

Fairmont State Faculty Senate

Minutes, 4/14/26

Members Present: **Barb MacLennan** (Beh. Science, excom), **James Long** (CSM), **Tabitha Lafferre** (ET), **J Tomlin** (Soc. Science, excom), **April Townsend** (Nat Science, excom), **Kylie Ford** (AAD), **Candice Moench** (Ed), **Jason Frazer** (COBA, excom), **Bob Niichel** (CompSci, excom), **Derek Nuzuum** (library), **Paul Reneau** (HHP), **Deb Hemler** (AcAffairs), **Chris Moss** (Soc. Science), **Angela Schwer** (BOG Rep), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **Jason Bolyard** (ET), **Rebecca Cepek** (ACF), **Alyssa Schwartz** (Humanities), **McDonald** (SGA), **Kara Burgard** (BSN), **Ganga Sharma** (Nat Science)

Guests: **Denice Kirchoff** (Faculty Handbook), **Alan Bedford** (Provost), **Mike Davis** (President), **Brian Selmeski** (C.O.S.), **Robin Payne** (Honors), **Paul Steinhouse** (C.I.O.), **Josh Smallridge** (HLC Steering Committee)

1.-3. Order, Agenda, Minutes: Changes to Agenda. None raised. Changes to Minutes.

Curriculum proposals 10-16 should be old business (Changes made 4/15/26). Motion to approve by MacLennan and Frazer. Minutes approved.

4. Address of President: Mike Davis: Compliments for Faculty Gala. Saturday 18th features College Premier event with host of the show. Presidential speaker series on the 28th at Wallman Hall. Reception to follow on quad. Employee appreciation day is May 14. Save the date sent out to all by email. Bingo, Garden, Movies, and Happy hour at Shaw House. Update on CFO candidates. On campus in a couple of weeks. Public sessions will be included. IT implementation plan is moving forward-submitted today at EXCOM of BOG, and before full BOG next week. Hefty pricetag, with likely BOG request from legislature to help with funding. Vouchers recieved through Ecampus for students, and next fall (26) \$100 or more voucher will be given to each of colleges and library (automatically entered when students sign in to events through engage).

5. Old Business:

Major Items: Curriculum Proposals 25-26-09, 17-24. Motion from Paul Reneau to approve for second reading. Seconded by MacLennan. No discussion. Passes by voice vote.

6. New Business:

Major Items:

A) Bylaws Revisions. Handout given to Senators with originals and revisions. Revision one on Dept. Chair membership in senate. Revision two on Officers, especially the role of VP. Revision three eliminates redudancies in Article III (terms of officers). Revision four to appointment as exofficio by President to campus committees. Revision five on Senate Committees membership/structure. Revision six on Article X on Committees. Discussion on

terms from Reneau and Hemler what the threshold should be to count as a term year for President. Question from Reneau about whether VP candidates would be coming from nominating committee. Potentially, depending on language accepted in changes. Hemler proposes an amendment to change language in Article III. Motion carries by voice vote. Proposal to keep Vp nomination through the nominating committee. That section change struck down. Townsend asks if term limits for VP would be appropriate since all other officers are term limited. Agreement it should be from MacLennan and Hemler. Motion to strike section D from these changes as well. Carried by voice vote. Niichel suggests we could move all of this out of the constitution and into the Bylaws so changes wouldn't require a general faculty meeting. Question from Frazer whether we would move all sections in this way. Niichel clarifies it would primarily apply to sections 1 and 2. Townsend moves rather than strike section D it should be stipulated directly as two term limit. Carried by voice vote. Hemler asks about rationale about treasurer ban on serving as President. This was due to need for term limits. Broad agreement on need for committee record keeping and attendance reporting to Senate. Finally, the Faculty Handbook Committee language has been revised to show process for assignment to committee and it's purview. Provost Bedford recommends removing the Provost's vote from the Handbook Committee. Motion carries by voice vote. Bookstore Committee language has been removed. If changes are passed, a faculty advisory committee would be created. Motion to approve these collective changes for first reading. Passes by voice vote.

