MINUTES
THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
January 9, 2006

1. Professor Parviz Famouri, Faculty Senate Chair-elect, called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM in Assembly Rooms A/B, NRCCE. He asked that a moment of silence be taken for the sole survivor and the 12 coal miners that died in the Sago Mine in Buckhannon, West Virginia on January 4, 2006.

Member Present:
Abbott, J.  Dillis, C.  Janson, D.  Myers, T.  Ruscello, D.
Atkins, C.  Elmore, S.  Kershner, R.  Nath, C.  SedgeMAN, J.
Bilgesu, I.  Etzel, E.  Kite, S.  Nelson, C.  Selin, S.
Bowen, E.  Garbutt, K.  Kleist, V.  Nutter, R.  Shambaugh, N.
Branch, D.  Gerbo, R.  Kuhlman, J.  Olson, K.  Steranka, P.
Brooks, R.  Gladwin, M.  LaGodna, B.  Outterson, K.  Stolzenberg, A.
Bryner, R.  Griffith, R.  Latimer, M.  Panaccione, D.  Tauger, M.
Burton, J.  Held, J.  Lively, M.  Peace, G.  Townsend, C.
Campbell, L.  Hill, R.  Long, K.  Perry, J.  Verlinden, S.
Canfield, P.  Hoey, J.  Mandich, M.  Petronis, J.  Weihman, L.
Clark, N.  Hornak, L.  Mays, M.  Price, S.  Wilkinson, C.
Cohen, S.  Hornsby, G.  McCutcheon, T.  Putman, H.  Woloshuk, J.
Cottrell, L.  Howard, S.  McDiarmid, M.  Riemenschneider, S.
D'Souza, G.  Iskander, W.  McNerney, K.  Riley, W.  
Dedhia, H.  Jackson, K.  Mutz, C.  Royall, B.  

Members Absent:
Almond, C.  Cumming, J.  Milhoan, P.  Richards, A.  Van Loo, I.
Behling, R.  Douglas, W.  Miller, M.  Robbins, J.  Voelker, J.
Berger, G.  Graeber, J.  Morgan, D.  Rosen, C.  Walker, E.
Brown, G.  Grose, K.  Mullett, C.  Sextone, A.  Wilcox, G.
Brown, P.  Harris, B.  Nuss, M.  Stockdale, T.  Wilson, R.
Bryan, W.  Hurst, M.  Ogershok, P.  Temple, J.  Wright, F.
Cook, L.  Jacknowitz, A.  Rassak, C.  Ullrich, I.  Yeater, R.
Culberson, J.  Lastinger, M.  Rezaei, A.  Valentine, S.  

2. President Hardesty acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of many people at the University who were involved in the mine disaster and its aftermath including representatives of Mining Extension Service and organizations of Health Sciences who had extraordinary work to do, and they managed it very well.

The President said he attended an invitation-only conference in Washington, D.C. that was hosted by the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings. He said 70 presidents were in attendance as well as representatives from the state, education, and commerce departments. The president of the United States and the first lady were also in attendance. The subject of the conference was, “International Education and Language Education.” He said Secretary Rice has sparked a national interest at the national level concerning this subject. President Hardesty spoke on the following themes of the conference:
• Language is now a matter of national security.
• The need for more partnerships concerning international and language education.
• Partnership with STEM faculty (science, technology, engineering, and math).
• Focus on ease for student travel to and from the United States.
• Need to re-acquaint the country with the value of international education; funds will be made available for this project.
• Ideas for pedagogy include using technology to teach languages at multiple locations and across the world. Oral competency has become more important; need to use nontraditional teachers.
• Ability to earn a major or minor in one year.
• Require languages be taken before studying abroad. Adult-oriented schools, which include community colleges may not require a language; therefore, problems may be associated with learning languages later in life.
• STEM and language faculty collaboration.
• The State department will increase Fulbright funding.
• Suggestions for dual degrees offered to students from other countries.
• Exchange faculty on a permanent basis (but not have the same faculty every year).
• Need to recruit foreign students.
• Study abroad programs partnering with K-12 and other colleges, with the flagships acting as hosts.
• Segment talent levels and teach differently.
• Need for cash incentives.

