

Fairmont State Faculty Senate

Minutes, 10/14/25

Members Present: **J. Tomlin** (Soc. Sci, ExCom), **Jason Frazer** (COBA, ExCom), **Bob Niichel** (CompSci, ExCom), **Troy Snyder** (Humanities), **Paul Reneau** (HHP), **Barb MacLennan** (BeSci), **Deb Hemler** (AcAffairs), **Kate Grant** (SGA), **Derek Nuzum** (Library), **Kylie Ford** (AAD), **Joe Ferguson** (Aviation), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **Malisa Eades** (ASN, ExCom), **Candice Moench** (Education), **Ganga Sharma** (NatSci), **Gina Fantasia** (COBA), **April Townshend** (NatSci, ExCom), **Rebecca Cepek** (ACF), **Angela Schwer** (BOG Rep), **Jim Matthews** (AcAffairs), **Tim Oxley** (AcAffairs), **James Long** (Math/CS),

Guests: **Amy Snively** (Alumni/United Way), **Casey Gilbert** (United Way), George Wolf (Enrollment), **Allen Bedford** (Provost), **Mike Davis** (President), **Greg Bamberger** (Athletics), **Tanner James** (Legal), **Jeff Hindal** (Faculty Welfare)

1.-3. Order, Agenda, Minutes: Call to order at 3:01. Call for objections or additions to agenda. Approved without objection. Call for approval of September minutes. Approved without objection.

4. Address of President: President Davis updated senate on compensation classification study. Final stages and full recommendations from Evergreen have been submitted. Recommendation is higher than monies currently set aside. Goal is to do this the following year as well. College Tours show is on campus (Amazon prime). They are interviewing 12 students and have an interview with President Davis. Soar store grand opening is Oct. 22 at noon. 6k in sales on Saturday. Tuition setting and fees/room board will be done in December (still ahead of peer institutions). Open to questions. None.

5. Susan Rodriguez (United Way): Casey Gilbert presenting as proxy for Susan Rodriguez (Community director at United Way). Goal is to provide an overview of what they do and how it affects Fairmont State and the Fairmont Community. Goal of 30k in support this year. FSU is second highest earning campaign behind WVU. 211 is a direct information referral line to the United Way that can assist with food, utility assistance, transportation, etc. for students in need. They also provide income tax filing assistance for free (70k income cap).

6. Old Business: None.

7. New Business:

a) Admissions and Credits Policy Change (Included in email with agenda). This will require two readings unless stipulated for exception. Matthews moves for first reading. Reneau seconds. Approved for first reading by voice vote. Motion to waive delay for second reading

from Reneau. Seconded by Matthews. Question from Fantasia regarding need to waive second reading requirement. Motion passes with some opposition. Proposal approved for second reading by voice vote.

8. Provost: Report from Dr. Bedford. Faculty senate review for provost position. What are key elements faculty are looking for in associate provost position? FSU has never had a full time person in this role before. Essentially a new position. Position description must be shortened for posting online, but Dr. Bedford wishes to hear from faculty what their priorities are in this position. Oct 20 deadline to get faculty feedback on this. Goal is to post position by end of October. Survey coming out soon at request of faculty senate on feedback and evaluations for Chairs, Deans, and Provosts. Survey will be circulated before the end of the current week. One survey for Chair, one survey for Dean, and one for Provost. These will look at last year performance. Details are provided with survey request. Departments with new Chairs this year will be asked for goals to inform the new Chair of their department. As mentioned at last meeting, Library Director, Nursing Dean, Coda Dean positions will also begin search process by the end of semester and into the spring. Current review of chair and dean position descriptions. Making allowance for unit idiosyncrasies, looking especially for commonalities to update that wording. Followup on data needs for five year program reviews. Provosts' office has not provided this information in a timely manner, and Dr. Bedford apologizes for this. He is eager to here those concerns and review how we source that data to make it's collection and dispensing more efficient and timely moving forward. ALT meeting on Thursday will examine section size patterns over the last ten years. Concern about running too many small course sections which pushes up costs per credit while pushing down revenue per credit hour. Question from Tomlin about a target number for this ratio. Dr. Before lists 20.4 students per section ratio as current goal based on past data, but this number may change as more information is gathered in the review process. EAB workshop on budgeting this Friday the 17th. Non teaching day, but free food is provided to encourage participation. Faculty encouraged to participate beginning at 9am in the falcon center.

