MINUTES
THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
Monday, February 9, 2009

1. Professor Virginia Kleist, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. in Assembly Rooms A/B, NRCCE.

2. Members Present:

Abate, M.               Davari, A              Long, K.                   Raifer, J.                   Stuchell, R.
Abraham, R.           Famouri, P.           Malarcher, J.             Rauch, H.                  Tallaksen, R.
Ahern, T.               Fredette, H.          McCombie, R.              Richards, A.                Tower, L.
Anderson, J.          Hartman, K.           McDiarmid, M.            Riemenschneider, S.       Turton, R.
Banta, L.               Hall, D.               McGinley, P.             Riley, W.                   Urbanski, J.
Bergner, G.           Hash, K.               Meckstroth, R.           Robbins, J.                Valenti, J.
Bilgesu, I.             Hessl, A.              Murthy, K.                 Rockett, I.                Walker, E.
Blaydes, S.             Higgins, C.             Nath, C.                Ruscello, D.                Watson, J.
Bonner, D.             Huffman, V.            Nelson, C.                Sand-Jecklin, K.            Weihman, L.
Bowen, E.               Insch, G.              Nestor, P.               Schreurs, B.                Wenger, S.
Boyles, J.              Iskander, W.            Nichols, A.                Sedgeman, J.                Wilcox, G.
Branch, D.             Jacknowitz, A.          Nutter, R.                Shelton, E.                Wilson, M.
Bredhoft, T.             Kershner, R.             Oberhauser, A.            Spleth, J.                 Woloshuk, J.
Calwell, J.              Kirby, B.              Olson, K.                Sherlock, J.
Clark, N.                Kleist, V.              Peace, G.                 Siegrist, J.
Cottrell, L.             Kuhlman, J.            Perone, M.                Stack, S.
Cottrell, S.           Lake, M.               Petronis, J.             Steranka, P.
Connors, J.            Latimer, M.            Plein, C.                  Stolzenberg, A.

Members Absent:

Bagby, M.              Chetlin, R.             D'Souza, G.             Hunter, S.                 Mandich, M.
Campbell, L.            Comer, P.              Graber, S.                Lively, M.                Vona-Davis, L.

Members Excused:

Brooks, J.             DiBartolomeo, L.          Hileman, S.             Miller, M.                Sherwood, L.
Bryner, R.              Hall, D.               Hutson, Z.                Parks, E.                Walls, T.
Clark, B.               Hash, K.               Lastinger, V.           Ryan, K.
Davis, S.              Hermosilla, P.           Mancinelli, C.            Serafini, M.
A comment on budget matters. President Magrath said the university is not all about money. But the budget sources are the instruments needed by the university, its faculty and everyone to do their jobs. It’s a resource that we need, so this is why the budget and money matters are on the minds of president types and all people who are affiliated with the University.

Later this week, the Governor will give his State of the State Address. President Magrath has not seen an advanced copy of the address. He can guess that it will be a prudent budget message. However, things are not so bad for the state of West Virginia or WVU. Unlike other states, it does not have significant budget reductions to deal with right now. He said he does not know what the future holds – a cycle down or what may come, but for now, we are in good shape in context of not losing and being stable, and getting the budget moved forward. He could not predict how much additional funding WVU would get, and he said it would be foolish to assume a big increase, but WVU will work as hard as it can to try to get the maximum increase because the budget is what is needed to get the job done for the state of West Virginia and beyond. President Magrath said, “in regards to the federal matter of the economic stimulus package and program, it is a matter of seeing what the final outcomes are.” A huge amount of money that was intended for higher education was taken out of the Senate Bill. They are submitting everything that can be and are taking positions that maximize the support that will not only be good in a narrow sense for WVU and for higher education, but in terms of the economic stimulus side of it, WVU is looking ahead and moving forward, and it will continue to do so.

