

**Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda
February 8, 2022
3:00-5:00 p.m.**

WebEx Link:

<https://fairmontstate.webex.com/fairmontstate/j.php?MTID=m65c4ca4786719d781c468ed4403394f7>

Meeting number: 2333 872 3660

Password: gJBvbxmK646

Called to order:

Time not recorded; this was the meeting that started late due to tech issues.

Members Present: Charles Shields (President), Donna Long (VP, Humanities), Todd Clark (Exec Committee: Member-at-Large, Social Sciences), Bob Niichel (Exec Committee: Webmaster, Computer Science & Math), Jim Davis (Exec Committee: Member-at-Large, Business), Nina Slota (Exec Committee: Secretary, Behavioral Science), Tom Cuchta (Computer Science & Math), Sharon Mazure (Library), Steven Roof (Academic Leadership Team), Bill Harrison (Faculty rep to ACF), Julie Reneau (Education), Tyler Singer (Exercise Science), Janet Floyd (School of Business & Aviation), Gina Fantasia (Faculty Rep to BOG), Rachel Cook (Natural Sciences), Nathan Myers (Humanities), Denise Kirchoff (Nursing), Jennifer Satterfield (Nursing), Galen Hansen (Proxy for Stephen Rice, Dept. of Natural Sciences), Logan Cottrell (SGA), Rick Harvey (serving as proxy for Tim Oxley, ALT), Joshua Smallridge (Social Sciences)

Guests: President Martin, Provost Phillips, Malisa Eades, Michael Ransom, Susan Ross, Amanda Metcalf, Jan Kiger, Robin Payne, Christa Kwiatkowski, Laura Clayton, Toni Poling, Lindsey Cutright (Walck), Jenny Wilson, Janie Leary, Jim Matthews, Christopher Kast, Randy Baker, Lisa Eades, Jenny Wilson, Erica Garrett, Barbara Owens, Paul Reneau.

Quorum was established.

I. Reading & Approval of the minutes from the January 11, 2022 meeting. Motion to approve the corrected minutes. (Niichel/Fantasia). Motion passed.

II. President Martin

i. Fairmont/Pierpont reunification:

The situation is evolving, not everything is known. Dr. Martin said she'd share what she could and then would welcome questions. It's her understanding that their board approached our board about merging, due to their finances. Legislation has not been introduced, yet. We will do whatever our board and legislators tell us to do. Safeguarding accreditation for us and for Pierpont is paramount. We don't know their finances, yet. There will be a transition time for both institutions prior to the actual merger. After the legislation is introduced and then goes to committee, we will know more about how it will evolve. Pierpont sought us. Dr. Martin has informed our board about accreditation needs.

Question—The email from Saturday stated that both boards voted to support legislation that would support reunification.

Faculty Senate Representative to BOG: Our board voted to enter into discussions to explore possible reunification, because we didn't have any legislation in front of us and I don't believe anybody on the board would have voted to endorse legislation that we have not seen. So the board voted only to enter into discussions to explore the possibility of reunification.

Question—So what was the vote on? The email says the Board of Governors of both institutions voted to support legislation that would reunify the schools.

Faculty Senate Representative to BOG: The motion was for the board to agree to enter into discussions to explore the possibility of reunification.

Dr. Martin--We'll have more knowledge after the bill comes out. We'll have to have a transition year, because we have to submit a notice of change of control to the HLC before the merger. We will not jeopardize our accreditation.

Question: Fairmont State is in a fairly stable financial position, but can you speak to the financial viability of bringing on Pierpont when it's not financially healthy?

Dr. Martin-I want to be as transparent as I can. We don't have access to their finances at this time. That's why we need a transition year.

Question: Considering the lengthy process, will we be able to observe the discussions and deliberations? Will this be an open meetings process?

Dr. Martin—I can tell you that Pierpont's board approached our board, and both boards voted to explore the opportunity. Legislation is being drafted. After the legislation is drafted, then the public will have the ability to view the legislation and address its content.

