MINUTES
THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
APRIL 9, 2007

1. Professor Parviz Famouri, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM in Assembly Rooms A/B, NRCCE.

Members Present:
Ameri, S.  Davari, A.  Kershner, R.  Miller, M.  Shelton, E.
Atkins, C.  Dixon, S.  Kite, S.  Murthy, K.  Sherwood, L.
Banta, L.  Douglas, W.  Kleist, V.  Napolitano, M.  Siegrist, J.
Bonner, D.  Fitch, C.  LaGodna, B.  Nutter, R.  Stolzenberg, A.
Bowen, E.  Garbutt, K.  Lake, M.  Olson, K.  Stuchell, R.
Branch, D.  Graeber, J.  Lastinger, M.  Peace, G.  Tauger, M.
Brooks, R.  Griffith, R.  Latimer, M.  Petronis, J.  Temple, J.
Brown, G.  Hall, D.  Lively, M.  Putman, H.  Urbanski, J.
Bryan, W.  Hartman, K.  Long, K.  Riemenschneider, S.  Valenti, M.
Campbell, L.  Held, J.  Mancinelli, C.  Riley, W.  Verlinden, S.
Clark, N.  Hoey, J.  Mandich, M.  Robbins, J.  Vona-Davis, L.
Cohen, S.  Hornak, L.  Mays, M.  Royall, B.  Weihman, L.
Culberson, J.  Howard, S.  McDiarmaid, M.  Sand-Jecklin, K.  Wilcox, G.
Cumming, J.  Iskander, W.  McGinley, P.  Sedgeman, J.  Woloshuk, J.
D’Souza, G.  Jacknowitz, A.  McNerney, K.  Selin, S.

Members Absent:
Abbott, J.  Bryner, R.  Gerbo, R.  Melton, P.  Richards, A.
Almond, C.  Buchanan, T.  Gladwin, M.  Morgan, D.  Shambaugh, N.
Anderson, R.  Cook, L.  Grose, K.  Mullett, C.  Stockdale, T.
Bagby, M.  Cottrell, L.  Hill, R.  Mutz, C.  Townsend, C.
Behling, R.  Cottrell, S.  Hornsby, G.  Nestor, P.  Valentine, S.
Bilgesu, I.  Dedlia, H.  Hurst, M.  Nuss, M.  Walker, E.
Brown, P.  Dillis, C.  Jones, R.  Price, S.  Wright, F.

2. There was no report from the President’s office.

3. Chair Famouri reported that his job was complete for the presidential search committee. He said that 3 candidates have been chosen for interviews, and they all have strengths and weaknesses; he encouraged senators to listen to the last candidate before making any decisions. The Chair said if senators want to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, April 11th, he will send out an e-mail on Tuesday to all senators, including senators from the regional campuses. He reported that he discussed the presidential search in all 6 of his reports that were printed in the Mountaineer Spirit, and he reports at the Faculty Senate meetings as well. The Chair indicated that only one faculty member responded to him concerning the disproportional faculty representation of law and health sciences verses the general University. Chair Famouri said he wants to make it clear that it is important to him and that he is committed to the majority and he emphasized the majority of the faculty voices will be heard. The Chair recommended that today’s agenda not be amended for discussion of the presidential search, but the discussion would take place under “New Business.”
4. Margaret Phillips, VP Human Resources, gave an update on the status of the Department of Human Resources (HR). She said she assumed the Vice-President’s role 9 months ago, and much has been accomplished. The department has been reorganized and 3 new directors have been hired as well as the filling of several key vacancies. VP Phillips identified several new initiatives that have been put in place within the department, and she said the department’s goals and directives have also been re-evaluated. In the spring, 2006, Vice-President Narvel Weese commissioned Professor Nancy Lohmann to conduct an environmental assessment of the HR department. As a result, goals and values have been re-established as well as a new mission and a new vision have been put in place. VP Phillips introduced the directors of Human Resources: Toni Christian, Director of Benefits Administration, Patricia Gyrurke, Director of Employment Services, LuAnn Moore, Director of Human Resource Operations, Chelle Adams, Director of Training & Development, Cindy Curry, Director of Classification & Compensation Administration, and Jim Morris, Director, Employee Relations. VP Phillips said HR will also be recruiting an Executive Director for Compensation Administration. The directors gave an update concerning the various programs being implemented. VP Phillips gave pay-raise predictions for 2007 from the Mercer HR Consulting Survey and CUPA (College and University Personnel Association). She said the average salary increase for faculty will be 3.9% nationwide.

