MINUTES
THE WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
September 12, 2005

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

Member Present:
Abbott, J.
Ameri, S.
Atkins, C.
Bergner, G.
Bilgesu, I.
Bowen, E.
Branch, D.
Brooks, R.
Brown, G.
Bryan, W.
Bryner, R.
Burton, J.
Clark, N.
Culberson, J.
D’Souza, G.
Dixon, S.
Douglas, W.
Elmore, S.
Etzel, E.
Garbutt, K.
Gerbo, R.
Gladwin, M.
Grose, K.
Held, J.
Hornak, L.
Hornsby, G.
Howard, S.
Iskander, W.
Janson, D.
Johnson, D.
Kerschner, R.
Kite, S.
Kleist, V.
Kuhlman, J.
LaGodna, B.
Lastering, M.
Lively, M.
Long, K.
Mandich, M.
Mays, M.
McDiarmid, M.
McNerney, K.
Miller, M.
Mutz, C.
Napolitano, M.
Nath, C.
Nutter, R.
Olson, K.
Otterson, K.
Panaccione, D.
Peace, G.
Perry, J.
Petronis, J.
Price, S.
Putman, H.
Rezaei, A.
Richards, A.
Riemenschneider, S.
Rosen, K.
Royall, B.
Ruscello, D.
Sand-Jecklin, K.
Sedgeman, J.
Selin, S.
Sexstone, A.
Steranka, P.
Stockdale, T.
Stolzenberg, A.
Tauger, M.
Temple, J.
Valentine, S.
Van Loo, I.
Walker, E.
Wilcox, G.
Wilson, R.
Woloshuk, J.
Yeater, R.

Members Absent:
Almond, C.
Behling, R.
Brown, P.
Campbell, L.
Cohen, S.
Cook, L.
Cuming, J.
Dedhia, H.
Dillis, C.
Graeber, J.
Griffith, R.
Harris, B.
Hill, R.
Hoy, J.
Howell, R.
Hurst, M.
Islam, S.
Jacksonowitz, A.
Jackson, K.
Latimer, M.
Mycutcheon, T.
Milhoan, P.
Morgan, D.
Mullett, C.
Myers, T.
Nuss, M.
Ogershok, P.
Rassekh, C.
Riley, W.
Rosen, C.
Shambaugh, N.
Townsend, C.
Ullrich, I.
Voelker, J.
Weihman, L.
Wilkinson, C.
Wright, F.

2. Provost Lang said the start of the academic year went extremely well; he relates the smooth start to what we have learned over time and that we provide academic information and schedules to freshmen and their parents earlier in the process. He said the regional campuses also had smooth transitions.

The Provost said all WVU campuses are responding to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina by donating time, support and materials. The Institution has been pro-active in working with those in need. In October, the Sloan Foundation will support the ability to deliver on-line classes to students who wish to take classes through the SREB electronic classroom. The Provost said it has been a comprehensive effort to help the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina at both West Virginia Camp Dawson and West Virginia University. Six students have been admitted to WVU from Tulane, Xavier, and the University of New Orleans. And a faculty member has accepted a visiting professor position this year.
The Provost reported on the special session concerning salary increases. He said there is a debate going on in the Legislature involving the food tax. He said the Institution has asked that money be given to the Institution to use to undergird the existing faculty salary plan and support classified staff through the Mercer Compensation Schedule. He said other forces around the state are pushing for a fixed amount per employee. The goal will be to develop a pool that consists of money given by the state and money collected based on the growth of the Institution that would be equivalent to 3% of faculty pool, and distribute the money based on existing policies. He said until confirmation has been received from the Legislature, it is still speculation as what will be done and how much money will be available.

3. It was moved and duly seconded to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2005 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Chair Lastinger reported that the ACF held a retreat this summer in mid-July at Blackwater Falls. He said that both Vice Chancellor Skidmore and Chancellor Mullen spoke as well as other guest speakers. He said meetings were held in Morgantown, and he attended the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability. The Higher Education Policy Commission held a meeting in Charleston, WV, on August 18, 2005. On Wednesday, September 14th, the HEPC will hold another meeting at the Marshall University Graduate College in South Charleston. He said the special session is presently going on, and the Advisory Council of Faculty is placing representatives around the halls in the Capitol. He said the ACF is focusing on faculty salaries, the annual employment increment, retirement disparity between higher education and k-12, as well as the issue of faculty not being allowed to run for the state legislature. Chair Lastinger said discussions with the Governor included the food tax and the need for WVU to make the case of economic and workforce development.

