

Fairmont State University Faculty Senate

Minutes

September 11, 2012

303 Education Building

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Attendance: J. Webb-Dempsey (President), M. Abbott, J. Blankenship, J. Bolyard, C. Edwards, E. Gailey, R. Harvey, D. Hemler, M. Hokom, T. Hutchins, S. Kelley, G. Kirby, J. LeJeune, D. Long, B. Mild, K. Millen-Penn, S. O'Brien Rafferty, J. O'Connor T. Oxley, S. Roof, M. Ryan, C. Shields, P. Snively, D. Tobin, C. White.

Visitors: M. Rose, C. Lavorata, J. Kirby, J. Matthews, J. Raisovich

- I. Reading and approval of minutes of August 2012 meeting – Kelley moved to accept and Long seconded. Motion carried.
- II. Announcements / Information / Discussion
 - **BOG representative** – Mild reported:
 - Next meeting in Clarksburg to be held Thursday, October 18, 2012.
 - BOG meeting will involve discussing basic details including “wish list” and housing plan to send to Charleston and other items to start the academic year including budget cuts.
 - Webb-Dempsey asked about the Statement of Priorities for budget cuts proposed to the BOG by President Rose.
 - President Rose indicated that the items in the Statement of Priorities (also referred to as Appropriation Requests) included protecting faculty salary increases, additional funding to help boost enrollment and additional funding to help offset the costs as Pierpont separates from FSU.
 - **ACF representative** – Kelley reported:
 - ACF – requests approval to support the issues listed on the handout provided to Faculty Senate by Kelley.
 - O'Connor asked why the ACF list of concerns does not include budget cuts from the state. Also, if HEPC is supporting the K-20 education plan, why is Higher Ed not excluded like K-12 from the budget cuts?
 - Kelley indicated that the ACF is planning to request the use of “Rainy Day” funds to delay budget cut until issues are resolved in Charleston regarding actual budget cuts.
 - Kelley suggested faculty contact the governor to show concern about Higher Ed budget cuts. She also indicated that faculty should get students involved.
 - Rafferty requested this information be sent to Student Government for support.
 - Ryan moved to amend the ACF list of proposed issues to include the budget cuts and the request to modify the education proposal to K-20. White asked for the motion to be amended to include a focus on specificity to the Rainy

Day fund. Harvey clarified that faculty want the exemption, not just the use of the rainy day fund. Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **Student Government** – Rafferty reported that Student Government is busy planning Homecoming. Other plans include organizing a “Voter Drive” and handing out copies of the Constitution for Constitution Day.
- **Future of Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)** – President Rose discussed the history of the Center funding. Funding originated from support by the Foundation of approximately \$40,000, but budget cuts reduced it to approximately \$12,000 last year which was to be shared with Pierpont. This budget cut by the Foundation made it difficult to maintain the CTE. Therefore President Rose and Dr. Lavorata agreed to place the money in a protected fund to support faculty development and student travel.
 - Dr. Lavorata reported that the institution will be hiring an “evaluation” or “assessment” director in the near future. Some of the responsibilities for this position will include coordination of the IDEA evaluations. Other responsibilities may include participating in the HLC Site Visit Team efforts, representing FSU on the state assessment council, and assessment of test scores.
 - Harvey reminded C. Shields that the CTE Director was listed as an Ex Officio member of some Senate Committees. These may need to be reviewed as the by-laws are revised.
- **BOG Policies** – Webb-Dempsey noted that currently there are two BOG policies that are not being enforced at the institution. These include the degree definition policy and the faculty salary policy.
 - Degree Definition Policy – Currently the HLC requires all programs meet the 120 hour degree decree. This does not match the current BOG Degree Definition Policy.
 - Long moved to “clean up” Degree Definition Policy. “Clean-up” was clarified as “revise or rescind as see fit”. Kelley seconded the motion. Motion denied.
 - O’Connor moved to have President Rose request that the BOG rescind the Degree Definition Policy. Harvey seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Long moved that the Faculty work with the Provost’s office to put together an Ad hoc committee to review the Policy and offer recommendations. White seconded the motion. Motion approved.
 - Tobin asked if rescinding the Policy will interfere with current general studies efforts and curriculum proposals and what if the BOG denies the request.
 - Lavorata stated that the 120 hour rule is a state requirement and the BOG will more than likely accept the request.

- Webb-Dempsey asked Long to offer leadership to the Ad Hoc Committee offering the Provost and BOG advice on the Policy.
 - Faculty Salary Policy – has been suspended for the last 2 years to support across the board raises for faculty instead of using the “merit” formula.
 - Webb-Dempsey is requesting a committee work with Cindy Curry and Chuck Shields to offer support. President Rose would also offer leadership.
 - President Rose stated that Curry is an expert in the state on “salaries” and will be a valuable resource.
 - Webb-Dempsey asked that any “merit” based raises be aligned with faculty evaluations.
 - Executive Committee will create an Ad hoc committee to review the salary policy. This committee will include representation from each academic unit. Senators are asked to solicit volunteers from their respective units and offer names to the Executive Committee.
- **Cost of Technology** – President Rose shared an article recently published regarding the cost of technology in higher education. This article provides insights from the Delta Cost Project.
- **Sexual Harassment Committee** – Shields asked President Rose if there has been any input on the Sexual Harassment Policy submitted by the committee. President Rose stated that Cindy Curry believes it is too comprehensive to be a BOG policy. She stated that it is has fallen through the cracks. The committee will be reconvened to review the policy for submission to the BOG.

