Faculty Senate Minutes
September 13, 2016

Attendance: Robin Payne (Soc. Sci.), Anthony Yost (Tech.), Harry Baxter (ACF), William Harrison (Soc. Sci.), Dillon Bradley (SGA), Daphne Ryan (SGA), Veronica Gallo (Nursing), Gina Fantasia (Academic Affairs), Fran Young (Nursing), Matthew Hokom (L&L), Jim Davis (Business), Amy Godfrey (Business), Robert Niichel (CSMP), Aimee Richards (SoFA), Dan Eichenbaum (SoFA), Amanda Metcalf (SoE/HHP), Tony Gilberti (Tech.), Donna Long (L&L), Chris Kast (Beh. Sci.), Joe Kremer (Senate President), Budd Sapp (BOG), Debra Hoag (Nursing), Julie Reneau (SoE/HHP), Carolyn Crislip-Tacy (proxy for Bob Mild — Academic Affairs), Charley Hively (Library)

Guests: Maria Rose, Chris Lavorata, Jack Kirby, Joanie Raisovich, John Lympany, Robynn Shannon, Tim Oxley, Mike Ransom

I.   Senate President Kremer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. The Senate approved the minutes of the May 2016 meeting.

III. Introduction of New Senators
     A. Senators, new and returning, introduced themselves to the group.

IV. Announcements/Information/Discussion
     A. President Rose
         1. President Rose welcomed back the members of the Senate and commented on how quickly the semester is going.
         2. President Rose shared the good news that enrollment has held steady and is up in some categories, such as Graduate Studies and returning students. This signals that retention initiatives are having a positive impact.
         3. Housing is currently at 90% capacity. Buildings One and Two of University Terrace are now open. Building three should be open by the end of October. The College Park apartments have not yet been torn down because we are still waiting for the electric company to remove meters and wires. Once that happens, Buildings E, F, and G should come down in next few weeks. When Buildings A, B, C, and D are vacated they will also be torn down. This will allow for more parking spaces. The administration has decided to hold off on holding an opening celebration for University Terrace, but there will be opportunities in the near future to tour the buildings. So far students reports of the buildings are favorable.
         4. The WV state legislature had one interim session in August and are currently in the middle of another. Chancellor Hill was supposed to be on campus last Friday but had to cancel because the legislature "needed additional information from him." President Rose thinks this means there is another audit in the works. Hill will be here this upcoming Friday and faculty can expect to receive additional updates then.
         5. At the WV Chamber of Commerce meeting on September 1 at the Greenbriar, Marty Becker from the WV Board of Governors was on a panel with the presidents of Marshall and WVU. During the panel, they openly talked about rolling all of the regional institutions under Marshall and WVU. President Rose has contacted local chambers of commerce to stress the negative impact this would have on the area. Were this to happen, FSU would no longer exist as it currently does. There would be

fewer programs, fewer personnel, less money, and fewer students. This would have a huge economic impact on Marion and surrounding counties. The directors of the area chambers of commerce have assured her that they will continue to fight for the regional institutions. President Rose stressed that we have exceptional students that have chosen FSU for specific reasons that could be undermined by this. It is important to get that message out to our legislators that regional institutions serve a strong mission to the state, with as many as 93% of our students being from WV. Aside from academic and economic arguments against such a merger, it is worth noting that Division II athletic programs would also be destroyed, which would lead to the loss of student athletes. A merger would also undermine fundraising initiatives. The regional institutions are now working collectively on a promotional piece touting the benefit of their programs.

6. Another interim legislative session is scheduled for December 4-6. All university presidents are fairly certain that this will entail another cut to state appropriations. The legislature has been told to cut $500 million from the state budget. In the past year, the legislature did very little to address the budget problems aside from borrowing from the "rainy day" fund and implementing a minor cigarette tax. How this impacts higher education will largely depend on who is elected governor, so faculty are urged to vote mindfully in November.

