



FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY™

April 2025 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025 9:00am - 10:30am
Hardway 219 and TEAMS

Attendees: Michael Davis, Brian Selmeski, Susan Ross, Tanner James, Gina Fantasia, Riley Neal, Jon Dodds, Janna Bredeson, George Wolf, Mary Sortino, Jim Matthews, Charles Shields, Janie Leary, Frank LaFone, Lindsey Guinn, Cheryl Lewis, Jill Soles, Trish DeNoon

Attendance via Teams: Wendy Adkins, Drew Paton, Diana Noone, Josh Smallridge

Absent: JD DeVaul

A. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:01 a.m. by Wendy Adkins
- b. Adkins reminded attendees that the role of the committee is not to make any decision about the information presented, but to vet the information provided and ask questions to ensure that all of the information is available when presented to the full Board of Governors

B. Academic Affairs Highlights and Updates

a. Academic Affairs Highlights

- i. The B.A. in Outdoor Leadership was approved by HLC for fall 2025 enrollment
- ii. Dr. Elizabeth Savage, English Professor, Nominated for the Faculty in Excellence in Literature
 1. It honors outstanding poetry, fiction, and essays published in small presses
 2. It is national recognition, and highlights her literacy achievements and contributions in the field of poetry
- iii. Fairmont State – Dual Enrollment Day – May 23, 2025
 1. This is being led by Dr. Jim Matthews and other English Faculty
 - a. We will be bringing the public schools to campus to talk about the process of Dual Enrollment and provide guidance to the public school teachers and staff
 - b. A comprehensive Dual Enrollment Handbook is being developed
- iv. Articulation Agreements
 1. We have three new articulation agreements between our Exercise Science Program and WVU and one between our Exercise Science Program and Sherman College of Chiropractic
 - a. The agreements will help students moving into Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Training programs
- v. Criminal Justice Program and Community Involvement
 1. Jeri Kirby has developed a program called Inside Out, where students are matched with inmates, and they present on what they learned during the project



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b. Action Item - B.S. in History – Discontinuation

- i. This was an outcome from their last Program Review
- ii. We currently have a B.A. in History and a B.S. in History
 - 1. Enrollment is split pretty evenly among the 2 programs
 - 2. The only difference is three classes
 - 3. In order to meet demands and streamline the degrees, there is a request to discontinue the B.S. in History and keep the B.A. in History

c. Action Item - 2024-2025 Program Reviews

- i. Program Reviews are a comprehensive evaluation of an academic program to determine the “health” of a program and design subsequent interventions or actions if needed
- ii. The reviews look at the mission, external demand, internal demand, quality of outcomes, and the financial health
- iii. We look at programs that do not have specialized accreditation and programs that do have specialized accreditation
 - 1. Programs that do have specialized accreditation complete a vigorous review to achieve or maintain accreditation, so their programs are looked at a little differently
 - a. The Program Review Council reviews information that was submitted for their accreditation process
- iv. Fantasia asked what the communication process is for the programs that are being reviewed is
 - 1. Ross stated that once the programs have been notified that they are up for review, there is a lot of back-and-forth communication between the Chairs and the Program Review Committee
 - 2. Fantasia stated that there was confusion about the program that needed to go through a one-year follow-up review, and they were worried the programs were going to be cut. She suggested that the wording be clarified before going to the Board
 - 3. Ross stated that we would add this to the Academic Leadership Team agenda to be discussed further
 - 4. The one-year review is something that the committee conducts, and it is not sent back to the Board of Governors for approval. There is a need to ensure that it is being addressed before the next full program review cycle
 - 5. President Davis stated that the one-year follow-up information does not need sent to the Board of Governors. Perhaps provide them with the recommendation and then add a separate document outlining what the one-year follow-up needs.
 - 6. Shields asked who initiates the one-year follow-up and Ross stated that this information would be sent by the Provost’s office, but could change with the hiring of the new Provost



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v. Community Health Promotion

1. Continuation of the program at current level of activity
 - a. Recommendation to develop a continuous improvement plan focused on addressing curriculum, external demand, and credentialing
2. The program faculty all teach other courses
3. It has high internal demand
4. There is a strong community connection
5. Financially there are no concerns
6. Fantasia mentioned that some one-year follow-ups such as this one is positive and not because there are problems with the program

vi. Criminal Justice

1. Continuation of the program at current level of activity
 - a. The committee recommends that the University review faculty workload in more detail and consider allocating additional resources to the program.
 - b. The committee recommends review of learning outcome assessment – attention to updating program learning outcomes based on blooms.
2. President Davis mentioned to Fantasia that this is part of the answer to her question about how the University will address the need for more resources if Faculty are needed. The Program Reviews will indicate when there may be a need

vii. English

1. Continuation of the program at the current level of activity
 - a. The Committee recommends developing a plan of continuous improvement focused on addressing curriculum and external demand.
2. There is a large internal demand for the program as it serves the Core Curriculum and Dual Enrollment along with other programs
3. Faculty are highly engaged in the University and community
4. The program is financially stable
5. Fantasia mentioned that she has seen survey results that indicate that employers are reporting that they are having a hard time finding employees who can communicate effectively which English courses help with
6. Sortino stated that this is something that individuals could get a micro credential in which is a state-wide initiative

viii. Studio Art

1. Continuation of the program at the current level of activity
 - a. The Committee recommends the University review program resource needs in more detail and provide additional resources to the program where appropriate; address ventilation safety concerns.



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2. Ross stated that the program is highly involved in the community
3. Enrollment remains stable even though there has been an overall decline in enrollment
4. The program needs support to install ventilation. These courses use products that produce fumes which is a safety concern
5. Sortino mentioned that there is so much happening within the program that they had to choose what to include and what to leave out in the report
6. The program is active in obtaining grants
7. They are not just graduating students, but contributing to the community and region
8. This program also supports Elementary Education major

C. Specialized Accredited Programs

- a. HEPC requirement for Specialized Accredited Programs is that we have an Executive Summary, and they show proof of their accreditation.
- b. If they have any findings, we need to ensure that we follow up on them
- c. Each accrediting body has their own list of standards
 - i. Fantasia mentioned that the accrediting bodies make you jump through a lot of hoops and get data and analysis from every aspect of the program, and it is very thorough

d. Civil Engineering, B.S., Electronics Engineering, B.S., and Mechanical Engineering


- i. Continuation of the program at current level of activity


e. Nursing

- i. Identification of the program for further development and/or expansion due to demand with action. Internal cross-division review with a focus on facilities, resources (faculty, staff), and space to support program expansion.
- ii. Ross stated that there is an opportunity for us to look at expanding the Nursing Program due to the demand
- iii. Sortino stated that the Program currently denies approximately 100 students due to the fact they do not have the resources available to serve them

D. Dodds stated that he is very impressed with the amount of information that has been provided and thanked everyone for their work on this

E. Adkins adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:24 a.m.


Wendy G. Adkins, Committee Chair


Date