

# Fairmont State Faculty Senate

Minutes, 5/13/25

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), **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), **Melissa Eades** (Nursing),

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

**1.-3.** Meeting called to order at 3:00. Explanation of location change due to weather. Calls for corrections or changes to agenda. None raised. Call for corrections or changes to minutes. Some corrections for both Senator Longs. Second note on minutes. Need to add numbers to senate minutes. 24-25, 13, 14, 16, 22, 23, 24 to be added to curriculum minutes. Objections to approving minutes. Minutes approved.

**4.** Address from President Davis: This morning the BOG voted to approve auto renewal of President Davis's contract. Excitement about long term plan to move university forward. Commencement is this weekend. (10am ceremony, and 3 pm ceremony). Provost position offered to and accepted by Alan Bedford. He will start June 2. IT upgrades taking place this summer. Process will likely continue over the next 3-4 years to meet existing needs. Fall 25 recruitment is up 7% on first time freshman registration. Up 28% in transfers and readmissions. Grad students admission up over 30%. Undergrad retention is up 7% and grad retention is up 18%. Finance/Admin has been working with campus works to look at our procedures. 35 new items will enhance efficiency in purchasing processes. This will roll out over next 18 months. Question from Townsend about committee related to transfer course law recently passed. This will have to be formed over the summer. Those faculty who participate will be compensated. Question for clarification from Moench about retention rate increases. Question from Niichel about student sports teams excessive commitments required for students. President Davis says they will continue to look at this, navigating around NCAA rules. Comment from Clark about need for consistency with student excused absence emails from the administration. Comment from D. Long about the problem with timely reporting of these institutional absences.

## 5. Old Business:

Curriculum Proposals: These are raised to go on to second reading (24-25-15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25). Motion by D. Long to approve. Seconded by Fantasia. Proposals approved by voice vote for second reading.

Bylaw revisions: Motion to approve from D. Long. Seconded by Flaherty. D. Long points out issue with current revision on need for change in article 3 section 3 on term periods. Article 4, Sec 5 calls for excessive reporting from treasurer. Frazer expresses flexibility on these reporting guidelines. Eades suggests small balances work fine with current process, but as funds grow reporting needs may change. D. Long agrees with Niichel that these changes can be taken up in the fall. Discussion of “loophole” language update on personnel clause. MacLennan mentions article 2 (membership) asking if this reflects legislature changes recently made. Niichel says probably not since the process began before those recent changes. Discussion about how to make this minor change. To be taken up in the fall. D. Long mentions article 8, section 7 on Library committee. Makes sense for provost to serve ex officio on the library committee since it’s an academic unit. That representation might help the library with their own issues. To be taken up in the fall. Article 9, animal care and use. Many errors. Institutional review board also mentions animals, and question if this is redundant. To be taken up in the fall. Bylaw revisions approved for second reading by voice vote.

Committee procedures document: D. Long moves to approve for second reading. Fantasia seconds. D. Long asks about missing components. Niichel says not all units have reported. Some committees are not included, and probably should be. Motion to approve document for second reading approved by voice vote.

## 6. New Business Major:

Approval of Committees List for 25-26 (first reading). Motion to approve for first reading by Fantasia. Seconded by Frazer. Senate List updates needed (social sciences, aviation, etc). Eades needs update on Nursing BSN to “vacant” for Toland. Also BSN elected committee list needs updating to vacant as well. Nuzum adds general studies for the Library is also vacant. Call for Volunteer committee corrections. Natural Sciences animal care and use committee needs both positions updated. Moss asks about Campus Carry Committee. Not officially a senate committee. Faculty Welfare in voluntary committees needs updating as well. Several incorrect listings. Nursing ASN needs Toland taken off of Athletics committee. Student publications Toland can be removed as well. Fantasia asks about COBA representatives being missing. ET also has multiple missing reps as well. Humanities needs Amy Richards added to IRB, Robert Powers to Common Book. Nuzum needs Technology updated to reflect Chiba’s retirement. List approved for first reading by voice vote.

