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

Member Present:
Ameri, S.  Cottrell, S.  Hornak, L.  Mandich, M.  Sand-Jecklin, K.
Atkins, C.  Culberson, J.  Hornsby, G.  Mays, M.  Selin, S.
Bagby, M.  D’Souza, G.  Iskander, W.  McDiarmid, M.  Shelton, E.
Banta, L.  Davari, A.  Jacknowitz, A.  Miller, M.  Stolzenberg, A.
Behling, B.  Dillis, C.  Kershner, R.  Mutz, C.  Stuchell, R.
Berger, G.  Etzel, E.  Kite, S.  Napolitano, M.  Tauger, M.
Bilgesu, I.  Fitch, C.  Kleist, V.  Nath, C.  Townsend, C.
Branch, D.  Gladwin, M.  LaGodna, B.  Olson, K.  Verlinden, S.
Brooks, R.  Griffith, R.  Lake, M.  Peace, G.  Vona-Davis, L.
Brown, G.  Hartman, K.  Lastinger, M.  Price, S.  Walker, E.
Bryner, R.  Held, J.  Lively, M.  Richards, A.  Weihman, L.
Cohen, S.  Hill, R.  Long, K.  Riemenschneider, S.  Wilcox, G.

Members Absent:
Almond, C.  Dixon, S.  Hurst, M.  Petronis, J.  Stockdale, T.
Bowen, E.  Frum, K.  McGinley, P.  Riley, W.  Valenti, M.
Bryan, W.  Gerbo, R.  McNerney, K.  Royall, B.  Valentine, S.
Campbell, L.  Graeber, J.  Melton, P.  Sedgeman, J.  Woloshuk, J.
Clark, N.  Grose, K.  Morgan, D.  Shambaugh, N.  Wright, F.
Cook, L.  Hall, D.  Mullett, C.  Sherwood, L.  Murthy, K.
Cumming, J.  Hendrickson, J.  Neston, P.  Siegrist, J.  Cheltin, R.
Dedhia, H.  Howard, S.  Nuss, M.  Steranka, P.

2. President Hardesty reported on the new commencement format; the traditional decentralized commencement was changed in hope that every student could walk across the stage to be personally recognized. On Friday, May 11, 2007, commencement began with an honors luncheon where 2 persons were given the distinguished service award. The 5 honorary doctorates spoke and the honorary Vandals were recognized. He said the same evening, the commencement honors convocation took place where the 30 outstanding seniors and the 8 Order of Augusta members were recognized. He said it was very meaningful and for the first time, commencement-style recognition was given to the ROTC candidates, which was very well received. The President said commencement included 85% of graduates, which is a much higher participation rate then ever before. Human Resources and Education had 325 graduates and 3,000 guests; College of Engineering and Mineral Resources had 400 graduates; College of Business and Economics had 420 graduates; School of Medicine had 104 graduates; College of Law had 140 graduates; and the College of Creative Arts had 135 graduates. The President said overall, there were approximately 3,250 participants and 27,500 guests. Evaluations are being collected. The “Gold and Blue Ambassadors”, which consisted of about 30 students, helped and guided people. Carts were available for transport
as well. The President spoke at the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, College of Law and Eberly College of Arts & Sciences commencement exercises.

3. Chair Famouri summarized the Faculty Senate events that took place since the April 9th Faculty Senate meeting. (see attachment)

4. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

5. The Executive Committee nominated Virginia Kleist, B&E, as a candidate for the Faculty Senate Chair-elect. The floor was open for additional nominations, and Professor D’Souza nominated Professor Paul Brown, MED. Both candidates gave remarks concerning their candidacy. A paper vote was taken; results included 13 votes for Paul Brown and 51 votes for Virginia Kleist.

6. Professor Art Jackowitz gave an ACF report on behalf of Professor Nutter. He said the ACF met on March 30th. A retreat will be held at Canaan Valley the end of July; selected legislators will be invited to attend. The ACF will meet with Governor Manchin in the near future. Sylvia Shurbett, Shepherd University, discussed the faculty study committee report, which was co-authored with Associate Provost C.B. Wilson.

7. The following Committee Reports were moved for approval from the consent agenda:

   Curriculum Committee Reports:
   New Courses and Course Changes listed in Annex I. Motion carried.
   The Alteration Report was presented for information in Annex II.

   General Education Oversight Committee Report:
   Course Recommendations listed in Annex III. Motion carried.

   Student Rights and Responsibilities Reports:

   Library Committee Report:
   Committee Recommendations listed in Annex V.

   Ad Hoc Committee on Curriculum Committees’ Procedures:

   Student Instruction Committee Report:
The report was pulled from the consent agenda. Professor Cohen asked if a policy could be put in place to make sure exams are not given during the last week of classes, since the process is being streamlined.