B. Dr. Tim Oxley — Assessment Update
1. HLC Visit
   a) Yesterday was the lockdown date for assessment data entry; however, HLC's website was down yesterday, so the university was given an extra 24 hours. The team used the time to make some last minute changes. Robynn Shannon and Amantha Cole have worked tirelessly on this. There are still a few things to clean up, but we are in good shape.
   b) The HLC visit is scheduled for October 10-11. A six member team is coming. Senators are asked to keep their schedules open for opportunities to meet with the team. They have not yet provided a list of requested meetings. They have until September 19 to read the reports and will follow-up with a conference call to determine a list of topics they want to address and individuals they with whom they want to meet.
   c) Oxley stressed that this has been a learning process and a major shift since the 2012 study regarding the presentation of information and what kind of information the HLC wishes to receive. For instance, they now request shorter evidentiary statements. Oxley hopes this is a good opportunity for us to strengthen those documents.
   d) Oxley offered his thanks to the people who have gotten necessary information to him in the final hours.
2. Assessment/CFG
   a) in future, Robynn Shannon will provide updates on Assessment.
   b) September 1 was the deadline to submit program data. Peer reviewers will soon begin the process. The original goal was to complete the review of one full cycle by the time the HLC team is on campus; however, it became apparent that they could not do so with the integrity required. So, the revised goal is to demonstrate that there has been engagement. The review process is still a work in progress and a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss things further.
3. Strategic Planning Process

a) Re-prioritization began in late January; however, there has been an administrative decision to hit the pause button on the process until after the election, at which point it will be more apparent what kind of budgetary restrictions the university will face. This will give the university a better view than we currently have of what will be five years down the road. We will continue to pursue the priorities established in January 2016, which have been approved by HEPC, but will hold off on constructing a comprehensive strategic plan.

b) Sixty individuals across campus will be reading *The Undergraduate Experience* and will soon begin to have conversations about the book, which focuses on several areas needing attention in the undergraduate experience. Along with having a clearer view of the pending budget, this will allow us to do more "honest" strategic planning.

C. Dr. Lympany and Joanie Raisovich
   1. Joanie Raisovich provided the Senate with a presentation on new faculty spaces in the library as well information on the transition to Moodle.
      a) Learning Commons
         (1) The library is currently contending with a number of transitions moving towards a "Learning Commons" that combines library and tech services with space considerations. For instance, a new collaborative space is available for faculty on the third floor of the library. Viki McVaney and Greg Kramer are located next door and available to provide technology support. The space is open to all faculty but will be especially useful to adjunct faculty.
         (2) A new digital design lab is also available. There are new Macintosh computers available as well as Autodesk and Adobe Creative Cloud. This space can be used for small classes.
         (3) There are also new spaces available for large group collaboration that can be reconfigured to suit group needs with mobile whiteboards that can be used as dividers. Projectors are available. This will be a good place for students to work together and faculty are asked to remind students that they can utilize this space for collaborative work. The ability to use services such as Skype will enable commuter students to participate from offsite as well.
         (4) On the bottom floor of the library, express computer stations are being installed where students can complete quick tasks. Cafe seating is also being installed, complete with LCD monitors and PCs, to facilitate small group collaboration. The goal is to make this space, which is a transitional space for students between classes, more academic in its orientation.
      b) Moodle Updates
         (1) Raisovich explained that IT is doing a "soft roll out" of Moodle with the goal to have 75% of courses on Moodle by Fall 2017. This is not a hard deadline and the soft roll-out is designed to give flexibility to departments and individual faculty to make the transition in their own time.
         (2) The School of Business will be on Moodle by Fall 2017. The School of Nursing will stay on Blackboard for reasons related to accreditation. The timeline for other units is still to be determined and the tech team will work with individual schools and colleges to determine best course of action.
         (3) There are currently 117 courses on Moodle already. The tech team continues to work closely with faculty to determine their needs. For instance, two plug-ins have been added to address faculty concerns regarding e-mail and

attendance tracking. Moodle is an Open Source platform which gives the tech team the opportunity to evaluate plug-ins and add functionality as needed. The ability to add functionality is touted as a positive feature in Moodle that Blackboard lacks.

