

Fairmont State Faculty Senate

Minutes, 3.11.25

Members Present: **Bob Niichel** (Executive Committee: President, Computer Science & Math), **Dexter Simon** (SGA), **Jenna Fisher** (SGA), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **J.L. Tomlin** (Social Sciences/Ex. Committee, Secretary), **James Long** (Math/CS), **Nathan Myers** (Humanities), **April Townshend** (Nat Sci), **Jim Matthews** (Academic Affairs), **Todd Clark** (ACF), **Chris Moss** (Social Sciences), **Derek Nuzum** (Library), **Gina Fantasia** (BOG), **Candice Moench** (SOEHHP), **Lisa Eades** (ASN), **Kristi Kiefer** (HHP/SOE), **Donna Long** (Humanities, VP), **Ray Alvarez** (COBA), **Barb MacLennan** (BehScie), **Kaden Statler** (ET), **Deb Hemler** (Academic Affairs)

Guests: **Susan Ross** (Interim Provost), **Brian Selmeski** (President's Office), **Mike Davis** (President), **Valerie Morphew** (CTLI)

1.-3. Slight change to agenda. Jason Frazer not present. Treasury report will be provided next meeting. Additions or corrections to agenda? None named. Minutes from 2/11. Any additions or corrections requested? None. No objections to approval.

4. Address of President Davis: Day at the Capitol update. Projected date for next year/events being planned by Dr. Selmeski. Day of Giving. FSU surpassed its goal of \$700k. Lots of money given to academic scholarships. Goal for next year is to grow that even more. Engaged in provost search. Zoom interview phase going on today and tomorrow. Compensation study is ongoing. Board approved 3% raises for everyone and additional 1% to be given for inversions/corrections, etc. This is a start only. Next step is to achieve median for WV schools, and then national schools of our size. Adjustments in tuition and fees may be necessary down the road, but this remains to be seen. President is going to start a lunch with faculty program to get to better know those faculty he doesn't yet. Current Budget resolution at federal level strips away some funding (aviation, middle college, campus safety), but perception that this will ultimately be restored. WV legislature higher ed had lots of bills entered this week. Some are very favorable for FSU. Some were not as supportive (voting memberships for faculty, staff, and students to the BOG being removed, for instance). Question from Niichel about what level of support that bill had? President thinks parts of the bill have enough support to move forward. Others don't. Selmeski adds that these issues are separated across multiple bills. These bills are in subcommittees, not the general legislature or even committee level yet. Selmeski adds details about bill that seeks to dismantle "DEI". This began a 30 day review of a broad spectrum of things that might qualify as DEI by FSU. HEPC held back their report, which allowed for important exceptions to be added to the bill. Some broad confusion about how the state/legislature/members are defining and intend to implement many of the elements being discussed. FSU's approach is "no anticipatory compliance". Considerable doubt about what the final draft passed will say. We will continue to try and communicate effectively with student/faculty/staff/parents as and when we know more details. Questions for the President or C.O.S. Long asks about funding for aviation/middle

college. Is this gone or paused? If speaker gets his way, that funding will go away. Long asks if this funding is under attack from the DOGE group of Trump admin? President says probably, but federal funds are much harder to cut without act of Congress. Long asks about student organizations being allowed to run programming, but programs themselves are exempt. Selmeski says this is interesting question since the Federal govt doesn't have a consistent approach to heritage months. State gov't seems to waffle back and forth on the issue. Essentially, more controversial events may be communicated more quietly. FSU is simply trying to proceed as cautiously as possible. Long asks if there are any programs or events that are not exempted and will be cut/banned? Selmeski explains this is full of gray areas and remains to be seen. Courts seem to be checking some of the most extreme efforts in that direction.

5. Old Business: Email before senate had revised curriculum proposals (see agenda). Motion to approve these for second reading. MacLennan motions, Moss seconds. Long asks about Middle College. Matthews answers that 1) students that fail math, will they be kicked out? MC students don't fit neatly into the existing rigid structure. So they will not be kicked out based on that standard. Progress will be examined rather than scores alone. 2) Rather than specify that what courses are done which semester, flexibility is needed as we figure out how regularly new cohorts are added. Motion to approve proposals for second reading. Approved by voice vote. Matthews added that registrar does not directly receive notification of what is approved by Senate. She has requested notification as curriculum proposals are approved.

6. New Business Major/Minor. Motion to approve last week's proposals for first reading, Motions by MacLennan and seconded by Hemler. Questions or discussion on the proposals. None. Proposals approved by voice vote.

