

Fairmont State University Board of Governors – Academic Affairs Committee
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 9:00am
Hardway 219 and Teams
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: George Wolf, Dr. Janna Bredeson, Dr. Gina Fantasia, Jon Dodds, Jennifer Kinty, Riley Neal, Susan Ross, Tanner James, Trish DeNoon, Cheryl Lewis

Teams: David Goldberg, Drew Paton, Alicia Kalka, Dr. Michael Davis, Jason McCoy, Wendy Adkins, Lenora Montgomery

A. Call To Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:02 a.m. by Wendy Adkins
- Wendy Adkins mentioned that a lot of the items on the agenda today are for informational purposes but there is one item that will need to be discussed before moving on to the full Board for approval
- Wendy Adkins reminded attendees that they cannot vote, but the group will vet the information before it goes to the Board to be voted on

B. Academic Affairs Highlights and Accolades

- Dr. Susan Ross stated that there were a lot of good things happening within Academic Affairs and we are future-focused
 - Fairmont State understands the issues facing Higher Education, such as the dip in enrollment, the initiatives that deal with AI, and reaching learners differently, and we have been preparing
- The Falcon Park Partnership has been named a West Virginia Physical Activity Plan Organizational Partner
 - This aligns with statewide physical activity goals and promotes community involvement
 - They're going to work with other partners and stakeholders to identify some different strategies to align with the statewide physical activity goals
 - This is a larger national initiative and will allow for more publicity of our institution and show that we are increasing visibility within the state
 - There is another mile currently being developed
 - We've had students, grad students, and architecture students helping to develop and work on this park
- Professors Drs. Dewig and Reese have secured a \$19,742 grant which will assist students in their research of muscle activation, muscle fatigue, human movement, and analysis of human movement
 - This will also be an opportunity with the new Health and Human Performance lab
 - And they are planning to do outreach activities with the community to come in and do health assessments

- They're currently doing assessments with student athletes
- Jon Dodds mentioned that this is a lot of important work they are doing with a small grant
- The College of Science and Technology will be:
 - Hosting the Regional Science Fair in the Falcon Center gyms this weekend
 - In March they will be hosting the Geoscience program along with the NASA Educational Resource Center
 - They will also be hosting Robotics tournaments for students from across the state
 - Dr. Gina Fantasia mentioned that this is a great opportunity as these are the students we want to recruit

C. New Program: B.A. in Outdoor Leadership

- 120 credit hours on campus, interdisciplinary program
- The ideal implementation date would be Fall 2025
- This program would focus on Leadership, communication, and technical competencies required to lead and guide individuals or groups in outdoor settings
- We currently have a minor in Outdoor Leadership. This will add 4 more courses to do internships at various sites
- Dr. Gina Fantasia asked about the need for more faculty. She stated that in the past we say we don't need more faculty and then we do. She is concerned about the courseloads that the current faculty may have to take on to make it successful
 - Dr. Gina Fantasia also mentioned that she is aware that the accreditors look at the percentage of courses taught by adjuncts, as opposed to full-time tenured faculty
 - Dr. Michael Davis stated that if the students show up, we have to resource the programs. When we approve these programs, if they are enrollment drivers, we follow up with the resources needed
- Jennifer Kinty asked if there is a demand for this program and will students who graduate with this degree get a good-paying job and have career growth
 - Dr. Michael Davis stated that last year he met with the Secretary of Tourism, and she said that of the jobs that come open in the industry. For 2/3 of the open jobs, employers would like to have degrees
 1. Currently there are no degrees in this field in WV which is why we are developing this program
 - Jon Dodds stated that he looked at the available jobs and there are jobs posted today that make \$50-\$60,000

- Dr. Janna Bredeson mentioned that there is a need for this program because institutions have been cutting it from their list of degrees
 1. Jennifer Kinty asked why they were cutting them
 2. Dr. Janna Bredeson stated that there weren't places to practice what is needed like there are in WV
- George Wolf informed the attendees that the institution needs to start placing a budget in the plans for marketing new programs. This would allow for large media blasts instead of just the traditional recruitment model
 1. Having funds for marketing will allow for quicker enrollment
- Dr. Susan Ross mentioned that at the Statewide Provost meeting, it was recommended that we have a path to tourism from our Dual Enrollment Program. In that path, the student will take at least one course related to tourism
- Wendy Adkins asked if the attendees were comfortable with moving this item to the full board
 - Drew Paton stated that he would like to see the full costs
 - Jennifer Kinty mentioned that she would like to see the ROI
 - Dr. Susan Ross stated that this was in the Intent to Plan which she will send to everyone for review
- Dr. Susan Ross mentioned that there will also be micro-credentials built into the program
- Wendy Adkins stated that it would be approved to move to the full board and that Dr. Susan Ross would send the Intent to Plan
 - If additional questions come up, send them to Cheryl Lewis

D. HLC Accreditation and Program-Specific Accreditation

- The HLC interim monitoring report is due August 1st
 - This report will address things that we have been working on for the past couple of years (strategic planning, financial planning, assessment, online and distance education) and we will be drafting the final report in May
- The Master's in Education and Educational Leadership, the Ed Leadership Certificate, and the Principals Certificate received National Accreditation in January
 - Any time that a program is accredited it tells you a couple of things: we're meeting the national standards for that particular discipline and the program has credibility with employers

E. Hyflex Teaching-Learning Model

- Looking at the future and now, this demonstrates our path forward. It will provide options for students who may need to work and not be able to get to campus

- We have a Title III grant which will assist with this goal
- Course design needs to be optimal, the faculty needs to be trained, and the classrooms need to have good technology
 - 9 faculty have already been trained on Hyflex teaching and additional faculty are currently enrolled in the course. A total of 15 faculty will be trained by the end of the semester

F. Credential Fairmont State

- This is a WV initiative aimed at equipping employees with workforce-relevant skills
- Microcredentials are short-focused credentials for an in-demand skill
- Fairmont State is working with the industry to discuss what employees need to be qualified to do certain jobs
- We currently have a microcredentialing team that is working on developing policies, procedures, and processes
- We already have these skill sets built within our programs, and so we'll be able to relatively quickly, serve the industry and be able to provide these credentials for our students who are going to be much more employable

G. Coursedog

- We will be transitioning to Coursedog for all Academic Affairs Operations such as Scheduling, curriculum, and Assessment
- We are working with the CTLI to develop a transition plan and trainings
- We will be rolling out the Curriculum portion first
 - There has been a link found between student success and scheduling, so this is very important
 - Looking at a 6-month rollout

H. Academic Program Review Sessions

- We will be conducting Program Review sessions and there will be one specifically for BOG members
 - Topics will include how we evaluate programs, making decisions, etc.
- The tentative date is the end of February

I. George Wolf mentioned that we need to get on paper who will be assisting with the marketing of the microcredentials

J. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m. by Wendy Adkins



2/13/2025

Wendy Adkins, Committee Chair

Date