

Fairmont State Faculty Senate
Minutes
14 November 2023

Members: **Bob Niichel** (Executive Committee: President, Computer Science & Math), **Bill Harrison** (Exec Committee: Vice President, Social Sciences), **Tyler Singer** (Exec Committee: Webmaster, Exercise Science), **Barbara MacLennan** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, Behavioral Sciences), **Raymond Alvarez** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, CoBA), **Denice Kirchoff** (Exec Committee: Member at Large, BSN), **Frankie Delapas** (SGA), **Rick Harvey** (Academic Affairs), **Donna Long** (Exec Committee: Secretary, Humanities), **Todd Clark** (ACF Rep, Social Sciences), **Chris Kast** (Academic Affairs), **Kelley Flaherty** (Natural Sciences), **Malisa Eades** (ASN), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **Tabitha Lafferre** (ET), **Ashley Dover** (Library), **Jason Frazer** (CoBA), **Nathan Myers** (Humanities)

Guests: **Michael Davis**, **Dianna Phillips**, **Tim Oxley**, **Adam Podlaskowski**, **Josh Smallridge**, **Jason Bolyard**

1.-3. Meeting called to order 3:00 p.m.; 10 October 2023 minutes approved (Singer moved; Harrison seconded).

7a. Due to a time conflict, agenda item moved up. Clark reported the ACF has developed agenda items, including implementation of campus carry; shared governance; diversity, equity and inclusion; library resources. Full agenda will be provided for approval. Clark has some slides that he will share.

8b. Due to a time conflict, agenda item moved up. Harrison called for volunteers for a Senate Budget task force. Harvey volunteered.

4. President Davis. Promises to provide Niichel with a gavel 😊. Updates:

- Holiday Open House 12/7 from 6-9
- Day of Giving 2/29—contact the Foundation if you have a project. President Davis will livestream the whole day, doing interviews and such from Gym 1. There will be a dunk tank. Should be a fun day.
- Strategic Plan kick-off on 11/13 was recorded and posted on the webpage. A form will be available for further input and a survey will be provided. Next SP meeting will be in January.
- An ad hoc committee chaired by Ashley Maxey is looking at salaries of all constituencies.
- Three chief-of-staff candidates will have on-campus interviews (the first on 11/15).

5. New Business: Major

Curriculum Proposals 23-24-01, 02, 03, 03a-c passed first reading as a group. Harrison moved, Singer seconded. Niichel noted the Curriculum Committee has a new format (hence the a-c sections of 23-24-03), and all sections must pass together.

5. New Business: Minor

a. ad hoc Curriculum Efficiency Committee. Dr. Phillips discussed the committee's charge and make-up (see Motion below). The work will begin in late spring. Related to Strategic Plan. Goal is to examine "why we teach what we do . . . to create the culture we value" and to provide a "robust, integrated curriculum." An example is Surveying program utilizing GISc course. A deliberate look at our curriculum has not occurred for some time, so "what does our curriculum say about us and what do we want it to say?" There will be professional development on this in spring or next fall with outside curriculum development consultants.

Kast noted that any curriculum changes will go through curriculum process. He noted other

examples (Written English, Statistics classes—the former has been “centralized” to serve all majors; the latter used to have several versions but now has one). Alvarez noted that Nursing wanted a HCMG course but CHEP might have a better fit.

MacLennan asked if funding/resources will be available; Phillips affirmed. Lafferre asked if industry representatives will be involved; Phillips affirmed that if that is part of a program’s process, that process will be followed. This is meant to be a “collegial” look at curriculum. Phillips noted world languages as an example: we don’t offer enough so programs waive requirements—how do we manage to provide curriculum? She noted that the committee’s “direction” will reveal itself. Davis noted that faculty autonomy should be built in, that faculty get to talk about the opportunities for cross-pollination.

Motion: Create an ad hoc Curriculum Efficiency Committee with the Provost. Ensuring that our curriculum is robust, relevant, and reflective of exemplary practices of each discipline is a primary consideration for all of us at Fairmont State and most specifically in the Academic Affairs division. To that end, this ad hoc committee will be populated by one faculty member from each College (appointed by the Provost), designees of the Provost’s office, and representation from campus to take a deep dive into our curriculum to systematically identify opportunities for curriculum integration across disciplines and ensure program descriptions are accurate. Once options are identified, discussed, and determined appropriate, the curriculum process will then be used to revise and update programs. Should other issues be identified during this comprehensive review, we will make determinations as appropriate regarding next steps. Harvey moved and Harrison seconded. Motion passed.

5b. Election of Academic Program Review Council representative. Alvarez moved for secret ballot, Harrison seconded. Nominations closed. Long will serve.

