



General Faculty Meeting Minutes

Feb. 27th, 2026. 3:00 pm

Attendance: Betty Nash, Tina Nicholson, Jason Stafford, Vanessa Godfrey, Amy Atwell, Nirranjan Kulasouriya, Katie St. Clair, Angela Lambert, Julie Orr, Sandy Wynn, Shelia Sargent- Martin, Darrel Malamisura, Sarita Rhonemus, Vince Mateescu, Jack Sheffler, Adrian Ayersman, Kristin Hicks, Jeff Yaegar, Katie Shepherd, Bonnie Reece, Sherri Williams, Bill Bennett, Ashish Patel, Dharshani Arachchi, Darrel Thompson and Tina Nicholson.

Meeting called to order: 3:07 pm by Darrel Malamisura

Approval of previous minutes: With a quorum established, Vanessa made a motion to approve the minutes and Bonnie seconded the motion. All approved the previous minutes with no changes. None were opposed.

Provost Report: Sarita handed it over to Darrel to re-cap what was discussed in the Senate meeting earlier. Sarita did state that the student class climate survey that was placed on the MOODLE shells has had a large response... much better than simply emailing it out.

Items discussed in Faculty Senate: Online College guidelines were discussed. Getting the right to drop students back was also addressed. Updates on P&T guidelines and timelines was shared along with Safety and Security committee updates. And a request was made for AI training as well.

Kristin requested recruiting more help for revising the faculty handbook for processes and procedures. The following volunteered to help with the revisions:

Sandy Wynn, Jack Sheffler, Darrel Malamisura, Kristin Hicks, and Bonnie Reece.

Discussion took place on what the guidelines were for clinical track faculty, non -tenure track ect. Angie will look for the descriptor on clinical track faculty to get to Darrel.

Faculty Emeritus: The backlogged list of faculty members that has been sent for Faculty Emeritus since 2017 will be included in the graduation program this May 2026.

Online College: There was discussion in depth related to the Stipend that is being paid for creating a template. The use of OER was also discussed/ debated for quite some time between Darrel and Sarita until it ran into a stale mate. It was suggested that each faculty member address their own concerns with the administration as they arise. Rather than arguing about it.

AI Training: Sarita stated that the Third training was aired today and once they are all done we will have a card on the web page with the first 2 trainings only. They forgot to record the 3rd training. The recordings will be available for all faculty to watch on their own.

BOG report: Jack has nothing to report from the BOG meetings. A brief discussion took place related to the potential to purchase Tiffany Manor for housing. The amount needed for the purchase is not completely raised and is pending having the money and the ability of the city to re-locate the residents throughout Bluefield.

Dr. Jamkhandi Report: He reported that our Athletes are behaving candidly well while in the CIAA tournament in Baltimore. He also stated that academically our athlete's GPA's compare with non-athletes and sometimes are higher. Faculty and athletics should continue to work together and embrace non-traditional recruitment efforts.

Emergency Plan: The committee is finally making some progress on the safety and security plan after a year of waiting. Faculty should be receiving Safety training modules and a fire safety procedure should be completed soon.

Marijuana Smell at the MEC: Numerous complaints about the smell, any type of smoking in a public building is against fire code. Faculty and students that are being exposed to this are encouraged to file a formal complaint. Even the WVU Bluefield ER and Radiology department has also filed complaints to administration related to the smell on their side. This is a problem that needs corrected ASAP. This complaint has been going on for over 1 year and seems to have fallen on deaf ears. It is posing a risk for nursing faculty and all the students having to be exposed to this on a daily basis.

Other information: There is a health fair scheduled on March 24th in the PE building gym from 9-3pm.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss Jack made a motion to adjourn and Kristin Seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 4:07pm.