

Fairmont State Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
7 May 2024

Members: **Bob Niichel** (Executive Committee: President, Computer Science & Math), **Bill Harrison** (Exec Committee: Vice President, Social Sciences), **Lisa Eades** (Exec Committee: Webmaster, ASN), **Barbara MacLennan** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, Behavioral Sciences), **Raymond Alvarez** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, CoBA), **Denice Kirchoff** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, BSN), **Sophie Stuart** (SGA), **Rick Harvey** (Academic Affairs), **Donna Long** (Exec Committee: Secretary, Humanities), **Nathan Myers** (Humanities), **Todd Clark** (ACF Rep, Social Sciences), **J. Tomlin** (Social Sciences), **Chris Kast** (Academic Affairs), **Kelley Flaherty** (Natural Sciences), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **Tabitha Lafferre** (ET), **Ashley Dover** (Library), **Jason Frazer** (CoBA), **Kristi Kiefer** (CoEHHP), **Julie Reneau** (CoeHHP), **Gina Fantasia** (BOG)

Guests: **Mike Davis, Dianna Phillips, Tim Oxley, Frank LaFone, Brian Selmeski, Deb Hemler, Jim Matthews, Rachel Cook, Abby Chapman**

1.-4. Meeting called to order 3:00 p.m.; Agenda approved. Fantasia moved and Harrison seconded to approve 9 April 2024 minutes and 23 April 2024 special meeting minutes. Approved.

5. President Davis reported:

- All but three unit level meetings on the Strategic Plan have occurred. Starting on 5/16 meetings with other areas (Academic Affairs, etc.) will occur.
- Interim CFO Nesbit to begin on 5/12.
- Three “great place to work” initiatives have been announced: free Falcon Center memberships for employees and families; regular office trash pick-up to resume; *NY Times* institutional membership (cost under \$3k for the entire institution).

MacLennan presented President Davis with the “memory book” from Senate Team Trivia inaugural event.

6. Old Business

a. GS 23-24-02 FORS 2201 & b. GS 23-24-04 STEM 1100. Harrison moved and Kast seconded to pass both for second reading; motion carried.

7. New Business: Major

a. Niichel projected elected and voluntary Senate committee lists. Harrison moved and Tomlin seconded to accept committee membership as updated for first reading. Motion passed.

- Various updates were made: Aviation is open to having representation from another CoBA member. Lafferre elected to the new Appeals Committee and Bolyard joining Senate. Pulice to replace Alvarez on Curriculum. Dover remaining on Senate as Library rep. Toland representing Senate for BSN.
- The Animal Use and Care Committee (new committee) needs membership; Don Teter joined. Senators need to ask their constituents to serve.

- Julie Reneau elected to Personnel for CoEHHP; Kirchoff to remain (there are no other full-time profs in Nursing) unless her interim chair status becomes permanent.

#### 7 New Business: Minor

a. Committee Reports. MacLennan moved and Harrison seconded to receive year-end Committee Reports. Motion passed.

- Harrison chaired the Committee on Committees and thanked his fellow members Kelley Flaherty, Ashley Dover, J. Tomlin, and Chris Kast, as well as Bob Niichel.
- Niichel noted the Faculty Handbook Committee report is outstanding; Clark stated that he submitted a draft [of the Handbook] on 7/23. Nominations from the Provost's Office and the Colleges have been received. Clark is allowing for a "cooling off" period for some upcoming issues.
- Long commended the work of all Senate committees and especially International Education, IRB, and Personnel, as they all did extraordinary work this year. She also noted both Faculty Welfare and Library concerns should be considered by Senate next year.

b. Election of 2024-2025 Senate officers. Fantasia moved and Harvey seconded accepting the slate as presented by acclamation. Motion passed.

- Harrison chaired the Nominating Committee and thanked his fellow members Chris Kast, Jason Frazer, Gina Fantasia, and Julie Reneau, as well as Bob Niichel.
- The slate includes Bob Niichel, President; Donna Long, Vice President; J. Tomlin, Secretary; Lisa Eades, Webmaster; Jason Frazer, Treasurer; and Raymond Alvarez and Barbara MacLennan, Members-at-Large.

8. Provost Report. Dr. Phillips thanked everyone for attending the special meeting on the new Program Review guidelines. She noted that although much of the meeting was devoted to financial metrics, they do not take precedence over other categories, and the emphasis on financials at the meeting was only because it is the newest component. She stated that Outcomes are "the heart" of the Program Review. Sustainability is important, but it will not "overshadow" other aspects.

