Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Friday, Feb. 19 11:00 Mahood Conference Room

Attendance: Rodney Montague, Jeff Bolton, Darrel Thompson, Terene Stiltner, Michelle Cofer, Tamara Ferguson, Norm Mirsky, Dharshanna Arachchi, Adam Ozyavas, Darrel Malamisura, Tina Nicholson, Steve Bourne, Roy Pruett, Debbie Tonelli, , and Mike Lilly. Angie Lambert attended as visitor.

I. Call to Order

II. Faculty were asked to review minutes from January 29th meeting and send comments to Ferguson to include.

III. Old Business
Dr. Connor had told Malamisura that he was sick and unable to attend the meeting. Angie Lambert explained that she and Dr. Krotseng have met with delegates in Charleston and reviewed the various bills in motion concerning the college and WVU Beckley. She noted that the president has good relationships with leaders and that bills have been presented to abolish HEPC. Dr. Mirsky explained that HEPC cannot be abolished by July 1st because it would result in chaos.

Lilly explained PEIA would get the funds from the tobacco tax bill and that whatever happens would occur during our Spring Break.

Malamisura asked if anyone had any response to the letter. Mirsky explained that the president mentioned she received it, the BOG chair had knee surgery, and he did not expect the board to comment yet. Malamisura explained that he had not heard anything. Lilly asked if the recent email was a response. Malamisura explained that the recent email was a response to the letter to the editor in the Bluefieldian. Montague explained that maybe the email from the president was a response to both the letter sent to her from the senate and the letter to the editor. Malamisura said that it appears no one cares about the letter and that the BOG should want to hear faculty’s side. Mirsky explained that the BOG cannot meet informally, but it can meet yearly and is looking at October as the yearly meeting time. Malamisura explained that he wants to meet with the entire board and that they should want to resolve problems instead of delaying and deflecting. Cofer asked if spring would not be a better time for yearly meetings with the board. Mirsky explained that the March meeting is during spring break, the April meeting deals with tuition and fees, and logistically we are out of time. He asked what kind of format was wanted for a meeting with the BOG, explained that they are not interested in complaints, and reminded senate that even when an excellent presentation was given to them, nothing was done. Cofer asked why we should meet if nothing would be done. Mirsky explained that those issues are passed to the administration and that maybe we can get more movement as members get educated about their roles. Cofer said that the situation is disheartening. Mirsky explained that if we have specific actions, the BOG will hear us, but they went with the Administration’s view that the
issues were resolved with the Master Plan. Steve Bourne asked that faculty at least give Mirsky a list every month for the BOG. Mirsky said that he could do that and that he was on the agenda for last night’s meeting.

Malamisura asked why the senate exists and meets. He said that the senate could be suspended because the recommendations for P and T get over-ridden, student conduct gets over ruled, faculty have no input on technology. He said he is tired of putting in hours of work when we are not in any better shape than we were four years ago. He said, “The only thing this administration understands is a punch in the face.”

Angie Lambert explained part of the problems with BB involved a failure to put in work tickets and the problems resulted from a lack of support and not the tools. Discussion continued about the problems with technology.

Cofer asked if the waste report was shared with the BOG. Mirsky asked how long the report was and how were the facts presented and explained that the members are busy so the information needs to be condensed and to the point. Malamisura explained that the report was only 6 or 7 pages and had links. Cofer asked Mirsky if there is any way to resolve these problems. Mirsky explained that with technology the big hurdle is to get over the perception that problems result from faculty being mad about losing to BB. He recommended we need to focus on things that we can do like reviewing the cost savings. He explained that the Finance Meeting is in 2-3 weeks and could present. Bourne said eventually eyes will be open. Thompson explained that he’s concerned Jerry’s letter demonstrates we aren’t getting along and says that faculty spend time ranting, but Thompson explained he is here to teach and students do not need to know about the problems. Cofer explained she did not like the sweeping generalizations. A short discussion about the letter continued.

Cofer made the motion that Mirsky present the waste report at the finance meeting of the BOG. Bourne seconded the motion and all were in favor. Montague asked that we also provide recommendations concerning the waste report. Pruett made a motion to accept this proposal and Malamisura seconded the motion.

IV. Committee Reports
Wynn is working with Connor on P and T Guidelines.

V. New Business
Senate discussed Jamkhandi’s proposal concerning online courses for international students and agreed more study is needed. Lack of responses for student evaluations of faculty was also discussed.

VI. Bourne made a motion to adjourn; Bolton seconded the motion. All were in favor.