

Fairmont State Faculty Senate

Minutes, 1.28.25

Members Present: **Bob Niichel** (Executive Committee: President, Computer Science & Math), **Dexter Simon** (SGA), **Deb Hemler** (Academic Affairs), **Kelley Flaherty** (Natural Sciences), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **Jason Frazer** (CoBA), **J.L. Tomlin** (Social Sciences/Ex. Committee, Secretary), **Jason Bolyard** (ET), **Kristi Kiefer** (COHHP), **James Long** (Math/CS), **Tabitha Lafferre** (ENG/Tech), **Nathan Myers** (Humanities), **April Townshend** (Nat Sci), **Jim Matthews** (Academic Affairs), **Todd Clark** (ACF), **Chris Moss** (Social Sciences), **Amanda Metcalf** (COEHHP), **Derek Nuzum** (Library), **Gina Fantasia** (BOG), **Candice Moench** (Ed.), **Lisa Eades** (Nursing), **Jan Kiger** (HHP), **Barb MacLennan** (Beh. Sci), **Raymond Alvarez** (COBA)

Guests: **Susan Ross** (Interim Provost), **Mike Davis** (President of University), **Brian Selmeski** (President's Office), **Paul Reneau** (PPSC)

1.-3. Call to order at 3:01. Approval of Agenda. None new items solicited. No objections to approval. Approved. Approval of December minutes. Note from Tomlin on changes to December minutes. No objections. Minutes approved

4. President Davis: 267 people attended the welcome back event breakfast. Brief update on Provost search. Search is underway, academic search contractor is running search. Over 30 candidates from around the country. Goal is to conduct preliminary interview early March. On campus late March to early April. Goal to hire before commencement. Opportunity to make the interview slightly longer to give greater access to candidates. Open to questions on search. No questions. President also solicits open topic questions. Question from Fantasia about Federal executive order on freezing federal grants. President explains that student financial aid is excluded from the order. Other funds (grants especially) are potentially frozen. First glance none of FSU's other grants and funding are affected by Federal Freeze. COS Selmeski further adds this issue is being examined. Hemler asks about other forms of grants from NASA. Selmeski adds that preemptive compliance seems to be the way most agencies are weathering the uncertainty about funding freeze. Likely to be the trend writ large. Niichel adds he hasn't heard clarification from NSF either. President will be in D.C. next week to meet with our Senator. Hoping for clarity from those visits. Selmeski quotes parts of the order to point out we likely are not affected. **(Special note: after senate adjourned, Federal ex. Order freezing federal funds was blocked by federal judge. Later rescinded from the administration itself.)**

5. Old Business Major/Minor.

Item 1: Curriculum Proposals 24-25-01 and 24-25-02. Motion to approve these proposals for second reading. Hemler motions, Lafferre seconds. No objections heard. Vote to approve for second reading passed by voice vote.

Item 2: Nomination and election on Committee on Committees. Niichel willing to chair the committee. Tomlin agrees to serve. Long is named as another member. Flaherty and Kiefer agree to serve. Fantasia moves to close nominations. Vote to close nominations passed by voice vote. Vote by acclamation passed without objections.

6. New Business Major/Minor.

Item 1: Staff Council informal Liaison. Request for volunteers for this position. Derek Nuzum volunteers for this role. No objections. Nuzum named as staff council liaison. Next staff council meeting is Thursday at 2pm.

7. Provost Report: First update: Falcon trail just became a WV physical activity partner. This organization is well established and linked to a larger national organization that develops policies, promotes community engagement. Falcon park will be a full partner with them. Media promotion to come. National wildlife federation also certified Falcon park as a wildlife habitat. This is in line with FSU's strategic vision. This is not just one program but rather includes all of campus. Architecture students, for instance have participated in its development. Birds Eye view of efforts on campus has helped Ross get a better sense of the successes and efforts of the various initiatives on campus. Second update: Coursedog implementation is moving forward. Curriculum cloud, scheduling cloud, operations analytics, and assessment management are the core components being utilized by FSU (coursedog offers many more). Sequential rollout is planned to avoid paying for everything at the same time. First rollout will be scheduling component. Trainings with all parties involved with course scheduling are already in motion. Ross views her role as primarily about communication in this process. First, rollout will be visual in nature with updates, emails, and ongoing communications about implementation. Second, regular updates can be expected. Finally, the process will involve deans and chairs to make sure the implementation is responsive to faculty and departmental needs. Assessment transition will be a part of this larger process, as well. Assessment was discussed at last meeting about the rollout. Meeting coming up with several stakeholders on this implementation at faculty level. Additionally, it will be important to reboot what used to be called the assessment council. This group was very large and encompassed a variety of forms of assessment. The new group will be focused on student learning outcome assessments (course and program level). Expect calls for representatives from departments to meet and help out with the reboot and communication plan for the assessment initiative.