The President said he and Provost Lang will review the issues and decide if an ad hoc committee should be put in place, or if he will assemble people together for discussions, and/or assimilating grant-making ideas. The President said he would get materials to the proper departments:

3. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2005 meeting. On page 2, 4th item, 5th bullet, the correct spelling should be “DeFrank-Cole” instead of “DeFranco.” Motion carried.

4. Professor Famouri said the WVU football team should be congratulated for their Sugar Bowl win over the University of Georgia, which was held January 2, 2006. Chair-elect Famouri reported on the following issues for Chair Lastinger, who was on a trip out of the country this month: the faculty handbook will be placed online and updated twice per year; minor changes will go to the Senate Executive Committee and major changes will come to the Faculty Senate; he expressed thanks to Narvel Weese for the financial report he made in December and to Joe Fisher for the report he gave in December. Mr. Fisher will be asked to come back in 2006 to give an update concerning the “Green Initiative.” Other administrators and guests that will be invited to future Faculty Senate meetings include: Ken Gray and David Stewart from Student Life, Ed Pastilong and Brad Cox from Athletics, and Dan Boroff, Morgantown’s City Manager. The BOG asked Chair Lastinger for strategy issues and funding priorities, so he gave them a report concerning faculty salaries and the green
initiative Chair-elect Famouri said he is chairing the Joint Rule Committee, so he will have a report prepared for the March meeting.

5. Professor Mays, Chair, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee, moved for approval of Annex I, New Courses and Course Changes. Motion carried. He deferred discussion of Annex II, Revised BSMinE Curriculum, until it is confirmed that the GEC requirements are met for the courses listed.

6. Professor Held, Chair, General Education Committee, moved for approval of Annex III. He said History 111 was pulled from the report until a new course number has been assigned. Motion carried.

7. Professor Hornak said the Strategic Planning and Assessment Committee met last Monday, and he reported that the deans have submitted their game plans concerning how they will do their alignments. The plans will be reviewed by the committee this week, and a report will be given to the Faculty Senate in February.

8. Professor Hornak gave an overview of Annex IV, Ad hoc Committee on Faculty Senate Organization for Research on Graduate Education Engagement. He said the report was presented to the Senate Executive Committee last month, and he asked senators to consider its recommendations. The report will go back to the Senate Executive Committee again, and it will decide a forward motion. The report will come back to the Faculty Senate at a later date. Professor Hornak thanked the members of the Ad hoc committee, and presented the following recommendation,

“We recommend that the Senate Executive Committee work with administration to form a University-level taskforce to undertake a comprehensive assessment of WVU’s treatment of graduate education and research and make concrete recommendations for a more holistic approach in achieving effective linkage and enhance quality and sustain growth.”

9. New Business

Professor Clark said graduate students often achieve a grade for research of satisfactory, unsatisfactory or incomplete. He said an “incomplete” has specific meaning, and it is not intended to be used as something between satisfactory and unsatisfactory. He said it is very difficult to warn students of their performance prior to giving an unsatisfactory grade. He said graduate students that receive a stipend and then are terminated, will require a record of poor performance prior to their being terminated. He requested that the chair refer this issue to the Senate Executive Committee, so it could refer it to the appropriate committee. A hand-count was taken to establish if the item was an issue that needed further discussion; the hand-count indicated that senators would like it referred to the Senate Executive Committee.

Professor Wilkinson asked that the Senate Executive Committee also refer an issue to an appropriate committee that would include a, “recommendation for guidance, especially for new faculty, regarding WVU’s attendance policy”. He said the guidance should include the
necessity or virtue of an explicit statement that among events or activities where absences would not be excused for those pertaining to extra-curricular activities in which the student is not a participant.

10. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. to reconvene Monday, February 13, 2006

11. An executive session was held immediately after the meeting to discuss honorary degrees.

Mary Strife
Faculty Secretary