MINUTES
THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
December 8, 2003

1. Professor Christopher Wilkinson, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM in Assembly Room A, NRCCE.

Members Present:
Always, S. Bakery, M. Kershner, R. Napolitano, M. Selin, S.
Atkins, C. Burton, J. Hanson, R. Larrabee, J. Nutter, R. Stollzenberg, A.
Bagby, M. Clark, N. Hornak, L. Lastinger, M. Panaccione, D. Ullrich, I.
Bendena, M. Culberson, J. Howell, R. Lewis, R. Rafter, W. Weihman, L.
Blackwood, A. Elmore, S. Hurst, M. Lively, M. Rezaei, A. Wilkinson, C.
Bowen, E. Famouri, P. Johnson, D. Long, K. Riley, C. Yeater, R.
Brady, L. France, K. Jones, R. McCutcheon, T. Rucello, D. Yelton, D.
Brown, James Garbutt, K. Kenney, B. Milhoan, P. Skea, P.

Members Absent:
Almond, C. Campbell, K. Hill, R. McNatt, S. Peri, J. Stamatakas, M.
Beitelher, J. Clark, K. Janson, D. Meit, S. Perry, J. Stark, L.
Branch, D. Fleisher, R. Kolar, M. Morgan, D. Petronis, J. Townsend, C.
Brister, C. Fones-Wolf, E. Krummel, D. Morris, T. Riley, W. Valentine, S.
Brooks, R. Freeman, B. Loyd, B. Mulkeen, P. Rosen, C. Voelker, J.
Brown, P. Harris, B. McGinley, P. Outterson, K. Sexton, A. Wilcox, G.
Bryan, W. Helmondollar, R. McGrath, J. Pearson, T. Sherwood, L. Williams, J.

2. On behalf of the administration, Provost Lang offered a heart-felt thanks to faculty for their hard work this year; he said faculty efforts in teaching, research and service missions have been very much appreciated.

The Provost said the goal of the “Building Greatness Campaign” was $250 million dollars, and because of the hard work from the Foundation, deans, development staff, and others, the goal has been exceeded by approximately $50 million dollars. He said the following 3 gifts have been given to the University by donors (who can designate where they want their donations placed):

The Davis gift of $18.4 million dollars will allow $16.2 million dollars will go toward professorships, scholarships and faculty support in the Davis College of Agriculture and Forestry and Consumer Sciences and $2.2 million dollars to the College of Law and WVU libraries.

The Rockefeller family gave a gift of $15 million dollars, which will go toward neuroscience and Alzheimer research.

A recent gift of $20 million dollars from Mike (Mylan) Puskar, in which $14.5 million dollars will go to support athletics programs and scholarships and $5.5 million dollars will
support non-athletic activities. Because of this generous gift, the BOG endorsed the renaming of the Stadium to “Puskar Stadium.” Provost Lang said athletics bears the entire costs of programs, so the Puskar gift will provide help with capital investments to improve facilities, etc. He said investments are being made in the athletic program that are supported by a bond and will be paid for by the athletics department.

3. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the November 10th minutes with the inclusion of Professor Weihman to members present. Motion carried.

4. Chair Wilkinson said David Kosslow, Director of Payroll and Tax, could not give the presentation concerning the pilot project to introduce electronic reporting of direct deposits of paychecks at today’s meeting because technical matters prevented the transmission to the regional campuses. He will give the presentation at the January 12, 2004, meeting.

5. Associate Provost C.B. Wilson distributed an up-to-date handout that stated that there are approximately 23.3 % part-time faculty employed at the Morgantown campus; they include tenured faculty, tenured-track faculty, clinical track faculty, librarian-track faculty and several types of non-tenure track faculty.

6. Chair Wilkinson reported on the following issues:

   - Discussions continue concerning a Fall Break. A report will be given at the January 12, 2004, Faculty Senate meeting.
   - The BOG met on November 13 and 14th approving several reports and projects. A report was given by Scott Kelley, VP Administration, Finance and Human Resources, indicating the University’s financial condition at the end of the fiscal year. Policy 19 was put in place to reduce the misuse of credit cards by students, which will mean that free products will no longer be given away with credit card applications.
   - The ACF meeting was held in Charleston on December 4, 2003. Copies of a brochure were distributed; the text of the document matched that which was unanimously approved by the Faculty Senate at its September 8th meeting.
   - The comment period for the GEC proposal ended on November 17, 2003. The Board of Governor’s Student Government Association endorsed the GEC proposal. E-mails have been received regarding revisions to the proposal, and the Chair described those changes. The revised proposal will replace the previous draft linked to the Faculty Senate homepage. The ad hoc committee will bring the revised proposal to the Senate Executive Committee with a recommendation that it be forwarded to the LSP for its recommendation. A second comment period will be given until Tuesday, January 20, 2004, 12:00 p.m. A joint meeting will be held between the LSP Committee and the members of the GEC to discuss the proposal. Chair Wilkinson will continue to receive comments and forward to Janis-Rozena Peri, Chair, LSP Committee.

