

# Fairmont State Faculty Senate

Minutes, 2.11.25

Members Present: **Bob Niichel** (Executive Committee: President, Computer Science & Math), **Dexter Simon** (SGA), **Deb Hemler**(Academic Affairs), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **Jason Frazer** (CoBA), **J.L. Tomlin** (Social Sciences/Ex. Committee, Secretary), **Jason Bolyard** (ET), **Kristi Kiefer** (COHHP), **James Long** (Math/CS), **Tabitha Lafferre** (ENG/Tech), **Nathan Myers** (Humanities), **April Townshend** (Nat Sci), **Jim Matthews** (Academic Affairs), **Todd Clark** (ACF), **Chris Moss** (Social Sciences), **Derek Nuzum** (Library), **Gina Fantasia** (BOG), **Candice Moench** (Ed.), **Lisa Eades** (Nursing), **Kristi Kiefer** (HHP/SOE), **Donna Long** (Humanities, VP), **Julie Reneau** ( HHP/SOE),

Guests: **Susan Ross** (Interim Provost), **Brian Selmeski** (President's Office), **Paul Reneau** (PPSC), **Alicia Kalka** (VP, Enrollment Management), **Chris Kast** (Provost Office), **Mike Ransom** (Beh. Science), **George Wolf** (Enrollment Management), **Mosche Machlev** (Beh. Science), **Jan Kiger** (HHP)

**1.-3.** Call to order at 3:00. Changes to agenda. President Davis and COS Selmeski will not be speaking today. Fantasia asked to provide BOG report first because CoBA has accreditors on campus. Fantasia added to the President's normal slot. No objections to stated changes to agenda. No additions. Approval of January Minutes. No additions, corrections, or notes on the minutes. No objections. Minutes approved.

**4.** Fantasia (remote) says BOG meeting scheduled for the 26th has been moved to the 19th. Ex com meeting Monday and board meeting the 19th. A couple of meetings took place this week. Could't make it to the enrollment meeting. Report sent out to Fantasia today. In finance committee meeting, good news from enrollment. FSU up year over year in enrollment. Pure headcount for spring enrollment is up 200 headcount. Without dual enrollment, headcount up 160. With DE, this increase is 6.8%. Up 12% on new first time enrollment. This does not include dual enrollment. In Finance committee meeting, FSU on track to have balanced budget. Probably more relevant is that finance committee is advancing to the BOG for consideration a 3% across the board increase. Discussion of increases in PEIA premiums, dependent on which benefits employees choose. Fantasia asked about 3% calculation whether it covered PEIA increases. No answer but one coming by the time the BOG meets. Feedback from athletic affairs was updates with teams. No academic or faculty information given. Fantasia will attend academic affairs, but may have to leave the meeting early for accreditation meetings. Perhaps some curriculum proposals being presented, but not really much else. Solicitation for questions. None offered.

5. Old Business Major/Minor. No old items, but some new major items. Curriculum proposals presented. Call for motion to accept some/all of proposals for first meeting. Long motions, Frazer seconded. Two questions from Long about Middle College initiative. Is SOAR for middle college offered in summer only? Mathews answers no, it is being shifted to the Fall. They will not be taking SOAR during the summer. The remote summer class did not help students adjust to campus life, so fall time for this has been decided upon. Long says the curriculum proposal says it will be offered fall, spring, and summer. Matthews says he will check on this. Second question, Are students that fail these Math and English classes (such as 1400) over the summer out? Matthews says he isn't sure, will follow up with higher admin. No questions heard, motion to pass for first reading passes by voice vote. Motion carried. No other old business items.

6. New Business Major/Minor.  
None

7. Provost Report: Not present

8. Reports

ACF-Clark: All legislature committees have been listed for both chambers. Tomorrow first day of session. Nothing yet listed under Bill Status online. Nothing concerning higher education (other than DEI at WVState) on the radar so far. Tomorrow is also day at the Capitol and Clark will be there to ask more questions and get more feedback. Question from Long about what's going on at WVState. Clark says a simple conflation is at work with DEI initiatives along with the status of WVState as an HBCU which complicates the conversation (state initiatives are different from HBCU programs). This issue is as of yet unresolved. Selmeski (remote) adds that as we sort out DEI orders, precedence matters. HBCU are special case because federal legislation is override-proof from governor and president overriding it. FSU is not an HBCU so we are investigating how to comply, which is complicated. Request to provide assurance to students that we are doing our best to consider their needs as we work through the issue.

BOG-Fantasia: Moved to President's slot.

SGA- Simon: Not much to report. Elections are coming up in April. Advertise this to departmental RSO's. Townhalls with food provided. Excitement for day at the capitol. Leadership series for student certification are available recurrently. Talk to Sara Davis about this for more information. RSO's should have already been contacted by Davis. Question about whether this is just for officers. No, this is for everyone. When does SGA meet? Every Thursday from 12:30-1:30 except this week for day at the capitol.