III. New Business

- **General Studies** – Faculty Senate asked Tim Oxley to report on the status of the General Studies implementation.
 - Oxley reported that the committee has completed the list of approved general studies courses pending approval on 9/12/12 by the committee. Once this list is approved by the committee, it will be brought back to Faculty Senate for approval in the October meeting.
 - Oxley explained that courses listed as “pending” are courses that may be approved but need to do a little more work before approval. The Committee will try to set up a process for pending and future approval.
 - The new general studies requirements will apply to all students under the 2013-2014 catalog.
 - Matthews offer suggested that units consider beginning the assessment process of the general studies curriculum now.
 - Harvey and Kelley stated that Business and Language/Lit already have assessment plans in place.

- Oxley expressed that true assessment should fall within the departments not on the committee. Committee reps can offer input and suggestions to the departments.
 - Shields asked if GS committee has added a number of hours needed for each attribute. Oxley responded that there is a 2 hour minimum for each attribute and a 30 hour minimum for GS courses outside their major.
 - Harvey asked if it was necessary for Faculty Senate to approve of the GS list in October. Shields responded that it probably doesn't require a vote by the Faculty Senate. Oxley stated that GS committee would submit the course list as a committee report. Webb-Dempsey stated that the Faculty Senate will accept it as a committee report because it will be an evolving list.
 - Long noted that the only "credit hour" requirement is that each student must complete 6 hours of composition. Matthews stated that Fine Arts has a three-hour requirement; for example, if a student selects a 1 hr. credit music course, s/he must complete 3 of these courses to meet the requirement for the attribute.
 - In response to a discussion of faculty concerns about listing Pierpont courses in the GS course list, Lavorata stated that the issue may affect only 3 courses and Departments may consider changing prefixes on the courses to protect them.
 - Webb-Dempsey stated that all General Studies requirements and the 120 hour credit requirements will be posted online for faculty reference as needed.
 - Oxley thanked the Senate for being patient and supportive through this process. Webb-Dempsey thanked Oxley for the committee's service.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Kirby reported.
 - The Committee is working on a process to quickly facilitate the numerous curriculum proposals that will be going through committee which will help programs meet both the 120 hour requirement and the general studies requirement.
 - Curriculum committee has agreed to meet twice a month to speed up the process. They will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.
 - Committee has approved the use of a new 4 page form for simple program modifications to meet the 120 hours. This form will be shared with the Deans and Chairs. If programs are revising courses, they will be required to submit a complete proposal.
 - All Curriculum proposals need to be wrapped up by Jan 2013 for the 2013-14 catalog.
 - All Deans have been assigned due dates for curriculum proposals. These dates will be shared with the faculty by the Deans.
 - Webb-Dempsey has requested that all senators carefully review proposals as they are presented. Faculty Senate may consider suspending the 2nd reading as they see fit.

- **Technology Committee** – Webb-Dempsey reported that the Executive Committee has received numerous complaints about the Blackboard problems. When Roxanne Humbert transitioned to Blackboard, she had a Support Council. Now that her office no longer exists, there is no longer a Technology Support Council.
 - Executive Committee is asking for volunteers to serve on a committee to help work with IT on future issues.
 - Webb-Dempsey stated that the executive committee will form an Ad Hoc Technology committee to offer support. Senators are asked to solicit for volunteers and offer names to the executive committee.
 - Raisovich supports the formation of an Ad Hoc committee and requests that she be an Ex officio member.
 - O'Connor asked if student e-mail problems had been corrected. Raisovich reported that most problems had been resolved, but if a student still has problems they need to contact IT.
 - Kirby noted student reports of internet access problems at College Park.
 - Raisovich stated that the problem is probably wireless congestion. IT is working on putting in more connections in College Park.

IV. Open Forum

- Harvey announced the award of a joint grant for the School of Business and College of Science and Technology. The award is for approximately 2 million dollars over the next few years.
- White shared information with faculty regarding a “Noon Walk” initiative for faculty. He asked that this information be shared with all faculty to garner more interest.
- Kelley reminded faculty that there will probably be PEIA cuts in near future.

V. Meeting adjourned 4:47 pm Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

Next Meeting: 9 October 2012

Rm. 303 ED

3:00-5:00 p.m.

**If you have items for the agenda please send your request to the President of the Senate by Tuesday morning, one week prior to the next Senate meeting, for consideration at the Executive Committee Meeting.*

Respectfully submitted by Mit Abbott, Faculty Senate Secretary

9 October 2012