

Fairmont State Board of Governors

Meeting of September 27, 2006

AGENDA

FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL MEET AT 10 A.M. IN ROOM 219 HB

NO OTHER COMMITTEES WILL MEET

FULL BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING AT 11 A.M. IN ROOM 219 HB

Call to Order

Committee of the Whole

1. Approval of the Degree Definition Policy
2. Approval of Pay Raises

Action Item

Action Item

Possible Executive Session

Next meeting date is Thursday, November 9, 2006 in Board Room – Falcon Center

Fairmont State Board of Governors
September 27, 2006

ITEM: Degree Definitions Policy

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION: Resolved, that the Fairmont State Board of Governors approves the Degree Definitions Policy

STAFF MEMBER: Dan Bradley

BACKGROUND:

This is an amended version of the proposed degree definitions policy. Changes were made to the first draft based on comments received. The administration then worked with a group of faculty members to further refine the policy. Additional changes have been made as a result of those discussions. All changes from the original draft are marked by strike through (deleted language) and underline (inserted language.)

Fairmont State Board of Governors
POLICY # XXX

8-21-06

TITLE: Degree Definitions

SECTION 1: General

1.1 Scope This policy defines the degrees awarded by Fairmont State University and is intended to be used in design of all degrees programs at the University

SECTION 2: Definitions

- 2.1 Associate's Degree: A program of study equivalent to two years of full-time study (~~60—64 credits~~) consisting of major and liberal studies (general education) components. ~~An associate degree program may include as many as 72 hours if a baccalaureate completion program is available which results in a total less than or equal to 128 credits hours.~~
- 2.2 Bachelor's Degree: A program of study equivalent to 4 years of full-time study (~~120—128 credits~~) consisting of a major, liberal studies (general education) courses and elective components.
- 2.3 Master's Degree: A program of study equivalent to 1 to 2 years of study (~~30-36 credit hours~~). A master's degree study generally follows completion of a bachelor's degree but in certain circumstances advanced baccalaureate students may be dual enrolled in a master's program. A master's degree cannot be attained before completion of a bachelor's degree.
- 2.4 Major: A specialized program of study that prepares a student for entry level into a profession (e.g. teaching, engineering, business, performance in the arts), graduate school, professional school or entry level employment in a field requiring general qualifications. For the purpose of this rule, courses that are required in the major and that also satisfy liberal studies requirements may be counted formally as part of liberal studies, rather than as part of the major requirement. A major shall consist of between 32 and 65 credit hours. A major may include a required minor, but the total credit hours for the major, including the minor, may not exceed 65.
- 2.5 Minor: A specialized program of study used to complement a major by providing a secondary area of expertise. A minor shall consist of between 18 and 24 credit hours. ~~Multiple minors may substitute for a major if approved.~~
- 2.6 Liberal Studies (General Education): The Fairmont State Board of Governors endorses the North Central Association Higher Learning Commission's Statement on General Education (February 21, 2003) which states in part, "Understanding and

appreciating diverse cultures, mastering multiple modes of inquiry, effectively analyzing and communicating information, and recognizing the importance of creativity and values to the human spirit not only allow people to live richer lives but also are a foundation for most careers and for the informed exercise of local, national, and international citizenship.” ~~This very important part of undergraduate education, general education,~~ Liberal studies courses shall consist of between 32 and 42 credit hours for a bachelor’s degree and between 16 and 21 credits for an associate’s degree.

- 2.7 Free Electives: Courses chosen by a student to broaden their areas of study in a self directed manner. Free Electives may not be specified by the program or institutional faculty. Baccalaureate students must be given a minimum of ~~24~~ 21 hours of free elective credit as part of their program of study.

