

Fairmont State Faculty Senate
Minutes
30 January 2024

Members: **Bob Niichel** (Executive Committee: President, Computer Science & Math), **Bill Harrison** (Exec Committee: Vice President, Social Sciences), **Malisa Eades** (Exec Committee: Webmaster, ASN), **Barbara MacLennan** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, Behavioral Sciences), **Raymond Alvarez** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, CoBA), **Denice Kirchoff** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, BSN), **Rick Harvey** (Academic Affairs), **Donna Long** (Exec Committee: Secretary, Humanities), **Chris Kast** (Academic Affairs), **Kelley Flaherty** (Natural Sciences), **Kristi Kiefer** (CoEHHP), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **Shazzad Rassel** proxy for **Tabitha Lafferre** (ET), **Ashley Dover** (Library), **Jason Frazer** (CoBA), **Nathan Myers** (Humanities), **JL Tomlin** (Social Science), **Julie Reneau** (CoEHHP), **Gina Fantasia** (BOG)

Guests: **Michael Davis, Brian Selmeski, Tim Oxley, Angela Schwer, Chuck Shields, Paul Reneau, Heath Howard**

1.-3. Meeting called to order 3:00 p.m.; Agenda approved (Fantasia moved; Harvey seconded); 5 December 2023 minutes approved (Harrison moved; Fantasia seconded).

4. President Davis reported that he has been meeting with legislators in Charleston and has found them to be interested in Fairmont State's wellbeing. 29 January was Fairmont State Day at the Capitol. Meetings have been productive and positive, and there are new initiatives underway.

29 February will be the Day of Giving. Beginning at 6 a.m., Dr. Davis will livestream all day (18 hours). This interactive event will take place in Gym 1. Dunk Tank volunteers are needed. There will be a 4-6 Happy Hour. Alvarez noted that the AI Conference is on 28 & 29 February. Dr. Davis said there would be as little conflict in the schedules for Day of Giving and the conference as possible.

4 April is the Presidential Inauguration. Please send "events that should be highlighted" to him for sharing on that day. There will be a reception in Gym 1.

5. Old Business: Major

CP 23-24-04 PSYC passed second reading (Kast moved; Harrison seconded).

CP 23-24-05 CJ Online was not considered as revisions were only just received.

6. New Business: Major

6.a. Academic Integrity policy. Angela Schwer and Lisa Eades are both on Welfare Committee and spoke to the policy. We now have the technology—Advocate—available to implement the policy; e.g., faculty will use Advocate to report plagiarism. The chain of action remains with faculty first responsible for action (e.g., lowering a grade, failing the student, etc.). Howard described Advocate as a student conduct monitoring tool; it has been used already for student conduct cases, and we are just now implementing it for academic integrity. Academic Affairs will monitor (currently Trish DeNoon). No one but the monitor can see students' history.

Susan Ross has worked on due process issues. Harvey noted that faculty will need training.

Oxley said Trish's role is only to access data and provide it to the associate provost for Academic Affairs. Kast thinks the policy is fine but how the policy is to be implemented is not yet clear. What will be the chain of action? E.g., faculty, chair, dean, provost, Senate committee? Or something else?

Fantasia moved to table the policy for more input from Susan Ross; Harvey seconded.

6.b. Kast moved, and Tomlin seconded passing CP 06 Middle College (MC), 07 COMM, 09 FORS, 10 FORS, and 12/12a HIST for first reading. After discussion, motion passed.

In re: CP 06 (Middle College), Long asked about the face-to-face modality (D6). Kast said as with current traditional freshman, students in Middle College would be "discouraged" from taking online

courses. Long asked about the plan for program growth (E4). Kast stated that if we have students that do not finish all credits in the first year, we will take fewer candidates in the next cohort. 100 total is the cap. Long asked about marketing the program (E6) and who will identify the target population. Kast reported that a group including KVC reps and Admissions will use “I X L,” a writing sample, and Accuplacer to identify candidates. There are approximately 300 16-17-year-olds in foster care in WV. Long asked about plans for advising. Kast reported that a new advisor will be hired. Long asked about evaluation and assessment plans. Kast reported that a Program Coordinator would be a new hire for the program. Niichel asked if faculty would need to submit additional information on MC students in our classes and how the program—not just individual students—will be assessed. Kast said no additional information would be required. FYS and a capstone will be used to assess the program. Howard notes MC students will have a unique code in Banner. Niichel asked about Math placement. Kast reported that Accuplacer is the current plan but more discussion is needed. Tomlin asked about residency. Kast noted Pritchard.

Harvey noted that MC is really a new degree program—so the curriculum proposal under discussion is just for the curriculum. The BOG and HLC must approve the degree program.

In re: 06 FORS Long noted that the section on repeatable hours is unclear. Flaherty said she would take that information back to the preparer.

6.c. Harrison moved, and MacLennan seconded passing GSC 23-24-01 CHEP for first reading. Long noted that the proposal did not have a memo in support like curriculum proposals do. The Executive Committee will speak to Susan Ross about implementing something of that sort. Motion passed.