Professor Tauger said the committee addressed 2 substantial issues this year; one of the issues was examinations during the week before finals. The report was a proposal to unburden the final. Specific cases were addressed. The second issue consisted of a, “model syllabus.” Professor Tauger said the committee has been working on a “form,” which it will submit to the Senate Executive Committee for its May 21st meeting. He said faculty requesting to give a final during the last week of classes will complete the form identifying and explaining the criteria for the final and/or project, and the form will be submitted to the chair of the department for evaluation.

Professor Garbutt said an “I” is not an appropriate letter that should be used to warn students that they are doing poorly. He said if students need a warning, another source should be used other than the letter I. Professor Tauger said the letter is only for graduate students, and since these students receive an “S” or “U” and not a letter grade, it would be used as a warning. Professor Garbutt said it is not appropriate to use a letter that is already being used for undergraduates, and he recommended another letter be used for this purpose. The issue will be taken to the Student Instruction Committee.

8. Chair Famouri read the following motion made by Professor Bryan at the May 14th Faculty Senate meeting:

“Professor Bryan moved that the Faculty Senate body has no confidence in the process that has occurred up to this point.” The motion was postponed until today’s Faculty Senate meeting. Professor Riemenschneider asked if the motion could be replaced with one that he distributed. The Chair said since Professor Bryan was not available, the motion could not be replaced.

After committee discussion, a paper vote was taken; results included 33 votes for the motion, 29 against and 4 abstention.

9. Professor Steve Kite read the following 4 point Faculty Senate Executive Committee proposed resolution that was submitted on April 23rd:

“The Faculty Senate remains disappointed that its vote of April 11, 2007 was not heeded by the Board of Governors, but it believes that the future success of WVU is predicated on sincere cooperation between faculty and administration; therefore, the Faculty Senate as a representative body:

1. affirms that faculty execute the core missions of WVU: teaching, research and service;
2. resolves to work cooperatively with President-elect Garrison and his future administration;
3. resolves to seek enhancement of faculty participation and leadership in University governance; and
4. acknowledges that individual faculty members may hold views divergent from those expressed above.

Professor Bergner made a friendly amendment to the points as follows:

1. affirms that the core missions of WVU; teaching, research and service rely on the commitment and ability of the faculty.
2. resolves to work cooperatively with President-elect Garrison and his future administration to further those missions;
3. resolves to seek formal enhancement of faculty participation and leadership in University governance; and
4. recognizes that individual faculty members may hold views divergent from those expressed above.

A hand count was taken on the amendment and results included 41 in favor of the motion, 15 against and 4 abstentions.

10. Professor Lastinger said the BOG chose Michael Garrison to be the next president elect for WVU. He said he has certain qualities inside the state that could save WVU because the University lacks full and cooperative state funding; Mr. Garrison is a lobbyist for high paying enterprises and he could communicate the funding that is needed for WVU. The incoming Chair of the BOG looks to the faculty and he will work with the task force to increase the communication between different constituencies. Professor Lastinger said he doesn’t believe anything can be done to change the outcome of the process and WVU’s dignity should not be compromised, and there would not be a positive result from any investigation. He believes that the motion should be supported. He expressed dismay that the April 11th vote was not heeded. Michael Garrison has been chosen and faculty should watch, advise, judge, listen and engage him constructively or critically. In the end, the judgment of the process will not be what is done today, but it will be where WVU is in 5, 10 and 20 years. Faculty need to realize that it is the teaching and research that make up who faculty are and make sure the president, president-elect Garrison and the Board of Governors are aware of this.

11. Professor Napolitano said parking rates are going up this year. He said he requested to hold the increasing parking fees until the committee on Parking and Transportation was briefed on the rationale, but the request was denied. Professor Kershner said parking fee increases is not part of the committee’s charges. This issue will be discussed at the May 21st meeting.

12. Professor Riemenschneider read the following motion that was submitted:

“Motion: The Faculty Senate of West Virginia University calls on the State Legislature to appoint an Independent Commission to investigate the procedures and to restore the integrity of the WVU presidential search process. The Chair of the Commission should be a West Virginia University graduate living outside West Virginia and with national prominence; for example, Charles Vest, retired President of MIT and President of AAAS, or Peter Kalis, global chairman and global managing partner of K&L Gates. The commission members should have like status, and there should be no connection of commission members to the
present Board of Governors nor to the present government in Charleston. The commission should be empowered to carry out their investigations unfettered in their access to individuals and material surrounding the present search.”

The motion was duly seconded, and a hand count was taken. Results included 10 in favor of the motion and 37 against the motion with 1 abstention. Motion failed.

13. Professor Hornak moved to endorse the formation of a task force specifically targeted at resolving the 4 issues in collaboration with the president-elect, the Board of Governors, and whatever the faculty group wants, with a series of meetings that may have to go on. It was duly seconded. Motion carried.

14. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. to reconvene next month Monday, June 11, 2007.

Mary Strife
Faculty Secretary