Question: Can you tell us who is drafting the legislation and what authority they were given by the boards to go ahead and actually draft particular legislation? Why is there legislation if the boards only agreed to explore the possibility and who is doing the drafting?

Faculty Senate Representative to the BOG: The board does not control the legislative process. Pierpont kickstarted the discussion; my understanding is that it started by Pierpont approaching members of the legislature. Then, we were drawn in. The legislatures asked the boards to discuss. The board does discuss things in open meetings and share things that aren't personnel or contractual. Once the legislation is introduced, it's public knowledge. The board doesn't control that. All of us who are concerned with Fairmont State are free to talk to legislative leadership. Fairmont State is sitting on hard earned reserves, and as a faculty member, I am concerned about that. I, as a board member, would be hard pressed to support something that would place in jeopardy how those reserves are used. As a board member, I have no control over what the legislature does.

If the legislature passes a bill and the Governor signs it, the Board of Governors has no option but to try to make sure that it is implemented in the most positive, effective way for Fairmont State. We don't control the process.

Dr. Martin: During the transition year, the leadership team will be deeply exploring the programs, finances, etc. After we have an understanding, those data would be available to faculty and staff to review it and have input into it.

Question: Point of clarification: Am I to understand that no one from Fairmont State has had input into the legislation?

Dr. Martin: I gave counsel about the accreditation timeline.

Faculty Senate Representative to the BOG: It's my understanding that people on the board who were at the initial meeting in Charleston made clear that they believe what was reasonable and in Fairmont State's best interest was a true merger. And that it's probably best for them to be an academic unit under Fairmont State.

Dr. Martin: We stand ready to do whatever the legislators direct us to do.

Question: The headline of the email that came out on Saturday was, "Pierpont and Fairmont State united in vision for future." Is that an accurate description of the Board's sentiments?

Faculty Senate Representative to the BOG: The motion was for the board to agree to enter into discussions to explore the possibility of reunification. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Martin: The email was drafted by both board chairs and signed by both of them to provide information as to what the boards' decisions were.

Faculty Senate Representative to the BOG: The board discussions were that it would need to be a thoughtful process to ensure that it didn't disadvantage Fairmont State from a financial standpoint. Pierpont's board is concerned that they do not have a sustainable model in the long-run.

Dr. Martin: This is the beginning of a process. If the legislation is passed there will be a transition period because HLC requires we submit a formal and official Change of Control application that has to be approved by the board. During the transition, she and the leadership team will do everything to ensure the financial solvency is protected.

III. Provost Phillips

- ii. Update on AFRs—Dr. Phillips is reviewing all the AFR's. It's an ongoing process. She is putting supportive and meaningful comments in each.**
- iii. Update on COVID protocols—New protocols are starting soon. Puts the onus on students. They have to reach out to faculty before they get back to class. They'll have documentation from the COVID team.**

- iv. **Good News—P&T committee has finished their work. The BOG meets on Feb 17; she'll give them a report. After the Board reaches their decision, she'll be able to make announcements. The Provost's Office has bought a subscription to the Chronicle of Higher Education. As faculty, we have full access through the library.**

IV. Dr. James Matthews—There are 3 problems/discrepancies with credits in the Core Curriculum. No action needed today, at least 1 will need action later.

- **Changes in documents: 2 or 3 are due to new financial aid guidelines.**
- **1. Written communications says 6 credit hours. Students take English 1101 and 1102 or 1103, but the problem is if students need 4 credits for 1101. Therefore, it should really say 6-7 credits. It shouldn't require anything, except forms.**
- **2. Fine arts—The core requirement is 3 credit hours, but some students take a music performance course like marching band which is 2 credit hours. Then, they have to take it twice, but then it becomes 4 credits. So, that is an issue. The faculty are working with him to change those to 3 credits moving forward.**
- **3. Natural Science—The current requirement says 3 to 5, but nowadays we only have 4 credit courses. He doesn't know if this will cause problems with any programs, since the minimum is 3. He's working with the Curriculum Committee and Susan Ross to see if there are any problems with raising it to 4. There will eventually be paperwork for this one.**