6. Minor Business

6.a. Committee on Committees. Harrison has agreed to chair. MacLennan, Dover, Kelley, and Tomlin volunteered to serve. Niichel submitted the committee for approval. Fantasia moved, and Harrison seconded. Motion passed.

6.b. Niichel announced that changes to the Senate Constitution and Bylaws are forthcoming (30-day notice required).

7. Provost Report (Phillips ill; Oxley answered some questions)

Niichel and Harvey asked about dean searches. Oxley reported that ALT has discussed the searches but there are some circumstances that Phillips can better speak to. Oxley and Fantasia noted that chairs should be able to update faculty on the status.

8. Chief of Staff Dr. Brian Selmeski introduced himself and discussed his role. He will oversee IR, government relations, URM, Strategic Planning, among other areas. He has been a faculty member and an associate VP at other institutions. He has worked on issues of tenure and faculty senate issues. He sees his role as “funnel, not filter”; he is not a barrier to the president. He expects to be able to take some pressure off Cheryl Lewis and accelerate and move initiatives to implementation. His goal is communication, collaboration, and clarity. He believes in shared governance and academic freedom. His stance is “What can I do to help?”

9. Reports

ACF—Clark not present.

BOG—Fantasia reported the next meeting is 15 February. Committees are meeting. Policy on Policies is under revision in preparation for additional policy revisions. She encourages people to attend the meeting.

SGA—not present. Harrison said the trip to Charleston went well. SGA VP is interim president but does not want to make it permanent. SGA has no official advisor at this time; Harrison would consider serving. He goes to their meetings. He noted that the BOG Student Rep is also vacant.

Presidential Perception Survey Committee. Reneau followed up on the discussion about Qualtrix from the last meeting. He reported that Kast, Howard, and LaFone have administrative access. The Qualtrix account used for the PPSC is Reneau’s account. He can see any changes that are made (and can change it back). There is an “anonymous” button that must be on for responses to be anonymous. He

stated that he will check the system daily and download the data daily. He noted that the survey is perception—there’s nothing binding in it.

Reneau did contact the external survey company we used previously but has received no response, so Qualtrix is pretty much our only option.

Fantasia and Harrison both serve on the PPSC and expressed appreciation for Reneau’s work and their confidence in the system. They feel it is time to move forward and to trust until we are given a reason not to trust.

The survey will be given to full-time faculty only. Charley Hively will compile the list of full-time faculty (will be reaching out to chairs). **The survey will be given from 19 February to 4 March. Reneau and Niichel will both alert faculty to the upcoming survey.** Results will be provided at the April Senate meeting.

10. Miscellaneous

10.a. Bookstore delays: Frazer, who serves on the RFP committee, reported that only Follett submitted interest in the bookstore contract. The plan is to extend their contract by one year because we don’t have another option. Fantasia asked why so little interest. Semeski stated that many smaller institutions are struggling. Fantasia noted that faculty are not allowed to tell students to go elsewhere for books. Kast asked if a bookstore was even needed. Fantasia suggested coming up with incentives for the company to get books ordered on time—or disincentives for failing to do so. Kirchoff noted that the bookstore has a limited number of codes available. Tomlin noted that the bookstore required him to have it stock an open resource text. Kast noted that faculty are making up for the bookstore’s incompetence by creating alternative assignments when the orders are delayed. There is some interest in allowing students to manage the bookstore. Semeski noted that Kentucky has had good response to a “books included in tuition” program.

10.b. Eades asked if anyone would object to having a campus photographer come to a Senate meeting to take some pictures for the website. No objections were made. **The Executive Committee will contact Dusty Merrill.**

11. Open Forum

Alvarez raised the problem of lack of direct phone extensions in the directory, which makes reaching someone difficult. He was trying to address a financial aid problem with special topics courses and could not get a response. Similarly, Julie Reneau has had students who thought they would need to drop out because FA has told them their courses are not covered.

Oxley noted that FA is understaffed and that Degree Works doesn’t communicate with FA, and we need to “bridge that gap.” Fantasia said too much of our software doesn’t communicate across platforms (and the Catalog isn’t updated). Howard is co-chairing a committee charged with looking at these issues. He said we do have good data “highways,” but we haven’t created tools to deliver/disseminate information, so it’s not a good tool “yet.” The Title 3 committee is looking at integrating technologies.

Howard noted that the contact card in Outlook includes directory information and direct contact through TEAMS. He said most staff are active on TEAMS. He suggested bringing the problem to the attention of the CIO and HR. Davis noted that conversations with the Staff Council about what should be in the directory were in the works. Fantasia noted that there was previously a “concerted effort” to remove names from contact information for offices (e.g., URM). Dover reported that the Library Chat gets lots of questions about who to contact for various programs, and the information is hard to find. Kast suggested making directory information part of the onboarding process. Davis concurred but said the onboarding process is under review. Eades noted that in Nursing the computer and phone line stays with the office, not with the individual, and that has made keeping track of directory information easier.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna J Long, Secretary