Chair Lastinger said strategic planning will be a key theme this year as well as the General Education Curriculum. Other items to be discussed this year include the Student Evaluation of Instruction putting evaluations on-line, student access to evaluation results, and dead week. Within the next two months, Joe Fisher will report on the University’s initiatives and sustainable resources. The library committee will also be active this year.

5. Professor Jim Held, Chair General Education Committee, reported that the GEC has been launched. He said all new incoming freshmen are included on the new GEC and other students may elect to transfer from LSP to GEC. Juniors and seniors are recommended to stay in the Liberal Studies Program. Current course listings can be accessed either through the Admissions & Records site or the Faculty Senate homepage. He said that Admissions & Records updates the list monthly. Professor Held said the Curriculum Committee and General Education Committees will be fast tracking new courses this fall. The new form is presently on-line to be used by both committees. If an established course was not audited in the last round, a “drop dead” date of September 16, 2005, was given for submission of information so the audit may be completed. Professor Held requested that senators relay this date to their colleagues. He said this year’s list of 5-year audit courses will be sent out by the end of September, and a deadline of December 15th has been set for the audit proposals to reach the committee in order to be acted upon in the spring. He said the new committee
charge for the General Education Committee will be sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for approval. The new committee has met once, and it will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month. Professor Held said his division is Theatre, and he has been a site visitor of accreditation for 16 years and has visited over 20 institutions. He said most of these institutions have a general education program similar to the one WVU has implemented; therefore, our program is becoming more in line with other institutions.

Professor John Kuhlman recommended a form be developed that can be utilized by both advisors and students in placing the LSP cluster courses into the new General Education program. Professor Held asked that the request be sent to him by email so he can present it to the General Education Committee.

Chair Lastinger said that the committee name of “LSP” needs to be changed to “GEC” on the Faculty Senate homepage; also, the dates of the GEC meetings need to be listed.

6. Professor Hornak said the framework of the Strategic Planning and Assessment (SPA) was approved by the Faculty Senate on June 13, 2005, and then the following week, the proposal was presented to the Board of Governors by Provost Lang. The framework proposal is listed on both the Faculty Senate homepage and the Provost’s homepage for review. Professor Hornak summarized the framework, and he said a small implementation committee will be formed this week, which will be made up of faculty, staff, students, and members of the University. A timeline of meeting dates will be set up, and a process will be put in place so an annual assessment can be made. Provost Lang said the final framework proposal will be presented to the BOG on September 30th for their endorsement, and then the implementation strategy can move forward.

7. Professor Hornak requested senators go to the Faculty Senate homepage to review the interim report of the “Ad hoc Committee on Faculty Senate Organization for Research and Graduate Education Engagement.” He summarized two components to the committee’s activity, and the standing committees will be reviewed based on a 5-year basis. Phase I was reviewed in June to look at implementing a new structure of the previous committee, which is now called the “Research and Scholarship Committee”. He said Phase II will be completed by December, which will look at the relationship with Graduate Council and graduate education. He said graduate courses are approved by the Curriculum Committee and then sent to the Faculty Senate, but the programs are approved by the Graduate Council. In December, 2004, Professor Robert Stitzel gave the history of how graduate education evolved over the last 20 to 30 years at WVU. This fall semester, the Ad hoc Committee will try to determine what will make a meaningful connection between Faculty Senate activities, curriculum activities and graduate education.

8. New Business

Professor Branch said in the spring, it was determined that because of the growth of the Institution, it was estimated that approximately 100 new faculty would be hired to accommodate the growth of the University. He said at a faculty meeting, the dean of the College of Physical Education said 100 faculty would not be hired, but the money would be
used to implement a salary enhancement program for full professors. Provost Lang said there was not a connection between the two statements. He said administration has been working to implement the salary program that was defined last year for full professors, and the information was posted on the web for the first phase that will take place later this fall semester and should be implemented next year. The Provost said the money for this decision has been set aside over the last four years. He said there would be a trade off with using growth money to pay for salary increases and using some of the money to hire new faculty positions. This past year, a commitment was made to hire 23 new faculty positions in the general university; some were hired in the spring and some positions are still posted.

Chair Lastinger said the primary theme over the next five years for the Strategic Planning and Assessment initiative will be to increase student and faculty interaction; faculty members will be needed to manage it and to justify the distribution of funds.

9. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, October 10, 2005.

Mary Strife
Faculty Secretary