

**West Virginia University at Parkersburg**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
*March 1, 2021*

**SENATORS PRESENT:** Aaron Crites (Chair), Matthew Graves (Secretary), Joel Farkas (ACF Representative), Holly Martin, Missy Spivy, Bobbi Marshall, Holly Dexter, Jamie Casenelli, Gary Thompson, Rose Beebe (BOG Representative), Quorum Present

Chair called meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Old Business:**

Senate Shell—Currently being worked on. Almost ready to release to full use of senate and faculty members.

COVID Protocol:

Financial Support—President of institution seeking suggestions on how to spend COVID-support monies to help support faculty. Chair asked each division to come up with some possibilities on how to utilize funds. Possibility of allocating to each faculty member or faculty-wide pot.

President of institution did not object to Education Division’s request for equipment.

President of institution supported idea of using monies to pay for “classroom” needs, but thought there may be an issue from the business office with the purchase requirements. If this did work, then potential money could come from college budget to provide for stipends for faculty. Concern is with decreased enrollment and need to use the funds to cover operating expenses not covered due to decreased enrollment as a result of Covid. The concern with enrollment was echoed by vice-president Harris and relayed by Business division.

Faculty Leave Policy—President of institution is going to meet with other community/technical college with goal to implement a state-wide faculty leave policy. Feeling is this will have greater power/teeth coming from all rather than just institution by institution.

Phased retirement—Still in holding period as far as obtaining a resolution. Has taken a backseat to Covid issues.

Outcomes/Assessment—Going to be addressed with President after Assessment day.

**BOG Update**

Has not met since last meeting.

## **ACF Update**

FAFSA filings are down significantly. However, adult students are up as this demographic is returning to school because of lack of job opportunity.

ACF has been trying to get audience with senators, to no avail.

CARES ACT money discussed.

Covid Vaccines—Approximately 3,000 administered, receiving approximately 1,000 a week.

Expect lack of preparedness for college from incoming Freshman due to Covid remote learning.

Recommending making co-req math and English the default with a test out option due to lack of college readiness from Covid.

## **New Business:**

Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 Update:

President of institution indicated that plan is to wait as long as possible to determine whether Summer and Fall will be virtual or in person. The current outlook is Summer will be virtual with hope that Fall is back in person. There is a potential that we have a hybrid model where some classes are offered in person and others virtual. The purpose of the hybrid model is to help keep potential exposure to a minimum. Discussion ensued to get feedback on thoughts of potential hybrid model.

Faculty Involvement in LMS decisions:

Why is faculty not involved in the decision-making process concerning LMS at the college. Indicated that faculty was involved in switching back to Blackboard. Chair of senate indicated that would address with president and request faculty involvement.

Commencement:

President of institution indicated that he was receiving a lot of pressure from the community to have an in-person commencement. Possibility of having commencement outdoors to provide for social distancing. Question posed to senate and discussion ensued. One suggestion is to have commencement by division, rather than college wide.

Emeritus Vote for Cheryl Robinson—Motion made to support for emeritus made by Bobbi Marshall. Seconded by Rose Beebe. Passed unanimously.

## **Other News/Announcements:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.