Interim Provost Martin said the AACRAO report, and the University response, has been accepted by the President. It was presented the morning before the public meeting to the BOG in Executive Session. The Interim Provost answered questions at that time. Faculty met in the NRCCE building to hear the AACRAO report, and Interim President Magrath accepted it. Chairwoman Long said that she concurred with the University’s response to AACRAO’s recommendations; the steps were on track with, “what needs to be done, what should be done, and what will be done.” She gave a strong endorsement as well. The implementation is underway and the Interim Provost said last Wednesday, at the deans’ meeting, she asked the deans to take responsibility for various recommendations. The following is a list of those recommendations:

a. Charged with the responsibility of working with Admissions & Records to identify May graduates and assure certification, and that all aspects of degree requirements will be met by the time of degree control.

b. To submit the name of a person responsible for oversight of the undergraduate and graduate record management in the college or school by February 15, 2009.

c. Inform staff/faculty that the University transcript is the official document for certifying the student for the degree.

d. Actively discourage the use of shadow systems, but if they are used, they must follow the WVU policy and be monitored for compliance.

e. Inform faculty/staff to implement a one year retention policy for non-returned student papers, tests, and class rosters.

f. Begin the process of developing, if need be, collecting and publishing academic records, and policies and procedures manuals.
The Interim Provost will work with the deans, and other associate provosts will work on these things throughout the rest of the term.

The Interim Provost said copies of the AACRAO’s retention of records book will be distributed to deans and other appropriate personnel with the directive that we will do our best to adhere to the guidelines.

The Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, Cheryl Torsney, and Vice-President for Graduate Academic Affairs, Jonathan Cumming, have prepared a list of all degrees offered in schools and colleges and the number of credits required. The list will be added to the new catalog, which is currently being published. The list needed to be submitted by last Friday, so it will be included in the front section of the new catalog. The catalog will be available in April, 2009, so a resource will now be available to those going through the degree certification process. Once the registrar is hired s/he will be responsible for the management of catalog information.

The registrar’s position has been advertised. The Chair of the Committee, Associate Provost C.B. Wilson met with the committee, and it waits for applications to be submitted.

Interim Provost Martin asked the Senate Curriculum Committee to take the responsibility for developing a standard University-wide approach for assigning and reporting credit for experiential learning and for courses that do not follow the University calendar (listed in the 5th bullet of the responses). This is a task that this committee can and should undertake, and she asked that this be given attention as soon as possible. Interim Provost Martin said it is important to have something in our hands to guide us as we go into the academic fall term.

Interim Provost Martin said as announced last Monday, AACRAO will take on a Phase II of academic records review. Sr. Associate Provost Russ Dean will be the point person working with the team. She said the contract states, “to conduct a thorough review of academic records for each undergraduate student whose official academic record lists total credit hours that are fewer than the number required for the degrees conferred.” The number that was identified was 261 (it may be less than this), but this is the number of records that are being pulled for their review. AACRAO will be coming to campus next week, and an intensive review will be done on the records. Interim Provost Martin said we are counting on co-operation from the units and schools to supply copies of the information that is needed in order for the team to sit in one place and do their job. They will deliver a report that will identify the reason for any discrepancies and associated procedural patterns that may exist. The report will include an analysis to the extent to which recommendations contained in Phase I of the report will eliminate future discrepancies and offer new recommendations, if needed. Their hunch is that those record management processes identified in Phase I are linked to the errors identified. She said we need to be certain and clear about what we are doing and that we are doing the right thing and the good thing and we will go forward.

Late Friday afternoon, at the recommendation of the Interim President, the BOG turned over a student query about an academic matter to the Provost’s Office. Interim Provost Martin said she will give the letter, and any other information, the due diligence that student queries about academic records should be accorded. Like other student queries, it will be done in confidence.
Interim Provost Martin said the interview process for the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs position has been completed; an announcement of the new person will be made later this week.

