

# Fairmont State Faculty Senate

Minutes, 4.22.35

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), **Kristi Kiefer** (HHP/SOE), **Donna Long** (Humanities, VP), **Ray Alvarez** (COBA), **Barb MacLennan** (BehScie), **Deb Hemler** (Academic Affairs), **Kelley Flaherty** (Nat Sci), **Tabitha Lafferre** (ET), **Jason Bolyard** (ET), **Jason Frazer** (COBA)

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

**1.-3.** Meeting started at 3:01. Additions or corrections to agenda. None raised. Additions or corrections to March 11 minutes. None raised. Minutes approved.

**4.** Address from President Davis: Dr. Gwinn has begun her position. Next week two presidential speaker events (same speaker) April 30 magic show in gym 1. Open to the public. May 1 in Falcon center conference rooms he will be hosting fireside chats. Commencement is May 17. Two speakers (Chad Riley and Robert Baker). Provost offer sent out (candidate recommended by Ex Comm). Compensation dispersements to begin by end of semester. Funding formula will remain intact for higher education after Legislature session ended. This was key to Fairmont state's formula. Two bills failed in the legislature (mandatory fafsa application and vaccination submission). Legislation did pass to define gender status (could affect restroom signage), to require transfer credits across state institutions. This will require some summer work to meet the imposed deadline. Legislation to remove voting rights from students, faculty, and staff representatives on BOG passed. Bright spot was vocal local opposition, but passed nonetheless. Goal to meet students in every county of the state still under way for president. Bill passed to eliminate DEI, but with many carveouts/exceptions for higher ed. Effects of this are still being studied. Governor's executive order as worded would go further, but has not been signed. (Must be before Friday to become law). Question from Long about DEI policies and how it might affect international students. President not worried as much about state policy as federal policy, as this is much more impactful for international students. Question from SGA(Dexter) about automatic transfer credits. President explains that certain categories of courses will have to count, but not all. President also reminds that we already have transfer agreements in place with many state colleges.

**5. Old Business: Curriculum Proposals** from last month. Call for motions to accept for second reading from Fantasia. Seconded by Frazer. Long raises issue that curriculum proposals did not have numbers on them, making identifying details difficult. PDF formatting issue, apparently. Fantasia agrees numbers would make them more clear. Approved by voice vote.

**6. New Business Major/Minor.**

**Major Items:** (a) New curriculum proposals from Curriculum Committee. Long moves to put the proposals under review for first reading. Long asks about AIMS proposals, specifically about scheduling for these courses. Catalog description does not specify that these are AIMS courses, either. This could be confusing. Finally, one of the outcomes mentioned developing relationships with other students but this is not facilitated by the syllabus as written. Proposals on agenda approved for first reading by voice vote.

(b) Bylaw revisions. Motion to approve these for first reading by Flaherty. Seconded by MacLennan. Alvarez explains about the changes made to the language concerning harassment. Niichel points out another change was made to the wording on committee service (some committees allowed chairs to serve on the committee. Changed so elected committees can no longer include chairs unless they are interim.) Question from Townshend about one of the rules changes for Personnel committee. Niichel explains that different committees have different timing for elections and this was covered in the committee on committees email to all departments/chairs. Approved for first reading by voice vote.

(c) Committee Procedures Document. Call for discussion or approval for first reading. Long moves to put it forward for first reading. MacLennan seconds. Alvarez asks if this is the section labeled procedures. It is. Call for accepting committee procedures document with suggested changes. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Minor Items:** (a) Program review council senate reps needed. One current representative and we need two more. Long explains the purpose and history of the council. Program review has become more inclusive and friendly process due to the council's efforts. Council meets once per month. Service on the council gives great insight into the work happening in different programs/departments on campus. Fantasia voices support for the council. 8 programs are up for review in the fall. Ross voices the importance of the council and review process. Extended discussion of minutia regarding past experiences on the council. Long volunteers, as does Moench. Slate of nominees put forward for discussion. Motion to accept slate by acclamation from Fantasia. Accepted by voice vote.

