

West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2017

Senators present:

Mary Beth Held (Chair), Rose Beebe, Aaron Crites, Uta Hempel, Torie Jackson (BOG Representative), Cheryl Mader, Al Newhart, Missy Spivy, Rebecca Tucker, Gary Thompson (ACF Representative), Andrew Walker (Secretary), Cindy Watkins

The meeting was called to order at 3:09pm.

Updates:

Gary Thompson had no new information from ACF, as he had not been able to attend their summer meeting. Aaron Crites reported that he did receive an email regarding summer activities and the discussions have been centered around the state budget impact and political influence on higher education at the state level.

Torie Jackson reported the Board of Governors meets on Wednesday and will be voting on a 2% raise for faculty and staff. Faculty who received promotions last year should receive their 10% increase for the promotion prior to the application of the 2% raise.

Old business:

Minutes from the May 1 meeting will be emailed prior to the next meeting. Senators should review and a vote to approve will take place at the next meeting. All minutes from last year are available on the Faculty Senate website, and we will continue to update these as minutes are approved. (<http://www.wvup.edu/faculty-staff/committees/faculty-senate/>)

Mary Beth Held provided an update on policy proposals:

- the credentialing policy has been completed, approved, and is now available in the Answer Book
- the maternity and sick leave policies are still awaiting approval; senate will continue to follow up on these
- the faculty evaluation policy is still in process. At the end of May, senate created a rough draft for a new rubric, however, it was discussed that a section on assessment of student learning should be added. A process and timeline for evaluation needs to be finalized, and we should have a completed proposal by early fall. For the first year, evaluation of faculty members will begin in the month the final policy is approved. Once the policy is approved, Faculty Senate and the newly created Center for Teaching Excellence will provide trainings and work sessions to help everyone complete their evaluations under the new model.

New business:

Due to some changes in faculty roles, the Business, Accounting, and Public Service and the Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social Sciences Divisions need to elect new senate representatives. Mary Beth Held has instructed those divisions to hold elections this week. Aaron Crites made a motion to reevaluate the policy to determine how many senators should represent each division

and term limits. After discussion, Gary Thompson modified the motion to include an examination of previous minutes where we may have discussed this.

Fall meeting dates will be set based on senator availability; at this point, it appears the meetings will be held at 11:00am on Tuesdays every two weeks. Mary Beth expressed that she would like to hold full meetings once per month, then spend the other meeting in breakout committees to focus on specific tasks.

A brief discussion was held about bringing back a form of engagement hour. The current plan is to move classes which begin at 12:30pm a new starting time of 1:00pm, which will create a 45 minute break each day. The administration is still working to finalize this, but realizes it is a need.

Al Newhart requested that Faculty Senate speak with administration about tenure and phased retirement policies.

Torie Jackson requested Faculty Senate to examine the sabbatical policy, as the policy requires a faculty member to have tenure prior to receiving sabbatical, but only a small number of faculty have tenure.

Aaron Crites requested Faculty Senate to examine the policies for emeritus status; specifically, can term employee receive emeritus status?

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.