

Meeting Minutes – BSC Faculty Senate

Location: Dickason Hall-Tierney Auditorium

Date: April 3, 2020

Time: 11:00 am

Attendance:

Don Bury, Geoff Hunter, Michelle Taylor, Tamara Ferguson, James Pruet, Carol Cofer, Rodney Montague, Vanessa Godfrey, Kelli Sarver, Amy Bennett, Amanda Quesenberry, Darrel Malamisura, Bill Bennett, Mike Lilly, James Pruet, Terene Stiltner, Debbie Vest, James Walters, Ted Lewis, Amanda Matoushek; Faculty Senate Chair.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Amanda Matoushek, Faculty Senate Chair at 11:03am. Amanda called for approval of the previous meeting minutes. Michelle Taylor moved to accept the March minutes, Rodney Montague seconded the motion, all were in favor. The previous minutes were approved, with no corrections.

Committee Reports:

- 1. Curriculum:** Mike Lilly stated there were two proposals to the curriculum committee. First, Applied Science wants to remove the ECON class from their core and have replaced it with another science course. Second, the Social Sciences want now to have the option of either an ECON class or SOCS 230-Social and Economic Processes. Vanessa Godfrey made a motion to approve and Rodney Montague seconded the motion. Michelle Taylor abstained and Darrel Malamisura submitted a vote of “nay”. The motion passed.

ACF Report:

Mike Lilly stated that every summer the ACF sponsors a retreat which this year is scheduled for the first week of July at Oglebay Park. Due to the current issues, he feels this may be rescheduled or possibly cancelled. He says that whomever is appointed as the new Chair of the Faculty Senate is invited to attend. He also stated that the teacher seminar is has been cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

2. BOG:

Carol Cofer stated that she did want to add one comment to the previous February minutes. She wanted to clarify that the comment that was made by the BOG was not that faculty did not want to work on Fridays, it was that they did not want to work five days a week. There have been no BOG meetings since the last faculty senate meeting. There is a special meeting called for April 9th at 4pm. All regular meetings will begin the week after. She stated she feels the special meeting is to discuss the issues with Covid-19 and the college. Amanda stated there was a video posted on the BSC website from the president saying that no staff member would have to use sick or personal days during the pandemic.

Old Business:

Faculty Senate Constitution

The Constitution needs to be revised due to the changing of 5 schools to 4 at the college. Amanda stated she is still working on a draft for the constitution and hopes to have it out to us in the next few weeks. This change will affect how many representatives will be on the senate. She asked if we wanted to stay at 3 senators from each school or increase to 4 senators to keep it at the same number as now. Michelle Taylor stated that she feels the number of representatives needs to stay at 3. Currently, the School of Business is working with very few faculty members and would like to keep the number at 3.

Faculty of the Year

Amanda stated she sent out an email for nominations for faculty of the year and had received only one. James Walters says he plans on making a nomination today. Amanda will set up a survey monkey so voting can be anonymous and will be sent out by the end of the day. The senate has until 4/10 to vote.

New Business:

Nominations for Cabinet positions:

Chair: Amanda has received a nomination for Darrel Malamisura. She opened to the floor for any other nominations for chair. Mike Lilly then moved that the nominations be closed for chair. Michelle Taylor seconded the motion. The question was then asked if these nominations were to be conducted at a general faculty meeting. Amanda said she has checked the constitution and it does not indicate that it must be conducted during that time.

Vice Chair: Amanda opened to the floor for nominations for vice chair. She stated that the chair and vice chair cannot be from the same school. Michelle Taylor nominated Rodney Montague for vice chair. Rodney accepted the nomination. James Walters seconded the nomination. Vanessa made a motion that the nominations be closed. Michelle Taylor seconded the motion.

Secretary: Amanda states that she has a nomination for Amy Bennett to continue her role as secretary. Amy accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Vanessa Godfrey made a motion to close nominations. Rodney Montague seconded the motion.

The new positions will begin July 1 according to the state statute.

Carol Cofer, BOG representative and Mike Lilly, ACF representative are in the first year of a two year term and will not need to be voted on.

Other Business:

Rodney Montague had a question for Dr. Lewis about when the shift to the new deans would go into effect. He stated that it will begin during the new fiscal year which is July 1st.

James Walters asked if the new person for STEM been chosen, yet. Dr. Lewis states that no one had been chosen. He said the person will be identified and announced within the next few weeks.

Don Bury asked the senate if anyone else is having a problem with students attending class or completing classwork. Michelle Taylor states that it is happening in her school, also. Dr. Lewis stated if for some reason a student is not able to complete the online work, the college will assist in purchasing the cameras used in proctor track, they have increased the hours the students can use smart thinking and counseling. Tamara Ferguson suggests sending out early alerts to the students. Kelli Sarver states that the nursing program is treating it just as if they were attending class during their regular class time. If they do not log in or log in late, it is considered a tardy or absence. Darrel Malamisura stated that all students can tether their internet to their phones if they need better service. He says all departments need to discuss what is required of students if we have to keep providing online classes during the pandemic. Then discuss it schoolwide to have it the same across the board. This way, students will know what is required of them going into their education. Dr. Lewis wants all faculty to let him know if there are students that are having any trouble with their internet connectivity. The college is looking at ways they can provide resources for students.

Mike Lilly asked if there has been a decision made for graduation. Dr. Lewis states there has not been a decision made yet. He attended a commencement meeting and looking at other contingencies. He states that administration does not want to completely cancel graduation. As of right now, they can still proceed with graduation, but most likely at a later date. He asked if the ceremony was moved to the first or second Saturday in June, would we see it as a hardship for our graduating seniors. He stated that the graduation date will still be May 9th, the only thing that would change would be the commencement date.

Carol Cofer stated that she had several questions from students about receiving their cap and gown. Students are to email Kyle Shepherd at kshepherd@bluefieldstate.edu and he will mail the students their caps and gowns.

Vanessa Godfrey stated she listened to the recent address from the president and that he alluded to summer also being online. Dr. Lewis stated that there was a definite possibility that all summer classes would go online. He asked for input from those that teach lab classes during the summer, for ways change how the classes are taught or possibly not offering those classes at all.

Michelle Taylor asked if the faculty can come to campus to work in their offices during the restrictions. Dr. Lewis says all faculty can come to campus if they need to work in their offices. At the time, there is no lockdown and you are allowed in your offices.

Darrel Malamisura asked if we do go to a complete lockdown, would there be a possibility of getting the mail forwarded to the faculty's homes. Dr. Lewis states he is not sure that would be possible.

Dr. Lewis states that everything is moving forward for Faculty Emeritus and Promotion and Tenure. All voting will be done online and he assured the senate that there would be no problem with anonymity.

Adjournment:

With no other business, Amanda asked for a motion to adjourn. Michelle Taylor made the motion to adjourn and Darrel Malamisura seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1155am.

AM/ab