

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 7, 2014

Tierney Conference Room, Dickason Hall

Attendees: Dr. Zakir Hossain, Erik Baldwin, Jeff Bolton, Steve Bourne, Carol Cofer, Jan Czarnecki, Tammy Ferguson, Sheila Gates, Vanesa Godfrey, Geoff Hunter, Julie Kalk, Mike Lilly, Norm Mirsky, Tina Nicholson, Roy Pruett, Adem Ozyacas, Elaine Scott, Teresa Stiltner, Anthony Woart.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes from the February meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2014 meeting was made by Roy Pruett and seconded by Anthony Woart. Vote: unanimous.

III. Old Business:

A. Review of Faculty of the Year guidelines.

Discussion: Sherri sent the instructions to Carol which were the same as last year. Vanessa led the discussion regarding clarification that faculty should be able to nominate another faculty member from a different school. Norm noted that generally each school submits one name, and generally faculty nominate from within their own school. There are five items that are the minimum requirements for eligibility:

All nominees must meet two eligibility criteria: 1) Rank of Assistant Professor or higher; 2) A minimum of three completed years in a tenure track position or five years full time (teach twelve or more hours per semester) experience in a nontenure track at Bluefield State College.

In addition, all nominees must meet the following minimum criteria: 1) Be active in at least two college-wide committees and other service to the college and students; 2) Conduct professional development activities; and 3) Be active in community volunteer service.

The instructions contain two asterisks: *All schools are encouraged to submit a nominee; and **Efforts should be made to recognize faculty in schools not recently having a recipient of the Faculty of the Year Award.

Further, the instructions state the following: "All candidates should be nominated by a peer and meet the above criteria. Each school should select one candidate and send the nomination materials to the Chair of Faculty Senate. The Senate will then review the nominees and vote on them by secret ballot."

Vanessa: The nominee does not have to be from the nominee's school; it can be for any eligible faculty member. A motion to amend asterisk #1 to clarify that the nominee does not have to be from the nominating school's faculty was made by Vanessa Godfrey and seconded by Norm Mirsky. Vote: the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to amend the nominating materials submitted to the Senate was made by Carol Cofer. The nomination would include a simple form with two parts: the first part verifies the individual is eligible, and the second part is a summary statement as to why the individual is being nominated. Dr. Anthony Woart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

B. Withdrew Passing/ Withdrew Failing

Discussion: Dr. Hossain asked why BSC did away with the WP/WF option.

Norm: It was dropped because it was unfair; faculty was not consistent. However, the date for withdrawals could be changed.

Dr. Hossain suggested that students wishing to drop a course between weeks 5 and 11 could fill out a form and get it signed by their teacher. It would not count against their average, but it will appear on their transcripts.

Before he left, Dr. Roy Stewart, Interim Provost, wrote to the Faculty Senate proposing that discussion on this issue begin during the Spring, 2014 semester. Dr. Stewart indicated he was concerned by the number of requests he has received to change an “F” grade to a “W.” His proposal was that students could drop a course until the end of the third week of the semester with only a “W” designation. After that, their withdrawal would indicate either a WP or WF. Further, “the WF grade would be used to calculate their GPA just as if it was an F.” In this way, the student’s transcript would more accurately reflect his or her academic record.

Jeff Bolton: Not opposed to the lateness but opposed to the number. Indicated he was concerned about the number of times he sees a “W” on a student’s record.

Jeff Bolton submitted a copy of the Virginia Tech withdrawal policy. The W does appear on the transcript, but the student is permitted only two late withdrawals. Jeff suggested we should consider moving the drop date up to the 6 week mark, but after that the student would be allowed only a maximum number of late withdraws. Jeff proposed that students who drop after the fifth week and before the 11th week will be assigned a grade of either WP or WF. This will appear on the student’s transcript but will not affect the GPA. A drop after the 11th week will result in an academic penalty (F).

Currently, the regular withdraw date is the tenth Friday of the semester. General agreement to leave the “add” date at the first week of classes.

Related Topic: Pass/Fail Option

A Pass/Fail option was presented by Jeff Bolton. The proposal is limited to the General Studies free elective category but allows a student to take 6 credits outside the requirements of his/her major on a pass/fail basis.

Discussion: Agreement to put the WP/WF option on the next agenda. Senate members should email Carol with concerns and what they would like to see changed.

Anthony Woart: The Provost office should be involved – should make recommendation. That office polices these policies.

Dr. Hossain: The Faculty Senate should make the recommendation, and he would have to speak with the Registrar. This relates to academic progress. The Faculty Senate makes recommendation from the academic side, but have to consult with the Registrar's office for the logistics side. The Financial Aid office should also be involved. Have to take it through the administrative offices that will identify any red flags.

Steve Bourne: The Faculty Senate is the decision-making process. Sometimes changes are made in the catalogue that haven't been approved by the Faculty Senate.

Carol said she will work with Norm, Roy, and Julie to identify key points.

C. Other issues:

Dr. Hossain: Some faculty are not cooperating with the coaching staff and not allowing students to make up work they have missed for games.

