching room changes.** The Senate has been addressing faculty concerns regarding the availability of classrooms and equipment, especially in light of the fact that 1400 additional people will be on campus receiving training through an outside agency. Dr. Byers said that the contract for that agreement has been signed. He has received a list from the Deans regarding classroom needs including the equipment that needs to be moved to other classroom. Any faculty member with concerns or equipment needs is encouraged to contact Academic Affairs.
- B. **Departmental budgets.** Dr. Ruhnke has reported that we could expect increases in budgets and he has been communication with Dr. Byers. The chair was directed at the last meeting to work on behalf of the Senate to increase departmental budgets. It was pointed out that some departments have very low budgets. Dr. Byers said that with money coming into academic affairs, departments should be receiving the amount that they normally have received in the past. He said that the formula for budgets has changed and that he is always trying to make the process more transparent.
- C. **Summer school.** At the previous Faculty Senate Meeting, there was a discussion regarding summer school salaries. It is felt by some that a "% model" might be more appealing to potential summer school instructors. The Senate has previously voted to request that the CFO put money back into Academic Affairs budget to cover summer school compensation overloads.

VII. New Business:

- A. **Work of the Degree Completion Task Force.** The Chair presented a report to member of the Senate and a number of relevant items were discussed. There was a motion (Harris, Richards) for the Faculty Senate to endorse the report of the Degree Completion Task Force. **The motion carried.**
- B. **Faculty Computers.** The Chair reported that it has been two full years since an faculty computer has been replaced. There was discussion that included specific instances of computers that are broken or inadequate. Dr. Byers stated that he is trying to identify budgets to fund new faculty computers.

C. Shelter in Place. The chair again discussed the work of the group that was established by the President to examine the rooms and procedures for SHIP. He asked what experiences members of the Senate had at the recent SHIP that occurred as result of the chlorine leak from the Clearon Plant in South Charleston. The responses were really varied. It was generally agreed that the WARN system was a failure. There seemed to be a general degree of dissatisfaction with the SHIP in response to this most recent incident.

D. Faculty Evaluation Procedures. Dr. Mehdi Seyedmonir has agreed to chair an *ad hoc* committee. He reported that the committee is currently working to gather information and identify items that need to be addressed. Starting next semester, a number of focus groups will be in place. Ruhnke expressed concern of over evaluations for this semester, since it is already week nine. Dr. Byers said he believes that the order for evaluation forms has been approved by Academic Affairs.

E. Teacher of the Year. J. Pietruszynski presented a resolution on behalf of the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching (FACET) to commend Dr. Jessica Barnes- Pietruszynski and Dr. Michael Fultz who were co-recipients of the 2013 FACET Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. There was a motion (Pleska, Richards) to adopt the resolution. **The motion carried.**

Adjournment: There being no further business or announcements, there was a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Harris, Vice Chair
Faculty Senate