Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
October 24, 2005

1. Chair Lastinger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the President’s Conference Room, Stewart Hall.

   Members present:
   Atkins, C.  Jacknowitz, A.  Nutter, R.
   Butcher, F.  Kershner, R.  Strife, M.
   Dean, R.  Lang, G.  Torsney, C.
   Elmore, S.  Lastinger, M.  Wilson, C.B.
   Famouri, P.  Mays, M.
   Hornak, L.  McDiarmid, M.

   Members absent:
   Hardesty, D.

   Guests:
   Garbutt, K.  Rhodes, J. (DA) Stewart, D.
   Held, J.  Royall, B.

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

3. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the September 26, 2005 Minutes with the following revisions: Item number 3, paragraph two, third line change “He said the chair serves two years as the ACF…” to “Under the statute, the chair serves one year as the ACF…” Same paragraph, add Vivian Hamilton to list of subcommittee members; Item 8, first paragraph, delete the last sentence. Motion carried.

   One correction was made to the draft minutes of the October 10th Faculty Senate meeting: Item 9, third line, change “Professor Lastinger said…” to “Professor Hornak said…” Members should notify Faculty Secretary Mary Strife with any other changes.

4. Chair Lastinger reported that the Student Instruction Committee is looking at the dead week issue and expect to have a preliminary report soon.

   Chair Lastinger reported that the Student Evaluation of Instruction Committee is working on several aspects of student evaluation of instruction, particularly distant learning courses.

   Chair Lastinger said that Student Government President D. J. Casto had contacted him regarding “PhotoVoice” requesting that he participate as a faculty member and to forward information to the Faculty Assembly listserv requesting volunteers. Chair Lastinger said that cameras will be provided and photos should be taken of things that are attractive and pleasant and things that could be improved. He said that pictures should be taken of places that: 1) Where on campus do you feel unsafe? 2) What areas on campus need improvement? 3) What areas on campus do you feel safe in? 4) Any relevant pictures that address a safety topic that we have not identified. Film will be developed and pictures forwarded to University
Chair Lastinger reported that at the October 4th meeting of the ACF Interim Chancellor Bruce Flack announced that Mark Stotler would serve as director of academic affairs while he is acting as Chancellor. Dr. Flack discussed a focus on the international experience in the curriculum. Chair Lastinger sensed that what WVU has done with General Education Curriculum, adding the international components, is a major step and would satisfy what may come out of this study. Dr. Flack said the 2008 new college admission guidelines have increased requirements in science, math, foreign languages, new ACT and SAT minimums. Dr. Flack anticipates some policy adjustments will be needed to make this transition. Dr. Flack also said that a Faculty Study Committee has been organized and that Associate Provost C. B. Wilson and Sylvia Shurbutt, ACF Chair, will be leading that committee. This committee will be looking at faculty salaries, promotion and tenure policies, as well as other faculty matters.

Chair Lastinger reported on the ACF brochure and Legislative agenda. It is the contention of the ACF that the group represents and speaks for all WV higher education faculty. There are others speaking on behalf of university faculties and the ACF would like to work with those groups. The Governor’s Educational Policy Advisor, Jay Cole, will be on campus on Tuesday for a meeting with Staff Council and others. Mr. Cole cautioned that problems might result from Legislators receiving mixed signals from several different groups purporting to represent higher education faculty. The wording currently proposed for the ACF legislative agenda is:

A. Parity with peer institutions:
   1. Provide Legislative funding for WV higher education at or above the national average.
   2. Provide Legislative funding for new faculty positions in order to insure quality higher education programs.
   3. Reinstate code 18B83 Item C, the minimum 10% salary increase upon faculty promotion and rank. (WVU has this; some institutions don’t.)

B. Parity with public school teachers:
   1. Extend the K-12 funding priorities to include P-20 in recognition of the critical position of higher education in today’s global economy.
   2. Close the 1.5% gap between K-12 and higher education employees in the State retirement contributions.
   3. Allow higher education employees a right to serve in the Legislature as do K-12 employees.

C. Parity with other state employees:
   1. Annual employment increment. Put into code and provide funding for the annual employment increment for faculty.

The Committee agreed to forward this document to the Faculty Senate for endorsement.
5. David Stewart, Dean of Students, presented a Proposed Appeal Process for academic misconduct. Currently, those decisions are being made outside academic affairs and it is a lengthy process. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the proposed Academic Appeals Process. Hand vote was taken: 4 in favor, 5 against, 3 abstentions. Motion failed. It was moved and duly seconded to send questions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Committee to address both the issue of the Code as it is, which seems not to be primary problem, but with a charge to seek to append to this a resolution to the underlying problem which is that this process still engages faculty at a high level of commitment that it discourages direct engagement with the problem. Motion carried. A January 2006 deadline was set for a committee report.

6. Beth Royall, Chair of the Student Evaluation of Instruction Committee, reported that WVU still does not have a way to let students participate in the on-line student evaluation of instruction process. This same issue came up before the Executive Committee a year ago. The Provosts Office will contact Brad Forbes, IT, regarding this matter. She also reported that students are interested in a reputable on-line teacher evaluation service.

7. Professor Garbutt reported that a message has been sent to faculty notifying them that the GEC Mini Grant application is now available on the Faculty Senate webpage with a December 1 deadline. This grant is available to the WVU campus only.

8. Chair Lastinger moved for approval of the following Curriculum Committee reports:

Annex I, New Courses and Course Changes. Revisions include: Page 1, change “Forestry 438” to “FOR 438”; Page 4, include CIP for SOWK 324; Page 5, replace “… and to introduce teachers…” to “… and an introduction to teachers…” for EDUC/SPED 304. Motion carried.

Annex II, Minor in Leadership Studies. Revisions include: Page 1, REQUIREMENTS, first paragraph, last line, replace “in” with “from”; 5th paragraph, replace last sentence with “Advising will occur through the Office of the Provost.”; Page 2, second line, replace “in” with “from”. Motion carried.

Annex III, Minor in Rural Community Development. Motion carried.

Annex IV, Minor in Family and Consumer Sciences. Motion carried.

Annex V, Minor in Religious Studies. Motion carried.

Annex VI, Curriculum Revisions for Recreation, Parks and Tourism Resources. Correct typo on page 2, Curriculum Requirements, 4th line, change “GIOL” to “GEOL”. Motion carried.

Annex VII, Alteration Report was submitted for information.

9. Professor Held moved for approval of the following GEC reports:

Annex VIII. Course Recommendations. RPTR 140 was deleted. Motion carried.

10. The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m. to reconvene Monday, November 28, 2005.

Mary Strife
Faculty Secretary