Geoff: The approved absences are listed in the Bulletin.

Dr. Hossain: Teachers may not check it.

Geoff: It's up to the students to tell faculty when they will be absent to make up work.

Julie: It's hard to make up labs. Tries to work with athletes, but it is hard to recreate a lab. Students should be proactive about it – get the work in beforehand.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Academic Appeals

No report

B. Assessment Committee

Julie: Haven't met during the last two weeks; LiveText training on the 14th

C. Budget Committee

Will meet today

Carol: Will be going to the Institutional Budget Committee, which is different

D. ACF

Mike Lilly submitted a lengthy report to the Faculty Senate regarding actions of the WV Legislature in its current session on proposed bills that affect Higher Education. Currently, 11 House and Senate bills have "crossed over" and are in consideration for passage this session.

The bills of primary concern are the following: HB 4188, 4221, 4245, 4283, 4316, 4333, 4457, 4496 and SB 409, 434, 426. Highlights include the following:

Senate Bill 409: This concerns the transfer of credits between colleges and universities. It concerns trying to set up a uniform policy state-wise. House Bill 4316: this is similar, and is now in the Senate Education committee. Not sure if either is going to pass.

Mike: Concerns about their language, Common Core, STEM, and possibly a revival of outcomes-based funding. This is a particular concern regarding developmental classes. K-12 will be deciding who has to take developmental classes, not the colleges.

In old issues, SB 330, and the Relative Market Equity issue, are not up for any changes now and likely won't be for at least another year.

SB 409: concerns health care professionals. This expands the number of health sciences professions eligible for the Health Science Scholarship program.

Higher Ed will likely suffer a 3.5 percent budget despite a warning by Sen. Plymale on the Senate Floor in which he stated that four colleges could "go under" if the budget cuts occur. He later privately indicated that these would be Bluefield State, Concord, New River, and Glenville. Concord's enrollment is down and New River is close to bankruptcy.

The \$504 annual raise will likely be approved. This may be paid through another unfunded mandate; it is supposed to be paid for by deducting from the Budget reduction the amount needed to pay for the raise.

The Governor's budget has not yet been passed; last day of session is tomorrow.

E. Curriculum Committee – Mike Lilly

Most (8) were from Engineering. One was from the School of Nursing and Allied Health, and one was from the School of Teacher Education. All were passed/approved by the Committee. Some curriculum issues (two or three) will be submitted soon by Arts and Sciences.

Highlights (explained by Geoff Hunter). Creation of Bachelor of Science in Engineering Management. This will be offered by the School of Engineering Technology and replace the architectural courses; it will involve renaming classes and changing the catalog descriptions.

A motion to approve the submitted curriculum proposals was made by Roy Pruitt. Vanessa Godfrey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

F. Professional Development – Eric Baldwin

Nothing to report

G. Promotion and Tenure (P & T) – Elaine Scott

This committee has not met yet since applications are not due until the end of the month.

Discussion as to whether procedures should be changed. Currently, applicants submit three identical binders. Many people (including faculty and Committee members) would prefer the applications be submitted electronically since the binders are extremely bulky. However, some are concerned about the issue of confidentiality if submissions are electronic.

Dr. Hossain: The procedure for applying for either promotion or tenure will likely be streamlined next year.

H. Board of Governors (BOG) – Norm Mirsky

The Board met last night. Talked about the budget for next year.

Approved the waiver in merit pay. Affirmative action policy: out for 30-day comment

Discussion on university status. Board will come back to what it means to be a university and see if it is feasible and whether it is worth our time to become a university or spend resources developing programs. The Board is still on record as wanting to become a university, but it is not pushing for it right now.

Discussion of the inclement weather policy. Jim Nelson discussed how he and Dr. Hossain met at 5 am to discuss weather conditions and then submitted a recommendation to Dr. Krotseng. Sometimes the college will go on the inclement weather schedule and then wait to see if conditions get so bad that the college has to be closed.

Faculty Senate Discussion: Sometimes students have to come from so far away that they may be enroute when the college status changes from inclement weather schedule to closed. (Robin Ware makes the call for the Beckley campus.)

Fundraising: Betty Carroll is in charge of this. (Carol suggested contacting her regarding policies.)

I. Computer Committee – Carol Cofer

Steve: Moodle vs. Blackboard. The administration will decide which platform. The Faculty Senate hasn't has a chance to vote on it – we're the one teaching the courses, and we can vote to keep the two. Tom Cook reported there were no savings to be had on one or the other.

Carol: Dr. Hossain said there would be no surprises.

A motion to maintain our current status using both Moodle and Blackboard platforms was made by Geoff Hunter, seconded by Steve Bourne, and passed unanimously.

V. New Business

A. General Faculty Meeting – Monday, April 21, 3 p.m.

B. Next Senate Faculty Meeting will be Friday, April 11, 2014.

VI. Adjournment.

Sheila Gates made a motion to adjourn; Geoff Hunter seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Czarnecki, Secretary