(4) There are also goals to add an orientation module, a plagiarism tool, and to offer training sessions within two to three weeks.

(5) Dr. Lympany acknowledged that there are budgetary concerns at play. For instance, it costs the university $80,000 to have Blackboard for both FSU and Pierpont, but IT wants ensure that it works for faculty and student needs. When he arrived at FSU, the university was operating three LMS systems — TaskStream, LibGuides, and Blackboard — which each offer different functionality. He is working to get Moodle positioned to replace Blackboard, but the other systems will remain. IT is currently monitoring their use and seeks to help faculty think about functionality. Having an open dialogue regarding these issues will continue to be important.

(6) Raisovich added that IT hopes this will be a collaborative process. They want faculty to interact with Moodle however works best for them, whether it is as a sandbox, for training session, or providing course content. The more feedback they receive from faculty the more they can do to adapt and improve it. Therefore, before faculty begin teaching in Moodle, they should meet with someone individually (probably Greg Kramer) to determine any potential problems or issues that must be addressed.

(7) Lympany conducted research into other institutions that are using Moodle and found that a number of them (such as North Carolina State University, among others) are choosing to use Moodle over Blackboard even when budgetary constraints don't play a role.

(8) Lympany and the IT department feel that both Blackboard and Moodle are good systems, but with a transition to Moodle any subsequent savings can be channeled into other faculty development opportunities, such as technology use in the classrooms.

(9) When asked if the goal was to replace Blackboard completely, Lympany explained that the goal is to commit to supporting three LMS systems (TaskStream, LibGuides, and Moodle). They anticipate that most people will be comfortable with Moodle eventually and that when the time is right (perhaps in two to three years) they will reconsider if Blackboard will be continued. This will not be a short term process and it will include discussions regarding programs such as Nursing, where Blackboard is thoroughly integrated into their program. One potential outcome is that some of the cost of maintaining Blackboard may be transitioned to units who continue to use it.

(10) Remaining questions and comments were deferred until later in the meeting, during the scheduled discussion of faculty concerns regarding Moodle.

D. BOG Report — Budd Sapp
   1. Sapp sent an e-mail to faculty regarding the August 18 BOG meeting. He provided handouts via e-mail regarding construction updates on University Terrace, Jaynes Hall, and other projects. They were also notified of a *Times WV* article highlighting an increase in enrollment and they were provided with information regarding the dedication of the SGA-funded veterans memorial. The BOG also had a Title IX presentation and training. Finally, they received information from the Fairmont Foundation regarding fundraising initiatives.

2. The next BOG meeting is at Caperton Center on October 20. Sapp will share the agenda when it is available. Faculty should contact him with questions and concerns to bring up then.

E. ACF Report — Harry Baxter
   1. The last ACF meeting was on August 18 in Charleston. Baxter sent the report out via email a week later.
   2. Baxter said that he cannot overemphasize the importance of the upcoming election. He feels that the state is approaching a fork in the road. If faculty are concerned about what has happened in last two years, they must "remember in November." He has attended a number of campaign events and hopes that the Democrats do well. Faculty should be very concerned about the implications for higher education in this election.
   3. There will be opportunities for faculty to participate at an ACF seminar scheduled for June 19-22, 2017. More information will be forthcoming.
   4. There are rumors that the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine may leave the state system and become a privatized, free-standing institution. While such a change is likely several years away because of the complexities involved, Baxter thinks other institutions may likely follow suit.
   5. Baxter shared the 2016/2017 ACF Faculty Issues, for which he will seek a Senate endorsement later in the meeting.
   6. The next ACF meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20.