B) Strategic Plan. Bedford expresses appreciation for broad involvement in the strategic plan and process of implementation. The working strategic plan document was sent out with agenda for the April meeting to all senators. Steering committee meeting took place last Friday. Updates will be shared during April for this process. Helpful is senate could send comments or questions about this draft to Charlie Watson within the next two weeks. This would give chance to hear that feedback before the next steering session. Not expecting huge changes to the general outline as it stands. The strategic objectives will be seen by the BOG, but the internal metrics and key results will stay among University leadership. Highlights of the categories of strategic objectives (listed in document submitted by Provost with Agenda) are Academic Portfolio, Academic Student Success, Work Environment, Cultural Enrichment, and Regional Service. MacLennan moves to accept report for first reading, seconded by Sharma. Question from Townsend about objective 3. Bedford says to remember who is audience for the objectives. In this case entire university employee base. AcAffairs can't dictate terms to rest of university so Objective three wording reflects an invitation to meet that objective/terms. Selmeski adds that constraining the wording to as few objectives as possible meant eleven strategic items had to be consolidated into five. The wording reflects those compromises without changing trajectory and substance of the plans themselves. Another Question from Townsend about Objective one timeline. Discussion between Selmeski, Davis, and Bedford about the rationale for that wording. Technicalities won't result in punitive judgements against units or objectives no matter the final wording. Motion to approve carried by voice vote.

C) Faculty Handbook. Proxy for Reisen(Kirchoff) explains changes/updates to handbook by the committee. One more meeting for the committee this semester. Davis requests an ammendment on the honorary degree program to change language on review for honorary members from 90 days to 30 days. Motion to approve the Faculty Handbook for first reading by Long. Seconded by Hemler. Approved by voice vote.

Minor Items- Presidential Perception Committee Results. Need for Senate to authorize the President to forward Likert scores to all faculty, and for scores and comments to go to the President's office and the BOG. Motioned by MacLennan, seconded by Tomlin. Carried by voice vote.

7. Provost: Dr. Bedford: Thursday 12-1:30 is the faculty award luncheon with music provided. Provost of Faculty Affairs Zinke started Monday. Oxley is transitioning to Dean of Aviation. Search process for permanant dean of Business and Aviation in place and candidates on campus this week and next. Library Services Director finalists are in place as well. College of Nursing Dean has been selected (Deb Struth). Earlier Provost announced surveys on Chairs, Deans, and Provosts. One was conducted in the fall. This feedback informed plans going forward. In the Survey coming up before end of April, Provost encourages substantive feedback on this as it is important in planning moving forward, essentially what faculty want the Provost to know, and desired responses/actions. Finally, recommendation to establish terms but not term limits for Chairs, in addition to training and support for chairs. Term length has been identitified for chairs of all units, and those letters will be going out in May.

8. Reports:

- a) **VP Update: Steinhouse:** Implementation plan update covering five strategic initiatives for Ac Affairs. Comment from MacLennan about need for data management upgrades. Comment from President Davis about spending over the last 10 years on IT infrastructure being far too low. Question from Niichel about Data Governance committee started in the fall. This Committee tries to look at applications (108) used across campus, the funding sources within each units, and the committee will examine licensing agreements looking for duplications, "gaps", policies for procurement, AI policy subgrouping. Another working group is examining replacing banner which is 30 years old this year. MacLennan adds that IT Comittee for faculty senate also meets with this committee regularly.
- b) **Treasurer: Frazer:** Report on Spring Gala. Total tabulation of money raised from raffles is \$720. More info coming on ticket sales. Eades points out possibility for Fall event going forward since the event is close to the day of giving each year.
- c) **ACF: Cepek:** Two items. Gov. vetoed HP 4002 which would have established the education colabratory. Also vettoed HP 4007 which would have provided funding for youth in fostercare.
- d) **BOG: Schwer:** Three items. next BOG meeting is next Wednesday. Committees have been meeting. BOG accepted women's wrestling as a sport at FSU. Possibly up to 30 new athletes on campus. Bylaws committee is forwarding the emeritus policy to the BOG for approval. This is the policy in the faculty handbook explaining benefits and perks for emeritus faculty.

Policy is same for faculty and staff. Finally, implementation plan mentioned by VP Steinhouse on IT was discussed.

- e) **SGA: McDonald:** SGA held excom elections last week. Yeehaw See Yall coming up at end of this month for graduating seniors. There is a cooked pig and live animals to pet.
- f) **Staff Council: Nuzum:** Staff Council met March 25. Detailed Report followed on their activities in March. Next Staff Council Meeting April 29th.

9. Miscellaneous: Niichel reminds about April 10 deadline for committee's list. Smallridge updates on HEPC steering committee.

10. Open Forum: MacLennan reminds April is Citizen Science month. Activity coming up on the Quad for dark skies event next Wednesday the 22nd. Adjourned at 4:37.