

West Virginia University Parkersburg
Faculty Senate
March 2, 2022

Call to order by Aaron Crites @ 2:30 p.m.

Members present: Rose Beebe (BOG Rep), Jami Casenelli, Joel Farkas (ACF Rep), Pat Harris, Bobbi Marshall, Andrew Rochus, Missy Spivy, Gary Thompson, Rebecca Tucker

Topics of Discussion:

1. COVID Protocols updated Feb. 28th – Mask requirement has been lifted but highly encouraged. Faculty Senate Chair has been involved with the COVID Task Force and recommendations have been included. Protocol remains open that provides freedom of faculty and staff to decide the requirements they want to enforce within their work space.
2. Phase retirement- President and HR Director are working together with the goal to get in place by the end of this year. Faculty Senate Chair has given the HR Director documents of WVU's phased retirement.
3. Evaluation of administrators – President is on board and plans to follow through. Encouraged to use an outside source to elicit feedback to ensure faculty feel comfortable in providing honest feedback.
4. Assessment and faculty development – Mr. Crites shared the frustration of the Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social Sciences Division with the current changes and requirements of the Blackboard and syllabus templates required this semester. Opinions of other Divisions were solicited. Much discussion followed with similar frustrations experienced by STEM. Areas of discussion included:
 - a. What was the goal/purpose of these changes?
 - b. Who was involved in the development of the templates? Concern expressed that faculty were not involved or asked for input – but the changes impacted faculty and their courses.
 - c. Lack of communication of the purpose, process, and expectations – communication was unclear and inconsistent among Deans and Divisions.
 - d. The changes resulted in fragmentation and duplication of information within the courses.
 - e. Timing of the changes were unrealistic resulting in an enormous burden to faculty over the break.
 - f. How can this be 'fixed' prior to the preparation of courses for summer 2022?
 - i. Faculty Senate Chair will request a meeting with the Provost of Academic Affairs and offer an ad hoc committee of faculty to work with Academic Affairs and Online Learning Center to review the current templates and revise as needed to ensure the goal(s) for the changes can be met.
5. Mr. Crites shared that there have been issues in previous years about faculty transcripts being 'lost' in HR and faculty having to resend transcripts. HR is working with an outside agency to 'store' transcripts, and as a result, faculty may receive an email requesting them to confirm their degrees. This email will be legitimate.

6. Mr. Rochus brought forward the Faculty Annual Review process and questioned if faculty had the option to refute comments made by a division evaluation committee if a faculty did not agree. Differences among divisions of whether faculty had the opportunity to agree or disagree with their evaluation were identified, and it was determined that the Answer Book policy has not been updated to reflect the current practice. Discussion resulted in the need for the Answer Book to be reviewed and updated and who is responsible for this. Faculty Senate is responsible for updating the Faculty Handbook, which needs to be done. This task will be handed to the newly appointed Chair of Faculty Senate.

Elections:

Newly appointed faculty representatives for 2022-2023 were reported by the respective divisions. Business, Accounting, and Public Services Division was not represented. Mr. Crites will follow up with that division.

Mr. Crites' term for Chair of Faculty Senate expires at the end of this academic term. A new Chair will be appointed at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

Reports:

Board of Governors Representative – Meets Tuesday, March 8th.

ACF Representative – Dr. Farkas has been appointed as Chair of the committee and will continue in his role of WVUP ACF Representative. Bills currently discussed included:

- SB 498 passed in Senate today. ACF committee members were mixed with their support of the bill.
- Funding formula – driven by HEPC.