SECTION 3: Board Policy:

- 3.1 Requirements for master’s degrees offered by Fairmont State University are limited to a maximum of 36 semester hours of credit. Exceptions to this policy must be recommended by the program and approved by the Board of Governors. Exceptions will be limited in number and approved only on the basis of the criteria listed in Section 4 below.
- 3.2 Requirements for ~~baccalaureate~~ bachelor’s degrees offered by Fairmont State University are limited to a maximum of 128 semester hours of credit. The degree program of study shall include major, liberal studies (general education) and elective components. Exceptions to this policy must be recommended by the provost and approved by the Board of Governors. Exceptions will be ~~limited in number and~~ approved only on the basis of the criteria listed below.
- 3.3 Requirements for associate’s degrees offered by Fairmont State University are limited to a maximum of 72 semester hours of credit and must meet requirements outlined in WVCCTC Series 7. The degree program of study shall include major and liberal studies (general education) components. Exceptions to this policy must be recommended by the Provost or C&TC President, as appropriate and approved by the Board of Governors. Exceptions will be ~~limited in number and~~ approved only on the basis of the criteria listed in Section 4 below.

SECTION 4: Procedure

- 4.1 Programs seeking exceptions to any of the maximum credit hour limits must submit formal requests to the Board of Governors for approval. The rationale for the exception must document the existence of one or more of the criteria in paragraph 4.2 below.
- 4.2 Criteria
- 4.2.1. Accreditation standards of the appropriate specialized accrediting agency mandate more credit hours than allowed in section 3.

4.2.2. Licensing standards of the profession involved require more credit hours than allowed in section 3.

4.2.3. Employment and initial success in the profession require more credit hours than allowed in section 3.

4.3 The burden of proof will be on the program requesting exceptions to document that any or all of the above conditions are present with regard to their particular situation.

~~4.4 The Board of Governors understands that additional hours beyond the minimum required for the baccalaureate degree may be desirable for many students to broaden their general education, to deepen their knowledge and preparation in a specific discipline, and to improve their chances for employment. The Board anticipates that the advising process will make these opportunities known to students. However, the desirability of additional education to achieve these or other goals is not sufficient rationale for an exception to maximum credit hours requirement, which is intended for students who wish to enter the job market or pursue further graduate/professional education as soon as possible.~~

SECTION 5: Implementation

5.1 ~~All existing degrees programs must conform to the above policy by the beginning of the Fall semester of 2007. New programs must conform at the time of approval. The lesser of two or 50% of existing programs in each School or College will be in compliance with this policy by Fall 2007. All other existing programs must conform to the policy by Fall 2008. New programs must conform at the time of approval.~~

Fairmont State Board of Governors
September 27, 2006

ITEM:

Pay raises effective December 1, 2006.

COMMITTEE:

Committee of the Whole

RECOMMENDED POLICY:

Resolved, that the Fairmont State Board of Governors approve a pay raise that will provide approximately the following:

- FSU faculty not including Pierpont Community & Technical College
 - \$354,132 for salary and benefit increases
- Pierpont Community & Technical College faculty
 - \$115,106 for salary and benefit increases
- Auxiliary & Restricted Faculty \$25,400
- Classified employees. \$194,031 for salary and benefit increases. The average classified staff member after the raise will be at about 94% of scale.
- 3.5% to part-time faculty and staff. (\$128,000)
- Non-classified employees
 - \$231,869 for salary and benefit increases
- For a total of \$1,048,538 in salary and benefit increases.

Note: Casual and student employees are not included at this time. The dollars for each group will be distributed based on BOG Policy 25 with average raise for each group being 3.5%. The raises will be effective December 1, 2006.

STAFF MEMBER:

Rick Porto

BACKGROUND:

The funding needed to implement these raises will cost on an annual basis \$1,048,538. The raises for FSU faculty and all non-classified employees will be determined using a merit evaluation procedure outlined in BOG policy 25.

The budget set aside for this pay raise was \$1,299,939 with \$1,128,688 being in the unrestricted fund. The total unrestricted pay raise will approximate \$939,978.

Funding for this pay raise came from:

- Funds set aside at the beginning of the fiscal year which represented 100% of the cost of this raise.

Note: Promotions and other salary budget adjustments were already posted in the finance system and are not included in the above total.