Other announcements included:

- The Library has been provided \$2.1 million in congressional funding for renovations, and discussion about what the "library of the future" looks like is planned.
- The Data Summit on May 15 (8:30-9:30 social/refreshments; 9:30-12:30 meeting) is the first phase of opportunities "to look at ourselves through the lens of data." We will use the HEPC Almanac in part. The meeting will also be interactive: what do faculty want? Data-informed meetings will continue in the fall.
- The Police Academy is "on hiatus." The Academy has graduated three cohorts but without funding it is not sustainable. The CJ faculty are interested in creating a Center for Justice; Dr. Phillips is in favor but the planning for this, and for the Academy, needs to be deliberate.
- With the interim CFO just coming on board, budgets are still being finalized.
- Under the Academic Affairs area, new hires for Director of Dual Enrollment and some other positions will happen over the summer.
  - Fantasia asked how to see posted positions; Dr. Phillips said she would look into that. [The portal to receive posted positions was made available on May 8!]

- Internal hires for General Education Director and an “Assurance of Learning” position will be / are posted. Long asked what the latter position is; Oxley explained it will replace/reinstate the leadership for what we used to call “Critical Friends.” This was a recommendation from our HLC visit.

Long asked about the status of restructuring; Phillips reported that the initial committee (Niichel, P. Reneau, Cassell, Struth, and Savage) came to unanimous consensus to move forward with restructuring. The next step is a new committee comprised of faculty from the Colleges (elected) and appointments by the provost for other members (admin, staff, ex-officio). The restructuring will consider 2 or 3 colleges and discipline alignments.

Alvarez commended the seriousness with which Cassell served.

Niichel asked about Blackboard Ultra. Phillips noted that the new owner of Blackboard will no longer support our version, so the new version is a necessity. Oxley noted the Ultra rollout has been at least two years in the planning. To find out more about the new version, from the webpage: use the QuickLinks menu to go to Faculty and Staff, to CTLI, to Blackboard Ultra Rollout, to FAQs. Training will be on-going. In the fall we will run both versions. Access to Ultra will be June 30. Move to Ultra by all faculty will be fall 25.

- Fantasia asked if student access will be different. Matthews noted that portable devices work better with Ultra.
- Fantasia noted that some faculty wanted to put up course materials for the fall before summer break, but lack of access to BB won’t allow it. Oxley discussed contract dates, noting that faculty will have a week on-contract before BB opens to students on August 19. He stated that faculty are expected to be in email contact during contract dates. Fantasia requested that an email with basic information about contracts be provided to chairs and deans who could then field faculty questions.
- Niichel asked about copying courses versus copying individual items. Matthews notes that one can move “large chunks” of material. Tomlin noted that anything tied to a module will copy. Any questions can be directed to CTLI instructional designers and Ultra ambassadors.
- Lafferre asked how one can become an ambassador; Oxley said to contact Valerie Morphew.

Niichel asked about the expansion of Safe Colleges training. Phillips will check with Jessica Kropog to find out what is required and what is optional.

Long asked about the too-long student evaluations. Oxley is looking into the situation this summer. Clark asked if faculty were involved in the current evaluation. Hemler noted that they were based on the old IDEA evaluation, which used to choose questions based on what faculty input as the course goals. Without that option, evaluations include every question. Fantasia noted that faculty used to be able to add specific questions. She suggested looking at *Chronicle* articles that question the accuracy of student evaluations. We need a broader dialogue on use and design. Phillips agreed.

Niichel asked when dean and chair evaluations were going out. No dean evaluation planned, but chair evaluations should be out soon and before faculty leave.

## 9. Reports

ACF: Clark reported that ACF members had a 3.5 hour meeting, mostly focused on campus carry. They plan to monitor implementation. Please direct any questions to Clark. They also talked about library funding, particularly for ever-increasing cost of databases. They are trying to get a state purchasing model but need to get WVU and Marshall on board. ACF will work on language for a proposal. He notes that the legislation on library holdings did not make it through.

Chapman noted that after-hours door locks are not working. Engineering Tech wasn't locked (and had some minor vandalism). This is a safety concern. President Davis noted there is / will be a new access policy.

Frazer asked if a workshop on CCW was possible; it is not.

BOG: Fantasia reported that the policy on alcohol and drugs on campus was updated because HR pointed out that it included offices that no longer exist.

The policy on campus carry (GA-08) is out for public comment, as is Campus Self-Defense Act policy—should be open until May 29? The next BOG meeting is June 13.

Clark asked if implementation of campus carry is still unfunded. President Davis said yes; Fairmont State did receive some funding for deferred maintenance which will be redirected to campus carry costs.

SGA: Stuart reported that the campus carry open forum was well-attended. She announced new SGA officers. The final SGA event, Yeehaw See Y'all, was very well attended. They will do it again, and SGA is also considering an Aloha Hello event for the fall, tentatively September 10.

10. Miscellaneous: Niichel reminded everyone of the General Faculty meeting on May 16 at 8:30 a.m.

11. Open Forum: Harrison thanked the Senate for its service. Long asked Marion County residents to vote for the MCHS Levy.

Meeting adjourned 4:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Long