

Fairmont State Faculty Senate

Minutes,

1/13/2026

Notes compiled by Barb MacLennan with shared notes from Derek Nuzum (thanks for your patience)

Present: Melissa Eades (Nursing ASN), Troy Snider (Humanities), Kylie Ford (Arch., Art, & Design), Jason Bolyard (Tech), Derek Nuzum (Library), Jason Frazer (COBA), Joe Ferguson (COBA Aviation), Allyssa Schwartz (Humanities), Paul Reneau (CoEHHP), Rebecca Cepek (Humanities/ACF), James Long (Computer Science), Stephanie Jones (CSM), Angela Schwer (BOG), Candance Moench (Education), April Townsend (NS), Ganga Sharma (NS), Tabitha Lafferre (ET), Barb MacLennan (Behavioral Science)

Guests: Dr. Davis (President), Dr. Selmenski (Chief of Staff), Dr. Bedford (Provost/Academic Affairs), Tim Oxley (Academic Affairs), Jim Matthews (Academic Affairs), Deb Hemler (Academic Affairs), Rachel Cook (Biology, Guest), Janie Leary (CHEP, COLA),

Address of President: Mike Davis:

- Recapping announcements from Welcome Back Breakfast.
- Welcome Home Program: The initiative will start with students with 110 completed credits or higher who left without finishing a degree.
- Proposed to WV HEPC request for 12 weeks of paid parental leave.
 - Question about leave: This is what is in WV state code and is justification for the request. More than other universities but in line with code.
- Day at the Capitol is Friday, Jan 23. Catering to be provided by Panera.

Provost: Dr. Bedford: Presentation by GrayDI representatives (Steve Probst, Travis Johnson). This platform is being proposed because current reports typically take more than 3 months for each request and this is an analytics platform used by many universities to shorten that time while providing more of a dashboard of analysis to use. Price is not based on the number of seats.

GrayDI <https://www.graydi.us/> is a comprehensive analytics platform designed for academic decision-making provides software, data, and support from a consistently updated repository. Has data for every higher edu school in the country to use as metric, and access to data of where students are coming from, demographics, etc. that

aren't available elsewhere. The platform can work with internal institutional data like enrollment, costs, etc. And provide external market data for student demand, jobs, wages, competitor programs at a regional or national level. An example of what it can provide a program scorecard for student demand and context for programs and departments, identify programs and courses that would be needed or fill in gaps but use existing courses. Can provide actual career outcomes data and not just hypothetical. Data in program shows graduation rates by program (online, in person, etc.)

Call to order and roll call

Approval for December 9, 2025 minutes (Paul Reneau)

December 9, 2025 minutes approved

Old Business: None

New Business:

Major Items-

Item 1: Curriculum proposals

Paul Reneau motions curriculum proposals be approved as one unit (second

Question (April Townshend) Is the change to Public Health name for consistency only or something more. Reply: (Janie Leary) Yes for consistency. Motion carries for 1st reading.

Minor Items

Item 1: Notification of results from the faculty senate chair survey. Handout with 2 options for review to select one to be sent to Provost Dr. Bedford.

Senate Executive Committee met to go over data submitted. Many departments used survey created by Tabitha Lafferre – thank you!

Results: Many faculty were in support of defined terms but not in support of term limits for chairs. There were questions of how to continuity. Both options considered but slight preference for Option 1 handout.

Motion (Barb MacLennan) to adopt Option 1.

(Tabitha Lafferre) Question what happens for example if term ends but before accreditation process time is done?

(Dr. Bedford) To clarify chair role is important for a healthy functioning university. The chair position makes or breaks a university success. The faculty that support their unit are the most impacted if have confusion over chair role. In response to Tabitha, we have to be sensitive to accreditation review. So not interested in creating a thoughtless machine but creating a base case and can act off of it.

(Bob Niichel) How involved are faculty in asking questions laid out here.

(Dr. Bedford) I'd like to talk to deans and put together feedback from deans, send to faculty senate, and go back and forth. Shared governance and that is crucial for faculty senate to have a hand in the process.

(Bob Niichel) All in favor of adopting Option 1. Motion carries.

Item 2:

Search Committee Positions

Faculty Senate nominee for CFO, COBA Dean, College of Nursing Dean, Library Director. All to be posted by end of this month (January) and searching by March.

Call for CFO search committee at Faculty Senate. Dr. Bob Niichel volunteered.

All three other positions: need 1-5 total volunteers. Library Director really requires Faculty Senate engagement and the Library Committee involvement (Requires 2)

Dr. Bedford will fill out search committee for Dean searches and Faculty Senate will need to recommend these faculty. Reps on search committees for deans will be from outside of the respective colleges. COBA Dean (1 or 2) Nursing (1 or 2) Library Director (2 including Library Committee)

Volunteers so far (from meeting):

- Nursing Dean - Dr. Janie Leary
- COBA Dean - Dr. Barb MacLennan
- Library Director - Dr. Troy Snyder & Dr. Candice Moench

All nominations approved.

Provost (Dr. Bedford):

Upcoming release of multi-page report of the 5 focus areas based on goals outlined in strategic vision and summarized by Dr. Bedford for clarity that were generated in Dec. 18 workshop for Academic Affairs Implementation Plan. The first four pages summarize the five (5) areas and the ask, the results from workshop, appendix includes strategic vision. A

Action: Faculty Senate will provide an independent read of the report. Dr. Bob Niichel will send out a survey with the text in it that allows us to respond. General category for comments on any element in the survey to be included.

Dr. Bedford is looking for a rapid form of feedback. If we were to adopt these focus areas, have we missed something critical? Is there any element in these areas that does not fit the responsibility of academic affairs? Do not get embedded in the wording, that is the context/category, not the objective itself.

ACF no report, more information in the next Senate meeting.

BoG

Met Dec 18, highlights: Fiscal Year 26 audit was approved, tuition and fee proposal approved, policy dealing with identifying as an individual or speaking for the institution approved, language to match what we are doing with tuition and fees, Dr. Guinn implementation plan was approved. Next regular meeting Feb. 25

Staff Council

Derek Nuzum gave report on Staff Council meeting from 12/10/2025

Dr. Paul Reneau

Survey will work similar to previous years. Will come from Paul or Dr. Savage. Prior to release, Faculty Senate Chair will inform everyone that it will be released. Qualtrics emails cannot receive responses, so contact Paul for questions. Survey closes March 4, results gets presented in April Faculty Senate meeting. Results and comments go to Executive Committee, President, and BoG rep.

Jason Frazer

Senate Gala – April 11 from 7 to 11, faculty, staff, all are welcome to attend.

Open Forum

Derek Nuzum reminds all faculty to take the Library's Faculty Needs Survey, closes Feb. 2

Next Faculty Senate meeting is February 10.