9. Reports:

a) VP Update: Greg Bamberger, Director of Athletics. Presentation on communications and strategies adopted by Athletics with student athletes. GPA averages show student athletes generally perform better than general student body, due to coaches and support staff that guide their progress and provide oversight. Graduation rates (federal rate) only considers graduation rates for traditional athletes. Academic success rate considers all athletes regardless of status and/or other exceptions provided by federal rate. 80% of FSU student athletes graduated within six years. (Overall rate across sports). FSU Conference Commissioners Standings are the best ever score for the last year, and second overall in our conference (Mountain East Conference). Any issues with student athletes can be addressed directly with Director Bamberger at gregory.bamberger@fairmontstate.edu. Question from Hemler about complaints for golf team absences. Director Bamberger says this is due to short season for

Golf, need to play a certain number of games to receive funding, and need to play on weekdays. Championships also add to this load. Fantasia points out that this is a reality that disadvantages those students, regardless of the reason behind these absences. Another question from Hemler about professional events that students also can't attend due to sports. Are absences from events the appropriate resolution if those demands can't be reconciled. Potentially yes. Question from Townshend about optional events for student athletes. Director Bamberger says this also comes up when scheduling classes. Athletes are never directed not to take classes at certain times. They are asked to "try" not to do so if possible. Question from Niichel about NCAA rule for required game numbers. Is there any discussion about how many games are reasonable for students per semester? Director Bamberger says unsure how to answer this. Students are made aware of expectations for their team in advance. Nuzum expresses appreciation about student athletes who use the Library and LEAD center.

- b) ACF:** Rebecca Cepek, ACF Rep. Council has not met yet. First meeting coming up in November, addressing academic freedom and the loss of faculty voices on BOG. Some concern about new transfer agreements and Gen Ed requirements. Now the higher ed compact from the Trump administration is a more and more pressing concern. Any faculty with concerns about this compact and its impact on FSU can be directed to Dr. Cepek. Interim sessions of legislature have not yet offered any details on this.
- c) BOG:** Angela Schwer, BOG Rep. BOG will meet next Wednesday. No official meeting yet since last faculty senate meeting. Schwer will provide BOG agenda a couple of days before that meeting (Oct. 22).
- d) SGA:** Kate Grant/Donovan McDonald, SGA Rep. Homecoming wrapped up as huge success. Dance had a decent turnout. Xmas with a falcon event coming up. Question from MacLennan about which schools have reached out. More on this coming from SGA.
- e) Staff Council:** Derek Nuzum, Staff Council Liaison. Met on Sept. 24th. No staff council meeting in November. Staff Council will be participating in Trunk or Treat. 500 people attended the student concert. Housing and Res life is still searching for a director. Meeting with Aladdin to request healthier food options. Next Staff Council meeting scheduled for Oct. 29th.

10. Miscellaneous:

- a) Dr. Rosemarie Igbo, International Student Support. Not present.
- b) Department Chairs and Committees Discussion. Niichel says Chairs are no longer listed as interim. Senate bylaws mention interim Chairs. Bylaws will need revising to reflect this. Question regarding if there are concerns about Chairs serving on committees. MacLennan asks what committees currently forbid Chair service on them. Chairs cannot serve on Senate currently. They can serve on any other committee according to Reneau (note: current bylaws forbid Chair service on personnel committee). Question about how Chairs are viewed within their units, as primarily administrators or faculty. Extended discussion around this question with

no clear consensus across several opinions. Fantasia suggests careful thought needed to weigh different unit needs on this. Dr. Bedford adds that Chairs have a foot in both worlds, but thinks Chairs are majority faculty. Chairs review faculty, but this is more mentorship than supervision since Chairs come from among faculty as equals. Moench says this has not been her experience within her unit. Fantasia says that pending some bigger change to the bylaws, what Dr. Bedford is advocating is different than the historic experience at FSU. Niichel says bylaw changes typically happen at the end of an academic year. MacLennan suggests agreement with Fantasia on slowing down this initiative.

11. Open Forum:

Niichel raises issue of bookstore committee. Niichel views this committee as either nonexistent or dysfunctional beyond utility. Asks for impressions on this. Matthews says he has been on this committee and it has not met for four years. Fantasia expresses need for input from faculty on the bookstore issue, so committee is important and needed. Niichel points out bylaws says there is a BOG policy on bookstore committee. This mandates its existence. Bylaws unclear on who staffs this joint committee. Matthews suggests Spencer Flanagan may have more information about this since he was point man on the transition to the online store over the last summer. Nuzuum advertises for lead center event happening now. Adjourned at 4:31