VP Phillips said she was approached by Professor Stan Cohen, Faculty Welfare Committee, with a proposal from the Committee to implement a “Wellness Program.” She said on March 5, 2006, she met with the committee to discuss the initiatives needed for the program to get underway. Toni Christian gave an update on this program. Some of the other projects that HR is working on include the following: a new student employment office, a retirement conference to be held later this year, and a dual career program.

5. Sarah Rotruck, graduate assistant from the Provost’s Office, Academic Affairs, and Professor Ed Etzel, Physical Education and Sports Studies, gave a presentation concerning the, “Foundations of Excellence,” which is a guided self-study of freshman’s First-Year Experience. Sarah discussed, “why the first year matters,” “what the first year experience is,” and “what is being done to insure the excellence of the first year in the future.” Sarah said in July, 2005, WVU established an office of the first-year experience, which is housed under Student Affairs. The first-year is more important than the remaining years for WVU students because students need to make important and different kinds of decisions for their lives. She said the students can adapt more easily if they join pre-major honoraries, student/community groups, clubs, and organizations. She said it would also help if the faculty would interact with the first year students and encourage them to do their best. Sarah said last fall a survey was given to faculty, staff, and students about their opinions of the first year experience for students, how much they know about the first year and if they had any recommendations for improvements that could be made. Sarah said the survey reflected that faculty believe they are unevenly prepared to deal with the range of interests and motivations of first-year students. Professor Etzel recommended that “acts of kindness” be part of the faculty-student involvement, which could include faculty encouraging students to visit them during their office hours to discuss any decisions that they may have to make. Sarah said she believes that special resources and more support are needed for the large freshmen classes to succeed.
6. Sara Bishop, Administrative Information Systems, discussed the new electronic system for the Student Evaluation of Instruction (eSEI) forms. She said this year she has been working with the SEI committee, as well as Associate Provost C.B. Wilson and the Division of Extended Learning to address two major issues: to allow extended learning students to complete an on-line evaluation form and to update the current 7-year system, so it can be more secure and have better benefits from newer technology. She presented a power point presentation to show where and how to get into the electronic system. She said paper forms are still available as well as the new electronic form. A handout was provided. Sara said if anyone has questions or needs assistance with the new version, he/she can log in a ticket to Information Services, and someone will contact them.

7. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

8. The following Curriculum Committee reports and the General Education Oversight Committee Report were moved for approval from the consent agenda:

New Courses and Course Changes listed in Annex I. Motion carried.
Prefix Change from F&CS to DISB listed in Annex II. Motion carried.
Capstone Experience – Public Relations 459 listed in Annex III. Motion carried.
Psychology B.A. Program Proposal listed in Annex IV. Motion carried.
Program Changes for the Forensic and Investigative Sciences BS Degree listed in Annex V. Motion carried.
The Alteration Report was presented for information in Annex VI.

The General Education Oversight Committee Report listed in Annex VII. Motion carried.

9. Because of a full agenda, Professor Art Jacknowitz, will give the Advisory Council of Faculty report next month.

10. Associate Provost Cheryl Torsney said the Senate Executive Committee reviewed the 2008-2009 academic calendar, and it recommended that the spring recess be changed from March 21 – March 29, 2009 to March 14 – March 22, 2009. Professor Steve Kite recommended that the last day to drop classes be changed to March 27th to reflect the spring recess change. It was duly seconded. Motion carried.

11. New Business

Professor Lastinger and Chair Famouri indicated that they have reserved the Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair for Wednesday, April 11, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., if necessary, for a special meeting to be held after the last presidential candidate is interviewed.

Professor Donald Hall moved that the Chair call a special Faculty Senate meeting on Wednesday, April 11th, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Gluck Theatre, Mountainlair, so a formal recommendation can be made. It was duly seconded. Motion
carried. The special meeting will include the regional campus senators, and a conference call will be set up in the Gluck Theatre.