V. Reports of Officers, Boards and Standing Committees

- a. **BoG Representative, Dr. Gina Fantasia—The next full meeting is next week, the 17th. She will send out the agenda and board book when she gets them.**
 - **In terms of the legislature, last day to be introduced is Feb 14 in the House; Feb 21 in the Senate. March 2nd or 3rd cross-over day. Legislative process, so we really don't know what will happen. If it happens, our mission will be to implement it for our institution(s) and WV.**
 - **Question: Jason Vitatella introduced it last year and is drafting it now for Senate.**
 - **Question: Does the Board have any sense of whether there's political will behind this move?**

Based on what Dr. Fantasia has heard in the community, there's concern about Pierpont's Aviation Maintenance program. She thinks there is push from groups in Charleston. It's not due to lack of students in that program.

Drs. Martin and Fantasia: Last year, both schools signed off on a final property settlement of our divorce. The property at the airport was always

ours, like Caperton, etc. This is all public record. They agreed to vacate, 2.5 million by state to Pierpont so they could relocate their program. Framing it as a divorce, of the 3 million in divorce, part of the negotiations/mediation was how to distribute it. What would it take for Pierpont to leave NAEC? There was a discussion of them staying, but if we're two sovereign institutions, we need to separate. The figure conveyed was 2.2-2.5 mil. We said okay to that plus approximately 600,000 in the Governor's column that was earmarked for upgrades for both schools, plus Caperton, plus Braxton. The deal was we would get sole occupancy of Locust Avenue and the airport. There was nothing nebulous. They agreed to leave by certain date. BOG's role is to implement the law, as best as we can. Our board will try to ensure that the merger is thoughtful and happens in a collaborative fashion.

- b. ACF Representative, Dr. Bill Harrison—Last Friday, there was an ACF meeting.
- SB 498- Introduced in the Education Committee of the Senate. It leaves professors and institutions open to suits if the professor is one-sided or makes a student upset, unhappy or is discriminatory in any way. ACF is hoping it will just vanish.
 - When Ohio Valley University closed, their students were left in the lurch, without transcripts. Fairmont State opened our doors to them, some of their students have transferred to us.
 - SB550—Community colleges would be able to do bachelor's degrees. It might also allow the 1100 and 2200 classes to be gotten for free from them and then transfer over to us. The Council of Presidents is following closely.

VI. Student Government Report—No report.

VII. Unfinished Business

Major Items

1. Proposed revisions to Faculty Senate constitution and bylaws, as amended (second reading—tabled at November 9 meeting) Move to take off table.
2. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-05 Community Health
3. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-08 English BA
4. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-09 BSN
5. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-10 Secondary Education-Residency Requirement
6. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-11 Art Education-Residency Requirement
7. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-12 English Education-Residency Requirement
8. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-13 Math Education-Residency Requirement
9. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-14 Biology-Residency Requirement
10. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-15 Chemistry-Residency Requirement
11. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-16 Earth and Space Science-Residency Requirement
12. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-17 General Science-Residency Requirement

13. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-18 Physical Education-Residency Requirement
14. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-19 Physics-Residency Requirement
15. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-20 Spanish Education-Residency Requirement
16. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-21 Curriculum Change History Minor
17. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-24 New Course-Math 110
18. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-25 Curriculum Change Political Science
19. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-27 Honors Program Education Track
20. Curriculum Proposal #21-22-28 Social Studies-Residency Requirement

Motion to consider all curriculum proposals as a group, except for nursing (# 21-22-09), for second reading. (Niichel/Cuchta) Motion passed.

Motion to approve #21-22-09 for second reading. Cuchta/Niichel.

Discussion: There was concern about sufficient resources to properly implement the program.

Dr. Clayton-If we don't have the resources, we won't be able to start the program.

Dr. Martin-WV is proposing a pathway program for nursing that will start in 9th grade to create a desire to go into nursing. They'll get dual-enrollment credits. They'd be able to have an ASN by the time they graduate high school.

The concern with the potential BSN program is the lack of staff and the ASN staff is young.