6. Provost report. Dr. Phillips updated:

- National search underway for deans of College of Science & Technology and College of Business and Aviation. 80% of the job description is typical; 20% specific to each College. *Chronicle* and other venues used to develop job description. Search committees are predominantly but not exclusively from the Colleges. Plan is to hold virtual and on-campus interviews. Hope to have positions filled by July 2024.
- West Virginia Middle College for Foster Youth: program is an outgrowth of KVC year-long First Star Initiative (KVC is national non-profit), which culminated in a summer camp held at Fairmont State in 2022.

“Early college” for high school students at risk of dropping out is not new. Phillips has created Middle College programs previously; this will be the first to serve foster care youth exclusively. West Virginia’s need is great, with 7000 kids in foster care and the state ranking 50th in services. The percentage of foster care youth who go on to have professional lives is very low. Buy-in so far from the governor, president of the Senate and Legislature, State School Superintendent, Diversion Programs representative, and Deputy Secretary of DHHR. Governor provided \$400k to research the potential for the program; \$4 million has been raised for implementation. A budget developed by Rick Harvey and KVC will be presented in Charleston. 100% of the program is state and federally funded (federal money is through DHHR); goal is to create an endowment. Discussions with Pierpont have already taken place, and they are on board (no concerns about students earning AS at Fairmont State).

Plan is to begin with 50 eleventh graders in fall 2024 and an additional 50 in fall 2025. Full capacity will be 100 students. They will be in residence (Pritchard) and mainstreamed in college classes. The goal is a high school diploma and 60 hours or associate degree, and hopefully continuation to a Bachelors. Fairmont State provides the education; KVC the case management and “in locus parentis” status. An on-campus “summit” to field questions will be held before the end of the semester; this “town hall” will allow interested faculty to join “action teams” (we are waiting on the governor to announce the initiative). There will be a steering committee made up of Fairmont State and KVC representatives. Fairmont State would be the first institution to create a Middle College for foster youth and can be a national model.

Professional development for faculty will be provided, but the students will be students in our classes just like any other students; they are akin to athletes and AIMSS students—resources/support

structure will be available, but students must abide by all academic procedures. Faculty will be provided a “full menu of resources available.” Students will apply and be vetted to participate. Niichel noted that serving these students feels like a heavy lift since failure may mean the student loses housing as well. Alvarez noted that we already have students who are in or were in foster care. Issues will arise, but Phillips believes few will fail. Advising will need to be specialized; Harvey suggested current foster care students could mentor incoming students.

7b SGA report: Christmas with a Falcon underway. Delapas will have a replacement in the spring.

7c IRB report. Josh Smallridge reported that in the last two years proposals to IRB have almost doubled to about 80/year, though few require full review. Professional development training on how to submit will be provided. Recent interest in animal research is outside IRB purview. Such proposals require reviewers from outside the University.

MacLennan noted that such a committee would need to work with USDA and have ethics protocols. Harvey noted that creating a committee would be a bylaws change. He moved and MacLennan seconded a motion “to adopt the recommendation of the IRB to create an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee”; motion passed. To create such a committee we need to meet with people who are impacted. People on the committee cannot only be those who are going to be submitting proposals. Flaherty offered to work with the ad hoc Bylaws Committee. Eades moved and Singer seconded a motion to “charge the ad hoc Bylaws Committee to create language for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee in the Senate Bylaws.” Motion passed.

7d Library Committee report produced as directed. Adam Podlaskowski spoke to the various options for increasing budget resources; the most promising is a small student fee, as it would be enough to cover library costs without overburdening students (\$5/semester). He noted that agreements with Marshall (they are “on board”) and WVU (in process) should improve our bargaining power. As the library is \$20k under budget, no action means the library will suffer. Long moved and Singer seconded a motion to accept the Library report; motion passed. Long moved and Eades seconded a motion to “direct the Senate President to forward the Library Report to the University President”; motion passed. The BOG Finance Board would need to approve a new student fee—said someone. 😊

8a Bookstore Committee. Jason Frazer, faculty representative on the committee reviewing the RFP for the Bookstore (which is not the same body as the Bookstore Committee, noted Harvey), reported that the committee reviewed procedures and guidelines for the contract; no action will be taken until spring.

8c Campus Carry Committee. Bob Niichel reported that the committee discussed financial issues. There will be funding from the State once we tell them what our costs will be. The law says we cannot restrict guns unless all guns are restricted, so, for example, we would need to have metal detectors and personnel at all doors of a facility at all times. Niichel asks that faculty continue to share concerns with the CCC; the committee meets on Mondays at 2 p.m.

Harvey noted that the issues are broad; for example, Residence Life doesn’t want guns in dorms, so where would they be secured? Delapas noted that he is working on research for Fantasia.

9. Open Forum. Alvarez recognizes the good work of Long for the Humane Society and of MacLennan on her newsletter.

Meeting adjourned 4:44.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Long
Senate Secretary