Minutes
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
January 27, 2003

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

2. Members present:
   Biddington, R.        Haggett, R.        McDiarmid, M.
   Brady, L.            Hanson, R.         Nutter, R.
   Cohen, S.            Hardesty, D.       Wilkinson, C.
   Dean, R.             Lang, G.          Wilson, C.B.
   Jones, R.            Long, T.

   Members absent:
   Cercone, J.          Stamatakis, M.
   Famouri, P.          Strife, M.

3. President Hardesty reported on the following issues:

   Budget issues were discussed at the Board of Governor’s retreat, but no decisions were made. The country is experiencing a sluggish national economy, and the impact of war could have detrimental effects on campuses and funding priorities at the state and federal levels.

   There are serious problems with health care funding; constant examination of how WVU will organize for accountability; mandatory and discretion spending will have to be done regardless of what the budget looks like; change in profile of students and employees; reducing appropriations by 25-30 million dollars; measures are needed to increase flexibility and ability to work quicker; need operational flexibility in making budget decisions; need institutional flexibility to establish tuition for the University and its campuses; WVU has 23,500 students and 31,000 students state-wide so funds need to be balanced with what students and parents can pay; focus on good degrees, not cheap degrees; WVU is highly competitive with private colleges and other institutions; it is still the best buy in the country, and it is below the national average.

   The Health Science’s Center’s budget is being affected by budget cutbacks, reimbursements from federal and state budget, increase of insurance costs and medical malpractices. The School cannot recoup what is needed out of the tuition because there are not enough students; additional funding is needed to help with medical school issues.

   WVU is not interested in severing ties with Potomac State after 100 years of affiliation – they are the fastest growing college in West Virginia, and they are doing a good job as a transfer college and community college.

   The President reported that Chancellor Mullen discussed the following priorities established by the Higher Education Policy Commission: 1. Institutional flexibility in the establishment
of the tuition policy. 2. Enhanced operational flexibility for all campuses. 3. Enhanced funding for scholarship programs to help offset tuition increases. 4. Restoration of cutbacks on medical schools. The 5 thru 8 categories are research funding, community college funding, specific budget requests and system-wide bond issues. The President said WVU can support all of these issues, but consensus gets less and less support, and many people are competing with scarce funds. A representative from Staff Council reported that West Liberty has reorganized and made layoffs to make the 3-1/2-percent budget cut, and Marshall is talking of furloughs and lay-offs if they do not get funding. The President said if tuition is increased, flexibilities approved, medical school issues resolved, and tax increases for pop and cigarettes, it will help WVU get through the budget transition.

4. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the December 16, 2002 minutes with the following correction: In item 9, change the name “Hornak” to “Bendena.” Motion carried.

5. Chair Cohen reported on the following issues:

- The Chair will continue to discuss the recycling process with Mr. David Dixon, Physical Plant Administrator.

- The Chair is meeting with Tom Durr, General Council representative, to ask if there are services available to faculty concerning student litigations.

- A faculty member asked what they should do if they do not want to participate in FBI questions about students. The Chair will follow up to see if a statement can be put on the webpage concerning this issue.

- Two student proposals have been submitted from student government; they will be sent to the Student Instruction Committee.

- Forrest “Jack” Bowman will attend the February Senate Executive Committee meeting. AAUP has agreed to participate in the steering committee but is still waiting to hear from the governing boards. The steering committee will hold a spring meeting.

- Chair Cohen is the faculty representative to the North Central Self-Study Accreditation Committee; he said a preliminary draft that contains accreditation criteria is near completion, and it will be assessed in late April.

Professor Wilkinson gave highlights of the Board of Governor’s January retreat, and he said Scott Kelley is working on a “budget” document that will be submitted for review at a later date.

6. Professor Jones moved for approval of the following Curriculum Committee reports:

- Annex I, New Courses and Course Changes. Clarification is needed for course IMSE 302. Should the prerequisite be “MAE 243” instead of “343?” The originator of the course said to leave the PR as “MAE 343” because MAE 243 is a required course. Motion carried.
Annex II, Capstone Course. Add an “s” to project for PET 489. Motion carried.
Annex III, Alteration Report was submitted for information.

7. Associate Provost Haggett moved for approval of the LSP report. Motion carried.

8. Professor Nutter discussed “audit requirements.” Discussion included audit students taking up seats from regular students. Members will send the Chair recommendations and/or suggestions concerning students auditing classes. The issue will be assigned to the Student Instruction Committee.

9. Professor Nutter reported that he attended a Graduate Council meeting as liaison for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee; he gave an overview of the committee’s functions. Discussion included the types of documents the Council reviews and the approval process. It was decided that the liaison submit an annual report to the Senate Executive Committee and other reports on an “as needed” basis.

Chair Cohen said the immediate past Faculty Senate Chair will be designated as liaison to the Graduate Council.

10. Professor Tom Long, Advisory Council of Faculty representative, distributed and discussed “Results of the Legislative Survey.” He said Senator Prezioso agreed to support the following 3 bills: incremental salary increases for faculty; make faculty in higher education eligible to serve in the Senate or House; let faculty make donations of time toward catastrophic leave.

Chair Cohen asked about the PEIA costs. Provost Lang said there is a burden on the state and a policy goal is to have employees pay 20%. Chair Cohen said George Spirou is the representative for the Health Sciences Center.

11. New Business

Chair Cohen has been appointed to serve on next year’s P&T Committee. Discussion included having a two-year appointment. Associate Provost C.B. Wilson will send a memorandum to eligible members.

On April 15, 2003, Associate Provost C.B. Wilson will send letters to faculty who have received tenure.

12. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. to reconvene February 24, 2003.

Barbara Dunn
Committee Secretary