7. Professor Garbutt moved for approval of the following Curriculum Committee reports:

   Annex I, New Courses and Course Changes. Motion carried.
   Annex II, Curriculum Change for Physical Education. Motion carried.
Annex III, Changes to Undergraduate Curriculum in Sport Behavior. **Motion carried.**

Annex IV, Alteration Report, was presented for information.

8. Professor Hanson, Chair, Faculty Welfare Committee, stated the following: “the FWC has been looking at insurance rates, what WVU gets from them and why they are what they are.” He said the Committee met with Tom Susman, Director of PEIA, Jason Haught, Chief Financial Officer of PEIA, and Mike Baker, President of Vested Health, to discuss insurance rates. The representatives believe that if insurance pricing became non-tiered, that the Legislature will mandate it be implemented. The FWC was asked if they thought WVU would consider an alternative program in handling insurance; a consumer-driven health plan that would keep costs down by going to a high deductible indemnity plan. This plan will allow lower costs for both WVU and the employee. Professor Hanson said managed care would still be available as an option to the indemnity plan. He explained that a pilot program would be put in place for the Morgantown Campus, and if faculty are interested in exploring this different type of plan, a committee needs to be formed that would include representatives from faculty, staff and administration. The Morgantown Campus would be the “test-bed” for the program.

A motion to explore an interest in perusing the consumer-driven health plan on behalf of faculty was made, and it was duly seconded. **Motion carried.**

Chair Wilkinson said the Senate Executive Committee made the following motion at its November meeting, “To establish an ad hoc committee of faculty, staff and administration to explore a consumer-driven health plan from PEIA that would offer reduced costs.” Chair Wilkinson said he asked Professor John Kuhlman, CEMR, to be the liaison to the standing committee. The Chair will be Myrtho Blanchard, Assistant VP, Human Resources, at the direction of Scott Kelley; the staff representative will be identified by head of Staff Council, Terry Nebel; and a representative of Human Resources at the direction of Scott Kelley.

Professor Hanson thanked the members of the Faculty Welfare Committee for working hard and bringing solid suggestions; and a special thanks to John Kuhlman for agreeing to serve as the FWC representative.

Professor Napolitano asked if an ad hoc committee could be implemented to begin in 2004 instead of the FWC because of other issues that needed reviewed by the group other than the insurance issue. Chair Wilkinson strongly supported the Faculty Welfare Committee to be used as the standing committee to lead the health care issue. Professor John Kuhlman, Faculty Welfare Committee member, asked if guidance could be given to the FWC. The Chair said e-mails could be sent with suggestions/recommendations.

Professor Kuhlman asked that a ‘straw pole’ vote be taken from senators that would determine if the majority would prefer or not prefer an uncapped percent of an income fee structure for PEIA. He said if enough senators object, he would push the committee to pursue a plan that would not be a constant percentage of income.
A straw vote was taken to determine who would object to premiums for PEIA health care being a percentage of income. The straw pole indicated 15 in favor of the objection, 12 oppose the objection and 17 abstain.

Professor Nigel Clark made the following motion, “The Faculty Senate will charge the Faculty Welfare Committee with investigating further scales that may be equitable for PEIA charges and ask the FWC to report back to the Faculty Senate so it will have full information in the future. This will involve formulating an opinion on behalf of the Faculty Senate as well as investigating current facts.” It was duly seconded. Motion carried.

9. New Business

Professor Yelton asked Provost Lang if he had any words of wisdom on how the University will manage the 1.4% cut announced by Governor Wise. The Provost said discussion has just begun; therefore, it is too early for an established proposal; even though, a request was submitted to the Legislation asking if the reversion could be held until the end of the year, but it was denied. The Provost said the plan is to minimize the impact on units as much as possible.

10. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. to resume January 12, 2004. The Chair wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mary Strife
Faculty Secretary