F. SGA Report — Daphne Ryan and Dillon Bradley
   1. Ryan and Bradley reported that SGA is focusing on the senior project for 2016/2017. The plan is to take down the fencing that currently encloses the area by the Falcon Center and Prichard Hall in order to create a path with dedicated bricks. They hope to begin the project by Homecoming.
   2. Bradley reminded the Senate of the upcoming panel on Guns on Campus. It is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14 and is open to the public. Bradley will participate as the SGA representative.

V. Unfinished Business
   A. Major Business
      1. Committee on Committees Report -- Second Reading
         a) Senate President Kremer sent a link to the Committee on Committees report via email.
         b) A motion to consider the report was made and seconded and discussion was opened up.
         c) Harry Baxter requested that he and Galen Hansen be added to the Legislative Advocacy Committee.
         d) Discussion followed regarding the proper process for faculty wishing to be added to committees. Chris Kast, who chaired the Committee on Committees, explained that the committee elected to remove people who did not respond to the survey from committees they previously served on. If they still wish to serve, they simply need to contact the Senate Webmaster (Daniel Eichenbaum) to be added back to the list. The primary purpose of the lists is to keep committee chairs informed as to who they should contact when convening their committees. There is no reason why people cannot join at different points throughout the year.

        (1) In particular, the units who were not surveyed last year will need to self report if they'd like to join the Common Book or Technology committees, which were recently added or to serve as the representative to the Student Publication Board.

        (2) There was no further discussion and the Senate moved to approve the Committee on Committees Report for the second reading.

    B. As an unscheduled side note to the agenda Senate President Kremer noted that he has asked Gina Fantasia to serve as the Senate's Parliamentarian to ensure that the Senate properly follows Robert's Rules of Order.

VI. New Business
    A. Minor Business
        1. Proposed ACF Faculty Issues
           a) Baxter explained the ACF Faculty issues (which can also be seen in his e-mail to all faculty). A motion was made and seconded for the Senate to consider the ACF Faculty Issues for the purpose of giving their endorsement.
           b) Baxter was asked to review the ACF Faculty Issues again. He explained that they focused on:
               (1) creating a steady stream of increasing revenue for the higher education of WV students;
               (2) supporting the work of the HEPC, the CTCC, and the BOG at colleges and universities in administering higher education;
               (3) promoting faculty rights and ethical behavior through educating administrators and faculty; and,
               (4) involving faculty in decision-making processes that create initiatives and policies.
           c) There was no further discussion and the Senate voted in favor of endorsing the statement.

        2. Moodle Functionality Concerns
           a) A motion to bring this issue to the table for discussion was made and seconded.
           b) Donna Long initiated the discussion by explaining that this issue was added to the agenda became of "horror stories" going around regarding faculty problems with Moodle. The College of Liberal Arts, for instance, is currently involved in on-going discussions about Moodle and Blackboard. Based on the earlier presentation by Joanie Raisovich and Dr. John Lympany, Long noted that it sounds like some of the concerns have already been addressed. For instance, the timeline for moving forward is now more clear. But faculty continue to have concerns regarding a number of issues, such as whether or not the move to Moodle is truly a cost-saving measure if not all faculty end up moving from Blackboard and if new personnel are needed to facilitate Moodle on campus.
               (1) Lympany explained that the price of Blackboard is determine by how many sections are on-line and that no new personnel will be necessary. There may be a need to allocate a few thousand dollars for some additional support, but Moodle is easier to support than Blackboard and they don't anticipate any further costs for its successful implementation.
           c) Lympany was asked who the Moodle specialist on campus is. Greg Kramer is currently the person who knows the most about Moodle and Viki McVaney

continues to provide support for Blackboard. Over time, McVaney's focus will transition to Moodle as well.

d) Lympany explained that Moodle is open-source and was developed by a consortium for higher education. Plugins will really create more versatility than we could have with a proprietary system.