In upcoming meetings, further issues like course evaluations will be discussed as well. Reports of complaints/concerns from faculty and administration about student accommodation letters raised. Provost will be reviewing those letters and the underlying process with that academic leader. Question from Kiger about when scheduling rollout will happen. Ross will share timeline as it happens. Goal is to happen in the fall to begin use in spring (but it might not be ready by then). Question from Niichel about whether coursedog will need to be consulted

before Faculty select their class offerings. President Davis adds that coursedog will aimed more at redundancies then controlling faculty scheduling. Kiger points out that lack of control of scheduling can have potentially negative impacts on those physical education courses. Ross suggests this will all be apart of ongoing discussions about how and where to implement Courshedog. Rollout needs to be, and will be, tailored to FSU's needs. Niichel asks what the process will look like after courshedog compared to now. Ross says too early to answer those questions.

8. Reports

ACF-Clark: ACF met last Friday for a three hour meeting. DEI wasn't really discussed so much as A) what legislature will look like. No (relevant)committees on the house or senate are fully staffed yet. List of representatives so far placed on those relevant committees (available online). Some discussion at ACF focused on one of the new reps. at senate level (Clements-R, Wetzel) who has made some comments critical of resources being directed to post secondary education but too soon to know what this will mean in implementation, if anything. Funding will likely continue to be a concern as the new legislature is one of the most fiscally conservative in recent memory. No new legislation on the record yet. House obscene-matter bill (killed in senate last year) will likely be back this year in some form.

BOG-Fantasia: BOG meets Feb 26. Committees will start to meet in two weeks. Week of February 9 the executive committee will meet. Having not yet met, not much to report. Question from Niichel about whether BOG has any concerns about administration changes at state level. Fantasia advises she can't speak for Board directly, but members are watching carefully to see signs of what outcomes might be. COS Selmeski points out that one of the chief questions is one of accounting. Governor and Legislature are calculating the math regarding funding levels differently and this will have to be resolved. President adds that their explanation of deficits was one of exceeding the budget passed but not necessarily a deficit in money spent vs money earned. Selmeski also adds that one criticism from State gov't is that colleges have used one time funds (covid, for instance) for recurring expenses.

SGA- Simon: Club funding opened up Monday. Advised student groups to apply for that funding asap as it goes quickly. Reminder to have club RSO's attend the weekly SGA meetings to give them better visibility of club needs. Some student questions directed to the Senate about student campus jobs, the status of the bookstore, and the threat of imminent Federal immigration actions. Selmeski addresses this. Update coming out to SGA from the presidents' office soon to clarify many of these issues. Concerns are country wide, but on campus, no concerns yet about how FSU's international students, immigrant students, etc will be affected.

9. Miscellaneous:

Item 1: update from ad hoc treasury committee. Gala (March 8 in Colebank hall) will be disco themed and feature appropriate music, food, and drinks for the theme. Frazer adds that he would like to open invitation up to the larger community to maximize funds raised. Good news and bad news is the same: it will happen 9 days after the day of giving which could affect spending. Tickets will go on sale as soon as we hear back from Renee Allison. Question about whether to invite students. Several speak up against this for different reasons, including

atmosphere, cost to attend, etc. Expect an email soon with further details. Discussion of whether departments could contribute gift baskets, and if so what monetary value they should have. Eades says last time gift baskets were distributed for an event \$50 or so was the goal set for value of the baskets. Fantasia points out an upper limit on basket value might be counter productive to a bidding process. President Davis says President's office will also contribute a gift basket for the silent auction. Frazer asks Eades if she will coordinate the gift baskets. Eades will check on this and try to coordinate between each department/office's contribution. Lafferre points out that gift baskets can be showcased before hand online to give people an idea what they might want to bid on.

Item 2: Update on Presidential Perception Survey: Reneau walks through the survey process. Planned to be available from February 24 to March 14th. This will give over two weeks for everyone to fill out the survey. Emails and communications will come out closer to time to remind everyone about the dates. Survey will be done through Qualtrix account and be totally anonymous. Frequent backups will be made to prevent information embargoes from affecting data collection. Charley Hively is responsible for putting together the faculty lists to be mailed the survey. Please communicate with Hively to make sure the list is as accurate as possible. Niichel asks if interim deans would be included on faculty lists. Reneau will have to go to the committee to make sure. Some discussion of this but ultimately it comes down to assigned workload. Half time or more faculty are eligible to be surveyed. Niichel suggests putting this issue on the agenda for next time. Two parts to the report: quantitate (1-5 scale) and a comment section. Comments will only go to select stakeholders. Data from quantitative results will go out to all involved (President, Faculty Senate, BOG, and Faculty). Timing is purposeful to get it collected before spring break and to have the data available by the April Senate meeting.

10. Open Forum:

- A) MacLennan reminds about March 24-28 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting/Conference. Link coming to chairs for sharing soon.
- B) Hemler reminds they are looking for judges for robotics convention or volunteers.
- C) COS Selmesksi adds shoutout to Dr. Amy Hudson who is working to quantify the economic impact of FSU to the region.

Call to adjourn at 4:03.