6. Chair Kleist reported on the following issues:

- Curt Peterson, Associate Vice-President for Research & Economic Development Research, has advised that Pat Callery’s term of service will expire on June 30, 2009 as the Research Corporation’s representative for Health Science’s faculty.
- The Chair solicited names submitted by the Faculty Senate to the Research Corporation for two spots, and those have been filled. She would like to use the same process, so faculty can send nominations to Gwen Bergner, Chair, Committee on Committees. The Executive Committee will do a ballot from the list of names.
- Two names were submitted for the new child care committee; Barbara (Bobbie) Warash, Professor of Child Development and Family Studies and the Director of the WVU Nursery School and Lisa Weihman, Associate Professor in English.
- Nigel Clark, Chair, Rescind Asinine Procedures Committee. He can be contacted for their names.
- The Mountainlair Advisory Committee is seeking faculty representation; they have not met in over a year. Chair Kleist said to use last year’s committee members, but if any of those members no longer wish to serve, then the committee can be restaffed.
- Chair Kleist, Chair-elect Clark, and BOG member Kite went to Charleston, WV, on January 14, 2009 to submit names of possible BOG members that had been collected by the Executive Committee. She said there was good conversation, and the Chair believes that a good BOG member has been seated. They met informally with legislators Barbara Fleischauer, Alex Shook and Mike Oliverio to follow up on the motion that was passed in December 2008 about an additional faculty representative on the BOG.
- Twenty-nine questions were submitted for the presidential search, and they were forwarded to the search committee; three of the questions were high-lighted.
- The Curriculum Committee for a Syllabus Builder will meet this week to try and move the project along by making it more streamlined because it has become too sophisticated and all the bells and whistles may not be needed.

7. Ed Pastilong, Director, Internal Administrative Affairs, said athletics is going through a recertification procedure from the NCAA, which is a 10-year recertification that involves a large number of faculty, administrators, staff, coaches, student athletes, and athletic administrators. It began in September, and it will end in May, 2009. He said it has been going very well, and he feels very good about the recertification. Director Pastilong said he is pleased to say that student athletes continue to graduate at a higher graduation rate than the general student body; he complimented the coaches and academic support staff. We have 462 student athletes. 282 made the Athletic Directors’ Honor Roll (B average or above). The overall GPA for all 462 student athletes is 3.12. There are 189 Division I schools that we compete against in the Directors’ Cup. WVU ranks 21st for competitiveness. He said they are a self-supporting inter-collegiate athletic department, one of the few in the nation. Most recently, it was shown that they are one of 19 division I schools that consistently finish in the black. He said major upgrades have been made to
the athletic facilities, the coliseum, and stadium. Recently, new buildings have been constructed: a new soccer stadium and new practice facilities in the gymnastics and wrestling centers. He said an emphasis is on maintenance and continued upkeep of all facilities. Director Pastilong said they play by the rules and bring student athletes to WVU that everyone can be proud of. They are students first by paying attention to academics. They want to win contests and be competitive, and always manage finances. He said it’s been a good year for winning, and he feels good about the future.

8. The following consent agenda reports were approved:

   Annex I. New Courses and Course Changes.
   Annex II. Capstone Request for JRL 459.
   Annex III. Medical Technology Program Modification (Degree Designation and Title Change).

9. Professor Lisa Weihman reported on the Ad Hoc Committee on Writing. She thanked Valerie Lastinger for her exceptional leadership on the committee, and wished she could be here to give the report in person. She spoke for the entire Faculty Senate and the Committee in wishing her well and hoping that she will get well very soon. Professor Weihman recognized the tireless efforts of Chair Kleist and Laura Brady who kept the committee running in Valerie’s absence. She said the changes that are being suggested are a result of many faculty conversations across the University and extensive research. She gave an overview of a handout that can be found at http://www.facultysenate.wvu.edu/09Files/GEC Writing Committee--Summary Report 01.26.09.pdf. She said it is being recommended that a new subcommittee be formed to look into what it will take to implement the new system. Professor McDiarmid reiterated that the committee is proposing a pilot program to test the options rather than a decision to change what is currently being done.

Professor Weihman read the motion, which was distributed at the beginning of the meeting:

   “On behalf of the committee, I move that the Senate form a new ad hoc subcommittee to pursue pilots of the portfolio approach; the subcommittee will include:

   • at least one member of the 2008-09 Committee on writing for continuity,
   • faculty members whose units or departments are willing to participate in the pilot, and
   • one or two senior administrators to represent financial and operational administrative support of the pilot project.

   It was moved and duly seconded to approve the motion. Motion carried.