(b) Nominating Committee. Five members elected by Senate, to nominate officers for next year. Clark asks if this covers ACF rep. It does not. Long volunteers to serve as chair. Townshend volunteers. MacLennan, Lafferre, and Frazer also volunteer. Fantasia moves to close nominations and accept slate by acclamation. Seconded. Motion passed to approve committee with those nominees by voice vote.

(c) Presidential Perception Survey Results. Call for motion to receive the results. Moved by Long, seconded by MacLennan. Results received by voice vote.

7. Provost Report: Susan Ross (interim). New B.a. in outdoor leadership and new M.a. in environmental science launching for the fall. May 21 is professional development day for faculty. Ross encourages faculty to propose sessions for development they feel is useful. Part of development day will also involve opportunities for help with taskstream. Thanks to Dean Matthews for his help developing dual enrollment programming. May 23 is dual enrollment day welcoming high school partners on campus. Four programs just went through comprehensive review and are up for vote at the BOG tomorrow (April 23). Finally, some updates on assessment transition. Ross asks Morpheus to update on the lunch and learn. It was recorded for those who missed it. This is available on the CTLI webpage. Assessment must be in taskstream by May 23 because taskstream is being pulled down. Coursedog rollout support also will be available for professional development day. CTLI updates including BB ultra rollout is coming to a close (all faculty on this version by fall of 25). Coursedog is in “data validation” stage; proceeding as planned.

#### 8. Reports:

(a) ACF/Clark: Thanks to President Davis and his office for their communications with ACF/ Senate on policies and bills being considered. 18 bills that the ACF actively followed this session. Of those 18, four passed. These are the budget bill, course transfer bill, end to DEI bill, and BOG voting bill. Explanation of those bills that failed to pass both house and senate or where tabled. Final meeting for ACF for the current session is Friday (might not be the final meeting if necessary to meet again before fall.). Attention brought to article in newspaper about senate voting on the BOG bill, with favorable mention from senator Oliverio. No explanation for the justification from the bill’s sponsors, but ACF is continuing to press their offices for further clarification/justification. Potential for a restoration of those voting rights on BOG next year given the feedback from certain stakeholders. ACF rep position is open for next year as Clark’s two year term ends this semester. President Davis follows up that representatives still included on those sessions even without voting rights/ although this is unclear with current wording. Applause from the senate to thank Clark for his service on the ACF. Nichel adds that there are currently two candidates running for the position. To be made public in two weeks.

(b) BOG/Fantasia: BOG local representatives were fierce advocates for faculty, students, and staff to retain their voting rights. Every expectation that the governor will sign the bill as worded. Fantasia unsure if she will continue to be eligible for service on BOG as the bill is currently worded. Clarification being sought for this. President Davis says guidance is vague before it goes into law. BOG will meet again tomorrow. Committees met last week. Academic Affairs activity is probably the most pressing business before the BOG tomorrow.

(c) SGA/Simon/Fisher: (Simon)SGA elections have been held and new candidates elected. Club funding will come available the first day of the fall semester. (Fisher) SGA still organizing community service projects, including YeeHaw activity on May 6 on the Quad.

(d) Staff Council: Last meeting on March 27. 260 staff members (31% response rate) submitted survey on staff activities. Falcon Mini grants were due March 31. New director of student enrollment, tech, and operations (Emily Seggie). Kelly Pursely sent out new details about open enrollment period for PEIA. Staff Council scholarships are due by Thursday. Some extended

discussion of excessive student athlete absences. Clark explains some of the NCAA rules for playing games may relate to this issue.

(e) Treasury: Spring Gala spent just over \$1k in Aladdin credits and earned just over \$1k in actual money. That money is being held by the Fairmont State Foundation. Discussion of possible moving of those funds to a money market account to preserve earned value. Need to spend it in the fall for scholarships and faculty travel. Thanks to Jason again for the Gala.

**9.** Miscellaneous: Next senate meeting May 13 at Shaw House.

**10.** Open Forum: Townshend asks for budget for common book committee. Also interest in having a student rep on that committee.

Adjourned at 4:33