1. Professor Larry Hornak, Faculty Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM in Assembly Rooms A/B, NRCCE.

Member Present:
Ameri, S.        Douglas, W.        Kenney, B.        McGrath, J.        Royall, B.
Atkins, C.       Fones-Wolf, E.     Kershner, R.       Miller, M.        Ruscello, D.
Behling, R.      Garbutt, K.        Kite, S.           Napolitano, M.     Sextstone, A.
Bergner, G.      Hanson, R.         Komisaruk, A.      Nelson, C.         Stack, S.
Bilgesu, I.      Hoey, J.           Kuhlman, J.        Nutter, R.          Stolzenberg, A.
Branch, D.       Hornak, L.         Larrabee, J.       Olson, K.           Urbanski, J.
Brown, P.        Howell, R.         Lastinger, M.      Outterson, K.       Weihman, L.
Bryan, W.        Iskander, W.       Lively, M.         Panaccione, D.      Wilkinson, C.
Buchanan, T.     Islam, S.          Long, K.           Perry, J.           Wilson, R.
Burton, J.       Jacknowitz, A.     Mandich, M.        Putman, H.          Yeater, R.
Campbell, K.     Janson, D.         Mays, M.           Riemenschneider, S.  Yelton, D.
Dixon, S.        Johnson, D.        McDiarmid, M.      Robbins, J.

Members Absent:
Almond, C.      Elmore, S.         Hurst, M.           Mulleit, C.         Selin, S.
Bagby, M.       Farina, L.         Jackson, K.        Myers, T.           Shambaugh, N.
Bowen, E.       France, K.         Kleist, V.         Nath, C.            Sherwood, L.
Brister, C.     Freeman, B.        Loudin, B.         Nuss, M.            Townsend, C.
Brown, N.       Graeber, J.        McCutcheon, T.      Rafter, W.          Valentine, S.
Campbell, L.    Grose, K.          McNatt, S.         Rezaei, A.           Vitaglione, G.
Clark, N.       Harris, B.         Meit, S.           Riley, W.           Voelker, J.
Cook, L.        Held, J.           Milhoan, P.        Rosen, C.           Woloshuk, J.
Culberson, J.   Hill, R.           Morgan, D.         Rosen, K.           Wright, F.

2. Provost Lang reported that the Board of Governors approved the plan for salary enhancements for faculty at the “professor rank.” The Provost’s Office will develop guidelines for implementing the plan, and the plan will be put in place this fall. Provost Lang explained that Senate Bill 603 is referred to as the “Flexibility Bill” because it was designed to provide greater flexibilities and operations for WVU and Marshall University. He said the bill passed through the Senate and the House overwhelmingly, and now, WVU will design new rules, regulations and operating guidelines; these will be discussed over the next 6-12 months.

Provost Lang highlighted the following new flexibilities included in Senate Bill 603:

- WVU and Marshall can invest funds through the foundation.
- As the campus continues to be revamped, WVU will be exempt from having to go to the Policy Commission and legislators for procurement of architect and engineering services.
- WVU and Marshall will collaborate with the Center for Professional Development to assist the Center and coordinate the activities of teacher preparation in the state. Both WVU and Marshall will now have a member on the Executive Committee.
- WVU will still report to the Policy Commission regarding graduate programs.
- The Policy Commission cannot exercise its powers in a way that conflicts with the powers assigned to WVU and Marshall; a check and balance system was implemented for this.
- WVU is exempt from the joint tuition and fee rule, but remains subject to the legislative statute of no more than a 9-1/2% increase in any year.
- The Board of Governors is responsible for the administration and can delegate to WVU because it is the governing agency.
- The Bill is for WVU only; therefore, it does not include WVU-Tech, the Community Technical College of Tech or WVU-Potomac State, unless the context indicates otherwise; this also includes Marshall University.
- WVU has the ability to donate obsolete equipment to any public education or charitable organization.
- A challenge will include having full-time undergraduate graduation rates of 60% by July 1, 2008 and 63% by July 1, 2010.
- WVU can adopt its own accreditation standards and standards relative to degrees.
- WVU will be able to adopt its own purchasing rules.
- WVU will now be able to have leasing agreements without the approval of the Policy Commission or Council.
- WVU will now be able to dispose of obsolete equipment.
- WVU will be able to have greater flexibility to manage the Institution through the Board of Governors and reduce the amount of time it has--eliminating the “one size fits all” for all state institutions.

3. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the March 14, 2005 and February 14, 2005 minutes (no quorum at the beginning of the Feb. meeting). Motion carried.

4. Chair Hornak reported on the progress of the development of the strategic planning and assessment framework as well as the deliberations of the Ad hoc Senate Committee on Research and Graduate Education engagement.

5. Professor Wilkinson said the Board of Governors met on Friday, and a revised mission statement for the University was approved. He said for this 2005 fiscal year, the West Virginia revenue budget is ahead of where it was last year, which is 66.38% state allocation; last year it was 62.16%. He reported that the sponsored programs financial reports are down from last year’s 60.98% to 57.94%, and to date, 3,305 applications have been received for freshmen admission. Professor Wilkinson reported that the Board of Governors approved the recommendations of the Graduate Council regarding the 22 graduate programs that were presented for their 5 year review.

Professor Wilkinson said he met with Provost Lang, Elizabeth Jones and Associate Provost Cheryl Torsney to discuss the assessment of the General Education Curriculum. He said a proposal will be brought before the GEC Task Force for its review. Professor Wilkinson said
senators will be asked to endorse a new student handbook for Student Rights and Responsibilities at the May 9, 2005 Faculty Senate meeting.

6. Chair Hornak said that as part of an on-going process that consists of reports from major administrators, reports will be given from time to time to the Faculty Senate. Ken Gray, Vice-President of Student Affairs and David Stewart, Dean of Students, Student Affairs, have been invited to speak before the Faculty Senate. The administrators discussed their support of the vision of West Virginia University, its academic mission, and the need to make sure the vision is cascaded down through the entire organization. They said that WVU is a student-centered learning community meeting the changing needs of West Virginia and the nation through teaching, research, service and technology. Various services were discussed throughout the unit of Student Affairs and the academic initiatives that have been put in place.

7. Chair-elect Mike Mays moved for approval of the Curriculum Committee report listed in Annex I. Motion carried. The Alteration Report listed in Annex II was submitted for information.

8. Chair Brown, LSP Committee, moved for approval of the Liberal Studies Report listed in Annex III. Motion carried. Professor Lastinger said HIST 207 has a new designation for the FMG requirement.

9. Professor Dallas Branch encouraged senators to be part of the student life program. He also said that students should not be required to take courses if there are not enough resources to support the programs.

10. Mary Strife, Faculty Secretary, presented the election results for faculty senators for 2005-2006 listed in Annex IV. She said West Virginia University’s Institute for Technology will conduct its own election.

11. Chair Hornak asked for nominations for Faculty Senate Chair-elect. Professor Mike Lastinger nominated Professor Parviz Famouri. Chair Hornak said additional candidates can be nominated before the election is conducted at the May 9th meeting.

12. Professor Lastinger suggested that the Faculty Senate recognize senators that will be retiring this year or who have retired last year. Faculty Secretary Mary Strife will receive any e-mails from senators or colleagues so retirees can be recognized before the Faculty Senate. Senators were encouraged to consult colleagues concerning this issue.

13. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, May 9, 2005.

Mary Strife
Faculty Secretary