10. Professor Sedgeman reported on the SEI Committee Faculty Survey handout. She asked the Faculty Senate to support the electronic dissemination of the survey to the faculty as a whole. She said she would appreciate one last review. The committee has benefitted by suggestions from people, so she asked for senators to look at the survey questions and if anyone has suggestions for improving the survey or questions that may be lacking, e-mail Professor
Sedgeman by the end of this week. She moved that the dissemination of the final improved survey to the faculty as a whole be analyzed and presented back to the Faculty Senate for action. It was duly seconded. **Motion carried.**

11. Professor Perone said the, “Student Academic Records Management Consultation Report,” lays out a blueprint for improvement of the Institution, and a sense of the motion is to layout a mechanism whereby the faculty, through the offices of the Faculty Senate will serve in an advisory role to the registrar as the recommendations of the AACRAO report were implemented. He said students are likely to be impacted on a daily basis when the new policies and procedures are put into effect. The motion is silent on the exact composition of the committee. The composition has to be sufficiently broad so the various record management methodologies that have sprung up throughout the Institution are represented in some way and the motion is also silent on the appointment of the members. He said it is implied on the first point that the Senate Executive Committee determined a recommendation to the Committee on Committees as to the breadth of the committee and then the Committee on Committees would be responsible for the selection of the members.

**Motion submitted by the Faculty Senate Academic Records Management Advisory Committee:**

The Faculty Senate Academic Records Management Advisory Committee is an ad hoc committee that will be formed for two years, and then disbanded upon conclusion of its work. The committee charge is as follows;

1. Review the AACRAO Report and the University Response and identify all areas which are relevant for Faculty Senate input and advising.
2. Meet with the new registrar and his or her team as processes are analyzed in the conversion to an all centralized, Banner supported records management approach.
3. Identify records management processes that are idiosyncratic within colleges and work to resolve the gap between these processes and the systems solutions to these processes.
4. Ensure that the new registrar understands the nature of the specific WVU academic processes and the fit of these processes into new systems approaches.
5. Work with the new registrar and his or her team as they evaluate the adoption of best practices technology for academic records management.
6. Work with the Faculty Senate and the new registrar as academic record intention rules are set, including identifying issues related to retention (e.g. space).

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee will be asked with assisting in developing “a standard, university-wide approach for assigning and recording credit for experiential learning.”

It was moved and duly seconded to approve the motion. **Motion carried.**

12. New Business:

Professor Branch, commenting on the AACRAO report, said a lot has been made the last ten days about the distinctions between the case of Heather Bresch and the other students who were indicated in the report – the 27 eMBA students and the 261 undergraduate students. He said
faculty were very outspoken, diligent, and fervent about the first case to the point that we not only looked specifically at what happened, but who was responsible and then we made a decision based on that information. He said he was struck by the silence of the faculty on this report. We have not done as due diligent a job on finding out what happened and who is responsible. He puts it back to the faculty as to what we would do about that.

Chair Kleist said she would like to express her confidence in the leadership of Interim President Peter Magrath, Interim Provost Jane Martin, and Board of Governors Chairwoman Carolyn Long on how they handled the matter of the public letter from Ms. Bresch with appropriate due process and by using the utmost of integrity. She said it was her view that this is a legally-based letter that requires the response of Interim President Magrath and Interim Provost Jane Martin with the advice of legal counsel.

13. Professor Parviz Famouri said there is no record on the website of the special May 5, 2008, special session where 4 motions were discussed. He said he sent a reminder to the faculty leadership about this on June 8, 2008 because it is important that record keeping should be kept straight. He requested again to have the minutes posted to the web-page to set a gold record-keeping standard.

14. Professor Lesley Tower, Social Work in the Division of Public Administration, distributed a flyer about a climate study or a work environment study that the Council is performing. She requested faculty post the flyers near a photo copy machine or make copies for colleagues’ boxes or participate in the survey themselves.

15. Professor McDiarmid moved that faculty send best wishes to Professor Valerie Lastinger. It was duly seconded. Motion carried.

16. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. to reconvene Monday, March 9, 2009.

Mary Strife
Faculty Secretary