

West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2017

Senators present:

Mary Beth Held (Chair), Andrew Walker (Secretary), Aaron Crites, Uta Hempel, Jeff Holland, Torie Jackson, Cheryl Mader, Andrew Rochus, Missy Spivy, Gary Thompson, and Cindy Watkins.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm.

Updates:

Chad Crumbaker, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, thanked Faculty Senate for inviting him to the meeting. Chad expressed his desire to continue working with Faculty Senate to collaborate on many items as we move forward. The Academic Affairs Council has met to review academic policies and are suggesting changes to outdated or incorrect policies, and Faculty Senate will be included in these discussions. The current policy updates with the utmost importance are policies for faculty qualifications/credentials and for faculty evaluation.

Aaron Crites provided an update for the Advisory Council of Faculty. A report was forwarded to senators via email. There is no April ACF meeting.

Torie Jackson provided an update from the Board of Governors. At the April meeting, Senator Manchin visited and spoke with the board. An economic outlook was provided by Dr. John Deskins from WVU, who indicated our area will be part of a natural gas boom. Three recipients were approved for honorary degrees. The Mercer Step Pay Increase for Qualified Classified Staff was passed. Proposals for both an 8% and 5% tuition increases were approved; the 8% increase proposal must go to CTC for final approval. If it is denied, the institution will adopt the 5% increase. The Board also approved an institutional policy for pregnant and nursing mothers.

President Lamkin thanked Mary Beth and her leadership, as well as the Faculty Senate for the process for selection of the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. Additionally, the 360 feedback provided good information on a large variety of areas, was driven by faculty participation, and had a 98% response rate. Specific findings from the report credited the leadership team for doing a lot to “right the ship” in a short amount of time, but did reveal a need to improve on the areas of change management and collaboration. Moving forward, we can all work together to take the time to implement future changes and share in delegating tasks. President Lamkin’s next year goal is to see work to make WVUP a place where people can enjoy what they do and have fun doing it. This will involve better marketing of ourselves to our community. Finally, Torie Jackson has been selected as the Director for the Center of Teaching Excellence and will be working to create this important faculty resource.

Old business:

Meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved in the May meeting.

The faculty credentialing policy was discussed. Senate reviewed the original proposed policy approved by Faculty Senate on October 11, 2016, and had the following suggestions:

- Section D regarding the credential evaluation process should include wording for current faculty members (full and adjunct) to be assigned new courses.
- Section C regarding the institution's process for tested experience should incorporate wording for professions which do not require a degree but have recognized certifications, such as certified police officers.
- The policy should be updated to reflect the change in title of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, namely to remove "Senior" in all cases.

A motion was made by Torie Jackson to amend the policy and forward to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Gary Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The maternity leave policy was discussed. This policy has been updated and reflects feedback from various faculty members. This policy specifically addresses paid time off for maternity, paternity, and adoption related leave. The federal Family Medical Leave Act allows for additional unpaid time off and a reference should be added to the guiding principles section. A motion was made by Torie Jackson to amend the policy and forward to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Aaron Crites seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Faculty Absence Policy for Nine-Month Faculty was discussed. It is a revision of the original proposed policy based on feedback from prior meetings and discussions of the policy. A discussion was held regarding defining catastrophic leave to exclude elective surgeries not directly impacting health, however, it was decided that this should not be added to the policy, as it would be too complicated to determine what is truly an elective surgery and what is not. Additionally, a revision to the short-term absence policy should allow faculty the choice to complete the existing form, or to document their absence in an email to their division chair. A motion was made by Torie Jackson to amend the policy and forward to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Aaron Crites seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Faculty Evaluation Policy was discussed and it was decided senators will share the most current versions to their division and return to the May meeting with comments so we can finalize this policy prior to leaving for the summer.

New business:

Senate voted for a new Advisory Council of Faculty representative. Gary Thompson was the only senator nominated and was elected unanimously.

Senate voted for the Faculty Senate Chair position. Mary Beth was the only senator nominated and was elected unanimously. A Vice Chair will be appointed in the Fall 2017 semester.

On Monday, May 1, at 2:00pm, there is a Pie in the Face fundraiser to raise money for the bricks for those who are retiring. Our current need is \$700.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 3:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51pm.