Officer Slate 25-26: Niichel (president), MacLennan(VP), Tomlin (secretary), Eades(webmaster), Frazer (treasurer), Hokum and Townsend (at large). Moved to approve by Hemler. Seconded by Matthews. No discussion, slate put to vote and passed by voice vote.

Receive Committee Reports: Motion to receive by MacLennan. Seconded by D. Long. Townsend asks if this included all committees? Niichel says no. D. Long adds most are there,

and reflect good work. Question from Niichel if anything missing should be included in future reports. MacLennan adds appreciation for the details included.

7. Provost Report: Susan Ross (interim): Faculty Award and Celebration page is up (Academic Affairs main webpage) to celebrate faculty and their accomplishments. Another item of note is the Blackboard roles/permissions. Morpew will report on this. Morpew adds that there were two groups (dual enrollment) and (nursing?). IT and CTLI collaborated to create a workflow for assigning these roles and permissions. Now there will be a help process to add people to the courses and this will cut down on issues with errant permissions. For dissemination purposes, Paul will figure out where best to house this initiative. It might be initially on both websites (IT and CTLI). Ross adds she's looking forward to the new Provost's arrival. Thanks from Niichel on behalf of faculty for Ross's interim service.

#### 8. Reports:

- (a) ACF/Clark: Some discussion on ACF of likely special legislative session with agenda item of PEIA as basis of concern. Majority of committee thinks this will be a talking session but not necessarily result in new policy. Governor has requested fact finding on this issue. Niichel expresses thanks for Clark's service on ACF.
- (b) BOG/Fantasia: BOG met on April 23. Accepted recommendation from PRC and approved request from History Department to discontinue BS in History. Two strategic plans will be approved by June. Additional meeting 5/13 (already discussed in President's address). Thanks to Fantasia expressed from Niichel for service in Senate.
- (c) SGA/Simon/Fisher: Update on Yeehaw See Ya'll event. Update on SGA elections and new representatives to Senate to come in the fall.
- (d) Staff Council/Nuzum: Council met on April 27th. New term elections for council. Commencement volunteers still needed. Student Affairs strategic plan available by the 30th. Student housing near capacity for the fall. BOG approved funding for renovation of facilities in the fall. Council allows for anonymous comments or questions. D. Long noted that at orientations that students are directed to park at the garage and the problem with the elevator is a problem for them.

#### 9. Miscellaneous:

Bookstore: Two finalists for the proposal. Question from Moench about student access over the summer. COS says this is being worked on for a potential solution right now. Eades asks if faculty should direct students to purchase summer books elsewhere? President Davis says we are not bound by those rules since the contract with Follet is over. E campus Bid was nice, and included good resources. Communication forthcoming to the university about this issue tomorrow (May 14).

#### 10. Open Forum:

Hemler asks about Academic Affairs Faculty Senate webpage, which has several errors. Eades points out how to make changes on the senate page through the callout button at the bottom of the page. Eades says directions for corrections are coming. Townsend asks

when action items on committee reports will be discussed. Probably in the fall. D. Long says typically these are flagged in the minutes for that meeting. Nuzum and MacLennan bring up initiatives at the Library. Faculty Welfare Survey mentioned as helpful as well. Frazer mentions about Bree Dibacco to address Senate in the Fall. Instruction of appreciation note from Dr. Hokum for D. Long's service (Included as bloc quote below). Introduction of Ex Comm's resolution to introduce the Donna J. Long Award in recognition of Donna's service (sent out to Senate as separate document). Call for motion to approve this resolution. Approved by voice vote. Presentation of the framed resolution to D. Long. Comment of appreciation from D. Long. Comment from President Davis about plan to have this award included with others displayed in Hardway Hall.

"I'm writing to suggest that the Senate formally recognize and thank Donna for her many, many years of extraordinary service. For those of you who might not know, Donna has been a senator for almost 20 years. In my estimation, during that time, she has been the most important member of the Senate. Her intelligence, courage, knowledge, and work ethic as a senator are without rival. Whether they know it or not, every member of this institution is in her debt and I believe the Senate would do well to acknowledge what she has done for Fairmont State in her time as a Senator."