

Resolution in support of Theatre and Music

The Fairmont State University Faculty Senate Resolution in Support of Faculty, Staff, and Students in the Theatre, Theatre Education, Music, and Music Education Programs

Whereas, this Faculty Senate recognizes the cultural, scholarly, professional, and economic value that Theatre, Theatre Education, Music, and Music Education students, staff, and faculty provide to the University, the State of West Virginia, the United States, and the world;

And, whereas, this Faculty Senate, in keeping with Fairmont State University's published promise to provide students with a diverse liberal arts education, recognizes that terminating the Theatre, Theatre Education, Music, and Music Education majors will significantly reduce opportunities for all students to experience the value of a diverse liberal arts education;

And whereas, this Faculty Senate recognizes that Fairmont State University gains revenue, prestige, and good will from the significant community outreach, from K-12 to the broader community, that the Theatre, Theatre Education, Music, and Music Education faculty, staff, and students provide and, therefore, that Fairmont State will not be able to retain the quality or quantity of the programming provided by the Theatre, Theatre Education, Music, and Music Education faculty, staff, and students if these programs are terminated;

And whereas, Fairmont State University graduates in the Theatre, Theatre Education, Music, and Music Education have a positive impact on their communities, from teaching in local, national, and international K-12 schools and institutions of higher learning to careers in the performing arts, as well as careers outside these disciplines, including as CEOs of major companies to our recent Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Richard Harvey, who earned his BA in Music Education from WVU;

And whereas, Fairmont State University's Board of Governors was not provided the opportunity to hear from faculty, staff, students, or alumnus of the Theatre, Theatre Education, Music, and Music Education programs prior to terminating the majors, and, in fact, faculty from the programs were explicitly told not to attend the BOG meeting in which the programs were to be discussed;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate of Fairmont State University pledges support for the Theatre, Theatre Education, Music, and Music Education programs and the faculty, staff, and students who are necessary to sustain and strengthen these programs,

And, therefore this Faculty Senate calls upon the Board of Governors to reconsider its vote to terminate these programs pending full and transparent representation of the programs' viability.

Presented this __18th__ day of August, in the year two thousand and twenty, by the Faculty Senate of Fairmont State University.

Charles Shields, President
Faculty Senate
Fairmont State University

Donna J. Long, Vice President
Faculty Senate
Fairmont State University

Academic Forgiveness Policy

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Purpose

The academic forgiveness policy allows forgiveness of *D* and *F* grades of a new or returning student for the purpose of calculating the Grade Point Average (GPA) required for graduation.

Academic forgiveness is available to any new or returning Fairmont State student who has not been enrolled as a full-time student (12–credit hours or more) in any higher education institution for at least four consecutive years.

Conditions

- A forgiven course cannot be used to satisfy any course prerequisite.
- Course substitutions are not permitted in situations where academic forgiveness has previously been applied.
- Any earned credits to be forgiven must not have been applied to a previously awarded degree.
- Academic forgiveness cannot be applied to courses taken on a Credit/No-credit basis.
- Academic forgiveness will not be applied to any course in which the student was found in violation of an academic integrity policy.
- Grades that are eligible for forgiveness will remain on the student's transcript but will be excluded from the GPA calculation.
- Academic forgiveness is granted only once for any student.
- Fairmont State may accept academic forgiveness transferred from another institution if the student was in good standing when they left the prior institution. A student transferring academic forgiveness from a previous institution is not eligible for academic forgiveness again at Fairmont State.
- Fairmont State is not bound by the decision of any other institution to disregard grades earned in university-level courses. Similarly, students should be aware that academic forgiveness extended by Fairmont State may not be recognized by other institutions to which they may transfer.

Procedure After Returning or Transferring to Fairmont State for Eligible Students

- After returning to Fairmont State, a student must complete at least 12 graded credit hours with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA to be eligible for academic forgiveness.

- The student has the choice between requesting academic forgiveness for either all *D* and *F* grades or only *F* grades. The student's choice is a final decision and cannot be subsequently reversed. A student no longer receives credit for any forgiven courses with a grade of *D*.

Exceptions

- The Regents Bachelor of Arts Degree Program is governed by a different forgiveness policy. [hyperlink will be provided to direct students to RBA policy]
- Academic forgiveness policy pertains only to the calculation of the GPA required for graduation and does not pertain to GPA calculated for special academic recognition or to requirements for professional certification which may be within the province of licensure boards, external agencies, and/or the West Virginia Board of Education.

Financial Aid Statement: The Department of Education does not recognize academic forgiveness for Financial Aid purposes. Financial Aid must count all coursework that a student has attempted with the original grades to determine financial aid eligibility. Candidates for academic forgiveness may receive financial assistance during the readmission semester if under Financial Aid Probation and/or Academic Plan. If the student does not meet the financial aid standards of SAP or the requirements of their Academic Plan at the end of the readmission semester, student's financial aid will be suspended as dictated by the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. Candidates must notify Financial Aid Services once officially readmitted in order for financial aid eligibility to be determined at that time.