   (1) Lympany was asked if plug-ins can provide the same functionality as Blackboard. Raisovich noted that she does not see any major functionality differences between the two. Moreover, the plug-ins typically don't require any additional cost because larger universities typically create them and then release them to the broader community. Any additional cost would likely involve something like a yearly support contract through outside vendors, but the cost of those would be minimal.

e) Faculty asked if the "big blue button," which provides grade books and testing features, will work in Moodle. Raisovich said that it was not yet plugged in but that it was also open-source and can be added.

f) Faculty continued to express concern with the user interface for students and faculty. A number of faculty feel that Moodle is "user-unfriendly" and that this has little to do with lack of familiarity. For instance, faculty who have used Moodle feel that the process for sending messages is overly complicated and that even though this has now been corrected with the implementation of an e-mail plug-in, it remains very challenging for faculty and students to properly utilize features related to assignments and grading.

   (1) Lympany stressed that this is why IT is eager for faculty feedback so that problems like this can be rectified appropriately. They hope to have many conversations with faculty in order to ensure that their needs are met. This is one reason for the "soft roll out."

g) Faculty noted that the issues being discussed raised concerns about whether or not faculty can appropriately serve their students and that these accessibility issues may jeopardize the credibility of the university and individual faculty. There was also concern that new faculty were not initially given a choice and were automatically shepherded into Moodle, which seems unfair given the above mentioned concerns regarding credibility. Finally, faculty questioned why the functionality of Moodle seems to be so low at FSU if other, larger institutions are using it so successfully.

   (1) Lympany noted that the functionality is a different discussion because faculty will use Moodle in different contexts. This is why communicating with IT regarding individual faculty needs is so important. IT has also rethought the strategy of opting new faculty into Moodle and that they do in fact have a choice, with Blackboard being made available to them upon request. Lympany believes that Moodle is in a strong position on campus in terms of its growth and the feedback they are receiving.

h) Lympany and Raisovich added that Moodle will ultimately be more accessible for students because it works with any internet browser on any type of device, which is not the case with Blackboard. They believe that the major challenge is in overcoming the learning curve and that once that is accomplished, faculty will be satisfied with Moodle.

i) Chris Kast, who heads a CoLA committee looking into these issues, noted that Lympany and Raisovich had recently met with CoLA faculty. Following that meeting, Kast noted that while he can't debate that Moodle and Blackboard have

similar functionality with appropriate tweaking to Moodle, it does seem that interface issues that might seem trivial at first glance can be cumulatively problematic. For instance, if it takes an additional 10-15 seconds to access each student's paper, the cumulative effect is much more serious. If we can fix these types of "quality of life" problems, he believes it will be an easier sell for faculty. He also noted that it seems important to get ahead of these issues, as budgetary constraints may force the transition earlier than anticipated.

    j) Charley Hively pointed out that the library's Springhare product used for LibGuides is mobile ready for any device and has its own learning management system built into it. It's very user-friendly for tech averse folks and Lively recommends it as a viable alternative that utilizes simple, build-yourself functionality. He notes that it does everything Blackboard does except for the grade book feature. It also works seamlessly with e-reserves. He is happy to work with any faculty who are interested.

       (1) When asked if it would ever include a grade book feature, Hively explained there was a new set of rollouts for assessment, but not a built-in grade book component. There are grade book applications available elsewhere, however, that faculty can utilize if they'd prefer to use LibGuides otherwise.

VII. Open Forum
- A. Dan Eichenbaum announced that the West Fork New Music Festival would be bringing 35 composers to campus next weekend. All concerts and lectures will be free and open to the public.
- B. Donna Long announced that Kestrel was also hosting an event next weekend, with ten contributors offering readings at the Folk Life Center on Friday and the Joe 'n Throw on Saturday.
- C. Senate President Kremer asked that new senators and the executive committee stay behind for a short orientation following the meeting.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.