Dr. Long—Because the proposal has to go up the chain to the state, the tone seems to be too anti-ASN, which could be problematic.

Dr. Clark—To what degree is the current staffing shortage applicable to this proposal?

Dr. Clayton—This would require separate faculty; we'd recruit and hire them at that point. It would cover approximately 30 students for 10 faculty members. It goes to the BOG and then HLC.

Dr. Clark-HLC will ask about how quickly these faculty can be identified and hired. Is that a concern?

Dr. Clayton—She's working with Ashley Maxey to develop recruiting for faculty at both the current ASN level and the future BSN.

Several ASN instructors are currently earning their master's degrees, but the BSN openings will require completed degrees.

The ASN is still valuable, because an ASN is faster. The BSN program is geared toward the nursing pathway, so the BSN would take less time.

Dr. Clayton-We're trying to keep ourselves marketable to both the high school students and the non-traditional students.

Dr. Slota-There was a sentence in one of the articles about the Fairmont-Pierpont merger that said they want to have an ASN program. If they are us, what's that going to do to our program in a year or two?

Dr. Clayton-If Pierpont wants to start a nursing program, there's a lot of stuff they need to do. They currently aren't accredited.

Dr. Fantasia-If they are us, we have an asn program, so they have it.

Motion to have a secret ballot. (Cuchta/Satterfield)

There were 11 ayes, 5 nays, and one abstention. It passed by majority vote.

Minor Items

1. Standardized Form for Year-End Faculty Senate Committee Report

(tabled at November 9 meeting) **Motion to keep tabled. Cuchta/Hansen Motion passed.**

2. Proposed revisions about representation in the Faculty Senate and Bylaws. **Motion to take it off the table. Long/Niichel Motion passed. Motion to accept the revisions of the**

Constitution and Bylaws for 2nd reading. Niichel/Cuchta. Motion passed

Discussion about how the revisions cover the smallest departments.

This is the Constitution, so it will need to get ratified by the faculty. It would

VIII. New Business

Major Items

1. Curriculum Proposal # 21-22-29 (first reading) **Motion to pass #21-22-29 for first reading. Long/Cuchta. Motion passed.**

Minor Items

1. Committee on Committees membership: Denice Kirchoff, Tom Cuchta—Ex officio, Bob Niichel, Bill Harrison, Donna Long, Nina Slota.

Motion to affirm the list for Committee on Committees. Cuchta/Harrison. Motion passed.

Motion to affirm Bob as the chair. Cuchta/Long. Motion passed.

2. General Studies interim report—How often do we want to see the classes removed from CORE/Substitutions? This report shows the removed courses. The Senate should accept this just as we would accept a year-end report. **Motion to accept the report. Niichel/Fantasia. Motion passed.**

There are another 2 curriculum proposals for March.

XII. Announcements/Information/Discussion

1. Copy Center closing without notice or input
2. Inconsistent use/feedback on AFRs
3. Covid documentation no longer coming from Institution—that was clarified by Dr. Phillips.
4. Protocol for peer evaluations for tenure and other uses--how to submit
5. Winter term course load—3 or 6 hours?
6. State Wide Travel—There's still a ban for faculty conferences for out-of-state travel, so that's problematic; it also hurts our students who can't travel for academic opportunities, even though athletes are allowed to travel. If anybody wants to draft a resolution for March, that's fine. Dr. Martin: Point of information; it is an executive order that has not been rescinded. We are not statutorily exempt, like WVU, Marshall, and WVSOM. There is an exemption process; the concrete canoe team used the exemption process. The Council of Presidents has requested it be lifted, but it has not come to fruition. She'll talk to them again at their next meeting.

#2,4, and 5 we'll need Vice-President Incitti here to speak to those.

XIII. Open Forum

Motion to adjourn. Niichel

Adjourned at 5:52

Next Meeting: March 8 2022 3-5pm*

***If you have items for the agenda please send your request to the Faculty Senate President (Charles.Shields@fairmontstate.edu) by Tuesday morning March 1, 2022 for consideration by the Executive Committee.**