7. Provost Report: Susan Ross. Update on Career Fair. 171 employers coming. 20 something student registrations. Hope for 100+ walk-ins. Please encourage students to sign up. Faculty award (Thursday April 17) day. Several Academic Affairs events are upcoming. Update on coursedog platform. CTLI has developed a comprehensive website for faculty including explanation, rollout plan, timeline, contact information for support, and scheduling information for the CLOUD system attached to Coursedog. Communications will be ongoing. April 1 information session for faculty and staff. Bring any questions or concerns. This will focus on course scheduling. The last week of March will see an academic leadership meeting that will also be going over Coursedog. Question from Clark: How many federal agencies and employers will be at the career fair. Ross not sure but will forward that information. Morphey adds that there will be a virtual option for that meeting. Ross moves on to curriculum updates. Thanks to Stephanie Jones for work on this. Minor course changes still possible until end of March for Fall. Program review notifications went out in January for programs in COLA and ED. Sessions with departments and faculty are coordinated through CTLI. One question that came up recently was faculty credentialing and qualifications. No specific process outlined for that, but some guided process called for. There are some qualifications and conditions we need to be compliant with. To be worked out between those departments/programs and the Provost's office before it goes to Senate. Question from Niichel about Senate need to approve curriculum changes. Clark adds that Provost is chair of Faculty Handbook Committee. Finally, academic calendar. Fall break holiday is subject to change pending other university events. Other two possible dates for homecoming were 25th (coincided with WVU) or Sep. 20 which was too early. Alternative date proposed was

10/3 or 10/17. Ross asks for advice from Senate on final date. Moench suggests the earlier date would be better. Fantasia agrees but says after midterms might be better to give students a break between exams and events. Long asks when classes start in the fall. (August 18). Request for straw poll for date suggested 10/17 as that date. Niichel adds that on scheduling committee they have drafted some general rules for creating a schedule. Ross adds that Morpheus is doing much of the work on BB ultra rollout. Scheduled to be completed by fall 2025. On track to be done on time. March 14 deadline is for the the last cohort to make it through the training. 39 faculty have completed training in the most recent QM training edition.(this 7th version is very different) On coursedog, more will be discussed at April meeting, but kickoff is in 2 weeks. 15 faculty have completed high flex course training. Final phase of high flex course training will be this summer (stipend received in fall). Two additional high flex classrooms coming this year. Feedback from some members who have completed it. Selmeski adds that despite funding confusion, courts are looking unfavorably at changes to title 3 grants that are currently funded. Townshend asks about uncertainty about proposal process at departmental level. Niichel reminds about the request to outline and determine some of the processes at the senate level, at least partially.

8. Reports:

ACF Clark: 78 proposed pieces of legislation, ACF has prioritized seven. Bills ending DEI programs, allowing 18-21 year olds to conceal carry, among others, abolishing PEIA and subsidized healthcare for state employees, are being followed closely by the ACF in real time as developments occur. Most concerning immediately is a single bill that strikes at shared governance (mentioned by the President and Dr. Selmeski earlier).

BOG Fantasia: These changes would leave staff, faculty, and student as advisors, but not voting members to BOG. BOG understands role of institutional reps, and the difference between advisory roles and board roles. Unclear what traction this initiative will get. Question from Niichel about where WVU and Marshall boards stand on these changes. Broad, if quiet, opposition. BOG met in February. Approval for raises raised and broad agreement with consultant conclusions. Finally, BOG special meeting was effort to amend date in President's contract to allow for review before renewal. Paul Reneau and Presidential survey was/will be used to inform those decisions. Question from Long for President Davis about when 3% raises go into effect. July 1.

SGA (Jenna/Dexter): Big event coming up for SGA (goodbye event for graduating students) from May 6 from 5-730 on quad. Also working on community service project. Next meeting should have more on engagement and elections.

9. Miscellaneous: Nuzum from Staff Council. Council met on 2/25. Falcon mini grants open now. Budget is relatively balanced. Budget templates distributed and more information coming later in spring. New process for students to apply to be speakers at graduation to be chosen by panel of faculty and staff. Safe college trainings due March 14. New staff were introduced. Election for new SC chair coming. Question about whether graduate students have a process to be considered for graduating speakers.

Report from Eades about Webmaster developments. New system to allow people to submit updates for the webpages to Eades. This will allow for easier integration and changes to be made. Less onerous for Eades as well. Also, senate page didn't include executive committee on main hub but visible at bottom of page. With new change this can be brought to Eades much easier.

Niichel reminds about bylaws revisions coming. Committee on Committees got information out to department chairs for elections, voluntary appointments, etc. Need to form a nominating committee in April to select next slate of officers for next year. Question about inter-department visibility on open spots for each department to fill. Elections for ACF and BOG reps also happen this year. Update on search for most recent faculty constitution. Effort ongoing to find something more recent than 2012-13. If not, possible petition to the president to allow a new one drafted. Alvarez adds that this issue has created problems with subcommittees trying to get specific instructions/procedures for some of the processes committees engaged with. Finally, GALA a success.

10. Open Forum:

Long recognizes Eades, Tomlin, Laferre, Frazer, Chapman, and MacLennan for work on GALA.

Alvarez suggests COBA at disadvantage on some scholarships where relevant information not included on the application. Fantasia agrees that scholarship process is “broken”.

MacLennan reminds about Geospatial training money/scholarship to advertise to students.

Nuzum adds AI literacy instruction is available through him for students.

Adjourned: 4:43