Professor James Harner said two major factors need to be considered - a conflict of interest as well as the composition of the search. Professor Branch, Physical Education, thanked Chair Famouri, for his work on the presidential search committee, Michael Lastinger for his work on the Board of Governors this year and Jim Harner for being bold enough to step forward and speak his mind. Professor Branch challenged the senators to be more assertive, up front, and to take part in the governance process. Professor Wilkinson supported the special meeting and advised senators to ask different questions about higher education that have not been asked before. Professor Lastinger said all comments are being gathered and presented to the Board of Governors; he will ask Chairman Goodwin if the comments could be made available to the public. Professor Art Jacknowitz asked if it would be possible to invite the next acceptable candidate on the list to come for an interview, so there are three choices instead of two. Chair Famouri said this is not possible because the search committee’s job is over. Professor Riemenschneider asked if comments could be distributed to the senate as a whole so issues could be reviewed; Chair Famouri indicated that senators can send comments to the Faculty Senate Office, so they can be sent out via electronic mail to the whole Senate. Professor Olson said she has served on 2 of the 5 searches that have been underway at the College of Creative Arts, and she said that confidence has been given to the committees appointed as well as the two leaders. She said questions should have been brought up early in the process. Professor Griffith said faculty is not regarded by the Board of Governors as the heart and soul of the University. Professor Kleist thanked her peers for serving on the presidential committee and she appreciates the opportunity that the body can speak on Wednesday and give a formal record of what its views are about evaluating all the candidates that came to the campus. She said if a formal recommendation cannot be made, then she suggested another candidate be contacted and brought in for an interview. Professor D’Souza asked if the candidates had strong resumes in order to receive promotion & tenure, which is reviewed 6 years after they become president. He said one has to have a substantial contribution in teaching & research. He said since new evidence has been brought up, he believes the process should be questioned. Professor Harner said he disapproves of the process that has been currently used, and he believes the process needs repaired for future searches. Professor Hornak said it would be helpful if the criteria were known regarding the selection so it could provide insight. He said during the meeting on Wednesday, issues should be discussed in a professional manner to see the process through. Professor Sherwood said that before Wednesday, information should be gathered about previous search committees to see if this is a normal process. Professor Atkins said there were many faculty concerns, so why does Friday, April 13th have to be the date of decision. Professor Lastinger said the Board of Governors is listening to all the constituents, and it is a timing issue. He said the process is not the problem, but it is the candidates being interviewed. He believes that the faculty will have a voice, and he believes senators should contribute in all the forums and participate in the meeting on Wednesday.

Professor Bryan moved that the Faculty Senate body has no confidence in the process that has occurred up to this point, and it was duly seconded. Professor Lastinger said he would like to postpone the no confidence in the process motion until the May 14th Faculty Senate
meeting because the process is incomplete. It was duly seconded. **Motion carried by a vote of 42 in favor and 17 against.**

Professor Garbutt was in favor of postponing the motion because he said if a qualified candidate is chosen, then the faculty would be saying that it did not approve of the process. He said all the information should be gathered and senators should meet on Wednesday to make an informed decision about the presidential candidates.

Chair Famouri said he will work with the Faculty Senate Office to set up the communication for the special meeting on Wednesday. The regional campuses will be able to call an 800 number and be part of the discussion.

Professor Lastinger said on Friday, April 13th, the Board of Governors will meet to make its decision on the selection of the next WVU president. The Board will present its choice to the Higher Education Policy Commission, which will meet on April 26th to discuss the decision. An announcement of this meeting will be submitted one week before the group meets.

Professor Cohen announced that on May 4th an installation of the Faculty Senate Chairs’ plaque will be held in the Milano Room, which is located on the third floor of the Wise Library. The reception will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Chair Famouri said the election for the Faculty Senate Chair-elect will be held on Monday, May 14, 2007. He encouraged faculty to step up to the plate and give their names to anyone on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. He encouraged as many candidates to run for the position as possible.

12. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. to reconvene Monday, May 14, 2007.

Barbara Dunn
Committee Secretary