Academic Forgiveness Request Contact Information

Fairmont State University
Office of the Registrar
1201 Locust Avenue
Turley Center
Fairmont, WV 26554
Phone: (304) 367-4141
Email: registrar@fairmontstate.edu

3 September 2020
COVID-19 Response
Committee Meeting
Notes

Fairmont State University Faculty Senate

COVID-19 Response Committee

Meeting 2021/01 – 3 September 2020

7 September 2020

The inaugural meeting of the Faculty Senate COVID-19 Response Committee was gavelled in at 3:00 pm, 3 September 2020. Those present satisfied a quorum with 11 of 13 committee members present (Chapman, Clark, Harvey, Kirchoff, Kirk, Laferre, Leary, Satterfield, Savage, Slota and Spears).

Committee members introduced themselves and explained their interest in joining the committee. Committee members include:

Molly Barra (Library)
Rebecca Cepek (Language and Literature)
Abby Chapman (Engineering Technology)
Rick Harvey (Continuing Education and Community Engagement)
Denise Kirchoff (Nursing)
Francene Kirk (Community and Theatre Arts)
Tabitha Laferre (Engineering Technology)
Janie Leary (Behavioral Science)
Jennifer Satterfield (Nursing)
Elizabeth Savage (Language and Literature)
Nina Slota (Behavioral Science)
Sam Spears (Music)
Todd Clark (Social Sciences); committee chair

Recording of meetings. The first matter to be addressed concerned whether committee meetings via Webex should be recorded. Dr. Clark requested this discussion out of concern that some committee members might not feel comfortable discussing their opinions and recommendations if meetings are recorded. The overwhelming consensus opposed the recording of meetings via Webex and instead supported the dissemination of proceedings via the more traditional method (notes on committee proceedings).

Mission statement. The first substantive matter adopted for discussion concerned the committee's mission. During this discussion, several members shared their observations concerning teaching during the pandemic, to include:

- The need to establish an unimpeded flow of communications between the faculty and University administration concerning COVID-related issues impacting teaching and academic affairs
- The need for coherence in University policy concerning COVID-related issues
- The need for improved student education on and adherence to COVID-19 mitigation measures and University policies

Members agreed that the committee “should be part of the solution and not the problem,” meaning that its purpose should be constructive. Dr. Clark explained that his rationale for the formation of such a committee lay in the following observations:

- Faculty members did not have a collective group within the Faculty Senate to address their concerns related to the pandemic. Prior to the committee’s formation, faculty raised concerns directly with the Faculty Senate President, who quickly became overwhelmed with the number of concerns on this matter.
- No Faculty Senate committee is focused solely on issues related to the pandemic as they affect teaching and other faculty responsibilities.
- No faculty body exists to address, discuss, and share best practices for teaching an environment that sees a combination of in-person and online instruction, which are often conducted simultaneously in class.
- There has been a significant lack of communication between the University administration. Dr. Clark noted that this observation cuts both ways, in that each can improve its ability to communicate with the other.

Toward this end, Dr. Clark proposed developing language for a mission statement for the committee’s consideration that would accompany the first reading of the proposed *ad hoc* committee for Senate approval (see below). Dr. Clark originally proposed the formation of a COVID-related committee at the Faculty Senate meeting on 18 August.

Participation of Acting Provost. Dr. Clark stated that at his meeting with Acting Provost Stephens on 24 August, Dr. Stephens offered to participate in the committee’s meetings. The committee’s consensus was that it should invite Dr. Stephens to its next meeting on 10 September (see below regarding follow-up with Dr. Stephens).

Frequency and duration of committee meetings. Members completed a Doodle survey that clearly showed 3:00 pm on Thursdays as the best time to meet. Those present reaffirmed this time during the meeting. A consensus of members supported Dr. Clark’s proposal that meetings be kept to one hour in duration. The committee overwhelmingly supported the idea of meeting weekly vice biweekly. All meetings will be conducted virtually via Webex.

Follow-on items

Proposed language for committee mission statement

We, the Faculty Senate, recommend the creation of an *ad hoc* body within the Senate to formally represent faculty concerns to the university administration and to improve communication with and input to the administration on COVID-19 issues that directly impact the instruction and our academic responsibilities during this pandemic. Toward this end, the committee would serve to catalog faculty concerns related to teaching and other responsibilities; discuss and share best practices for more effective instruction during the pandemic; improve communication with the University administration on COVID-19 issues; and provide meaningful input to the University administration concerning the development of COVID-related policies impacting faculty.

Follow-up with Acting Provost

Immediately following conclusion of the committee meeting on 3 September, Dr. Clark contacted Dr. Stephens regarding his presence at the committee's 10 September meeting. Dr. Stephens readily agreed to participate. Dr. Clark will send a Webex invitation to Dr. Stephens.

Next meeting: 3:00 pm, Thursday, 10 September 2020 via Webex (invitation to be sent to all committee members and Acting Provost).