9. Miscellaneous: Apology to Nuzum for oversight in adding him to agenda. Report from Nuzum on staff council. DEI report made at council. They met on Jan 30. Spencer Flanagan no longer chair. Donna Rickett now interim chair. Changes to charter are being made for who can serve on staff council. Retention, enrollment is up. Student affairs have new director Donald Luke (Kopp) Next finance meeting raises (3%) will be discussed. Data collection for compensation study will be shared next spring. Updates on athletes/teams. Ashley Maxey

clarified about extra day being added to school year. Fire extinguishers serviced on campus. Break time policy clarified. Radon tests not yet back from Hunt Hall. President shared with staff council that law enforcement on campus to enforce immigration laws should be directed to the president's office. Question about whether certain staff could serve on council. This was in reference to members of the president's cabinet. Exemptions allowed for this. Question from Niichel about whether they were changing voting process? No that was a proposal for future consideration.

Treasury Committee: Frazer reminds about GALA coming up. Tickets available now. No fee for us to use Colebank for the GALA. All revenue from tickets and gift baskets will be going to scholarship and travel support. Eades asks when baskets for the GALA are due? A summary of what each college is contributing by way of basket so she can advertise online. (A theme, actual items, etc). Eades asks who to contact for that info? March 8 date for the event. Niichel asks if two weeks in advance would be enough? Two weeks should be good. (Feb. 23). Encourage all departments to advertise. Open to the public. Question about dress code? Frazer says it will not be enforced or strictly considered. Question about what happened with alcohol for the event. Eades will look into this and see if we need to submit a special request form. Doesn't anticipate a problem getting this together. Question about how much of the 5K we will use for the event. Not sure, but return will be also 100% on what we spend. Eades says this will be more clear after the menu is decided upon. Depends also on what Aladdin fees are. Perhaps half the 5k would be enough for this event. Question from Niichel about bringing back the faculty student reception after graduation. Most members express agreement in bringing this tradition back with leftover money. Extended discussion on decorations.

Reneau (remote) gives quick review of PPS. February 24-March 19th available. Committee ran test survey last week and it worked fine. Completely anonymous. Charlie Hively is getting faculty email list together. IF he contacts you please respond with the information requested. Question about what to do with interim deans. They will be treated like permanent deans this year. Just like last year, email will go out TH or F prior and another email the day of (24th/25th) to remind people not to disregard the reminder and to complete the survey. Call for questions? None. Staff Council asked the committee to do a survey for Staff. Niichel asks the larger senate. One Question about staff council. Did the committee do this last year? Yes, and if asked to do it again this year wanted to be sure senate was okay with this. Long says we already have an instrument so all the committee would be doing is providing it to them. Long moves to allow staff council access. Tomlin Seconds. Reneau clarifies that they would need the instrument and the explanation of results afterward. Agreed as friendly amendment. New motion to provide them the instrument and implementation procedure for the survey. No discussion of motion. Vote carried by voice vote.

**10. Open Forum:** Question from Eades about bookstore. Confirmation requested about whether FSU is moving to an online bookstore. Matthews answers that he understands we are moving to an online bookstore. Selmeski adds that yes after consultations the president has decided to move forward with an online provider of textbooks, and FSU will take over the spirit store component

of the bookstore. No selections about the provider yet, but this is a question for Student Affairs. After contract with Follette lapses this summer, FSU will formally take over that operation which will operate more smoothly with ongoing campus events and initiatives. Long asks if the expectation is for the online provider be in place by next fall? That is the plan, yes. No details on status of solicitation, and has to go through state process, but people are working to meet that goal.

Long hoped for discussion of DEI executive order and what it would mean for FSU. Long solicited questions/comments from her department. Hopefully next month we could ask President Davis to attend and take questions about these concerns and FSU policy regarding federal and state changes. Selmeski provides quick summary of 3 state executive orders (federal may not apply as directly). Defer to next month for a face to face discussion. Those three are religious exemptions to vaccines, the audit or funding review for expenses beyond 100K, and cessation of DEI which is vague and all universities are collaborating to work out what that will look like or mean. Further discussion deferred to next meeting.

George Wolf asked about biggest change (Access Scholarship guarantee to low income students). Students with household income less than 70k must fill out FAFSA and be admitted by June 15th. Not a lot of changes to procedure this year, but for upcoming year expect some changes to policy/procedure to be made to accommodate this new policy. The scholarship is open currently and will be available for Fall 25-Spring 26 academic year. Niichel asks further about whether FAFSA will be as difficult next year as last. No, so far proceeding smoothly. Awards already moving, and smoother than last year. Second question from Niichel regarding who is paying for this scholarship. It is really a reallocation of what FSU is already doing. Most of these students are PELL eligible and state government funding eligible. Cost for FSU is relatively small with those included. This will help assessment and FSU competitiveness with other similar college programs. Most likely increase our market share which may result in a net revenue from enrollment increases. This is being worked in tandem with recruitment outreach. Niichel asks how this increases FSU market share. Answer is that it helps some groups who assume they can't afford college reconsider that decision. Example given of students working with football coach. Scholarship changes perception of affordability for some. Is 70K a hard number or scaled to different income brackets? No 70k is the hard number, although other opportunities are available for students outside of that bracket/cutoff.

Call to adjourn at 3:53