



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 13, 20226

Attendance: Darrel Malamisura, Betty Nash, Julie Orr, Young Kim, Vanessa Godfrey, Rodney Montague, Kristin Hicks, Jack Sheffler, Vincent Mateescu, Dharshana Arachchi, Albert Berkoh, Provost Sarita Rhonemus, President Darrin Martin, Bill Bennett, and Amanda Matoushek

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 11:0 am and a quorum was established.

Approval of minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rodney Montague and seconded by Jack Sheffler. All were in favor and none opposed.

Report from President Martin: The President discussed the process he uses to call weather related closings and delays. He consults with Raleigh County officials to assess road conditions in that area. For the Bluefield area he consults Mr. Marson from the city, and other University Presidents, and our maintenance crew to aid in his decision making. We are currently only using our own employees for snow removal and lawn maintenance (It is no longer outsourced) which is saving BSU 289,000 dollars per year. There have been some adjustments in this year's weather removal, such as issues with a salt supply which limited the ability to clear sidewalks and roads.

He then shared many positive initiatives in the works to improve and continue growth for the University. Connections have been made in Charleston along with proposals requesting funds. The Delegates were impressed with Faculty, Students and the work at BSU and have pledged to support BSU in growth endeavors. One hopeful plan in the future would be to purchase Tiffany Manor for housing which would afford us an additional 411 beds (142 apartments).

Items from the Safety Committee meeting: A committee was formed and along with other members Darrel and Rodney as faculty have been asked to be on the committee to provide input and also share with the other faculty.

Old Business: Kristin has been working on the handbook. Committees are still requested to post minutes on the web page or communicate with the Senate any progress/updates. Then a lengthy discussion took place on the cutoff numbers to run a class while still having a good flow for students to be able to graduate on time along with what is best for Faculty overloads.

New Business: Open House on the Saturday of Spring Break was considered to not be a good date. President was unaware and agreed this was not a good date/time.

Vaccination rate of 42% was explained. Not all applications come with vaccination proof. There needs to be a process to allow Sherri to look up and contact students related to missing vaccinations and the ramifications if students do not comply. Christina in admissions will work with Sherri on this.

Badged entrance mechanisms will be added from a Grant recently received to have better security along with security cameras.

Marijuana Issues: The President spoke at length about the situational issues and how to approach the problem to help improve this issue on campus. And also, a plan needs to be put in place. The President stated testing is a decision of the Board.

Issue of not having a representative from every department on campus on Fridays. The President will look into and make a statement related to this.

Parking issues: Security is working on writing tickets, also in the Fall there will be student tags reinstated for student vehicles and also have students register their cars.

Darrel has asked for minutes from BOG subcommittees to be posted along with perhaps even the presentations so all Faculty could be better informed, particularly on the growth of the institution.

Darrel asked if BSU has a Written document anywhere as to Standard Operating Procedures of Sarita. Sarita was not communicating in the meeting although logged on. However, the President stated he agreed we need this if it is not available. We need the time to be able to be proactive as opposed to reactive. Darrel will try to put a committee together by asking for the volunteers to help put together a SOP manual.

Phishing emails training: Faculty has requested that the amount of training be decreased for violating or missing a phishing email. Especially to be added with the Knowb4 training of multiple videos and quizzes to watch by a certain deadline.

Vanessa asked about food service on campus and when it will be starting. The President stated there will be an all user's announcement sent out to notify everyone on campus.

The President closed with a note of Positivity and asked the members to try to stay focused on the positive and only show concern with something that is hindering us from doing our jobs. We need to do the best we can for our students and focus on what is truly important for BSU.

One last comment was that the HLC is coming to approve a Masters in Engineering Technology degree. This will serve all areas of engineering technology degrees.

Adjournment: Vanessa made a motion to adjourn and Julie seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.

