

Fairmont State University Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

303 ED

Members in Attendance:

Matt Hokom (President), Donna Long (Vice President), Jason Noland (Secretary), Tom Cuchta (Webmaster), Todd Clark (Ex. Comm. Member at-large), Jim Davis (Ex. Comm. Member at-large), Harry Baxter (Ex. Comm. Member at-large), Janet Floyd (Business), Molly Barra (Library), Dan Eichenbaum (Performing Arts), Stephen Rice (Natural Sciences), Denice Kurchoff (Nursing), Jennifer Satterfield (Nursing), Nina Slota (Psych/Behavioral Sciences), Tim Oxley (Academic Affairs), Steven Roof (Academic Affairs), Elizabeth Savage (Language & Literature- interim), Tyler Keller (SGA), Dillon Bradley (SGA), Musat Crihalmeanu (Sci-Tech), Diana Noone (Social Sciences), Paul Reneau (HHP).

Guests:

Dr. Mirta Martin, Dr. Rick Harvey, Zach Fancher (Student), Pam Pittman (SoE), Deb Hemler (Science), Jan Kiger (HHP), Mac Cassell (Business), Chris Kast (CoLA), Joy Hatch (VP- Information Technology), Colton Griffin (Deputy CIO of IT), Chuck Shields (Liberal Arts), M.E. Gamble (Business/Performing Arts).

I. Meeting Called to order at 3:00 in ED 303

- Revised version of the minutes were sent out yesterday. Dr. Hokom apologizes that they were not sent Friday. He reminds everyone that this is an open meeting, what is said will go in the minutes.
- Motion to approve the minutes made and seconded. PASSED

II. Announcements/Information/Discussion

A. President Martin

- Apologizes for being late, was on a call with a donor. My report today is brief. One of gratitude. Please share that sentiment with your colleagues. What I have heard back is that the beginning of the academic year has gone off well, students have settled in, the drop/add period seemed to be smooth. Thank you for being here much of that time. I know parking was at a premium during that time, because many of our students were here all week trying to get things in order.
- Pierpont, ball is still in their court. Awaiting possible mediation.
- Police Academy Update: Our case against the state will be heard tomorrow by the Supreme Court. You may remember we have tried to bring to FSU a police academy that would be transformational for the state and the University. So many of the small municipalities cannot afford to take on students and put them through the academy.

When they do, they come back for a few years then leave for larger areas. I will keep you posted on that.

Question: we feel very excited and hopeful about the case tomorrow. This has been a long time in development. We feel positive for a positive outcome. Our biggest concern is if funding available if we get the okay. RESPONSE: We will not start a program unless we can properly fund it. We will hire the right faculty with the right credentials. We cannot launch a program with just adjuncts. We may start with some, but we must start with some full time faculty for success. But, we have to have the approval before we can find adequate funding.

Question: When you mention funding you don't mean just grant funding? RESPONSE: No Ma'am. Obviously we are going to try to raise money and see what grant funding may be available. But, when it is approved then we will put that as a strategy in our budget planning document to begin to hire faculty, or at least a coordinator, and then see what projections are for student numbers to see what we need immediately and later on.

Question: What is your prospective on HLC approval process? How do timelines play out? RESPONSE: You know, I do want to make sure for the record that you know the journey to the HLC is, as you know, not a short one. It requires faculty approval, committee approvals, BOG approval, HEPC approval, then development, then goes out for 30 day comment for HEPC when other universities say you can't have it because we do. Then, if there are no objections it is put on HEPC for approval, then goes to HEPC for rubber stamping so to speak. Sometimes they are looking for things we failed to include, then ask questions.

Follow up from Dr. Harvey: I wish I had an answer on your timeline. A BOG member recently asked about this program. When I know, you will know. When I was at the conference last year, I attended a session on change requests. This is the first time they have offered one of these sessions because they are getting so many. With mergers, acquisitions, new programs, etc. these are all substantive changes for HLC to consider. Part of this session was about how it takes a lot longer than it used to because of the increase in these requests. It was said to expect 6-9 months on the outside. Ours has been sent back to us once already, which might extend it another month or two. It is no reflection on us, it is just the number of requests being sent. They are being bombarded. There are only 2 personnel in this office, though the committees that look at the requests do change.

B. Provost Harvey

- I didn't really prepare a report today, I was thinking that in days past the Provost didn't report at every senate. COMMENT: You don't have to every month, just if you have things you want to share.
- Things are moving along, I have started sending out every Sunday "this is what's going on" e-mails. I have received a positive response from this to keep the campus

community apprised of what is going on each week as I try not to overrun you with emails

- Tutoring Center is swamped, which I guess is good. Kids found out about it and are using it. We are maxed out and are looking to extend the hours. Athletics has also asked for more time in the evenings. Working on more budget and hiring additional employees to make this possible.
- Library as you know we had to make some changes. The library ended up closing on Saturday. We got some push back from students and the community. I am happy to announce that the library will be open this Saturday from 1-4 and will do that for a while to see if people will take advantage of it. The reason it was closed was because no one was there.
- Faculty social hour is Friday. Beer/wine has been approved to be back on the menu. We cannot allow you to BYOB for donation. Alcohol has to be controlled by Aladdin.

C. ACF representative, Dr. Baxter

- BOG is having a special meeting on Monday, Sept 16 at 4pm in Falcon Center Board Room. Details per the Secretary of State's Webpage state: "Special Meeting for legal, personnel, and deliberative matters; actions emanating from Executive Session, if any, include possible discussion and potential action relating to the contract renewal for the president of the University."

Question: is this meeting an open meeting? Yes, but there may be an Executive Session as described.

D. BOG representative, Dr. Sapp

- Follow Up from Special BOG Meeting announcement: It was told to me by the chair that there will be no public comment during the meeting previously mentioned.
- Nothing else from BOG

Question: With such an important issue, why are they not taking speakers? Why can't people go and address the board as they normally do in a meeting? RESPONSE: You would have to ask the chair that question. I was told there would not be public comment.

E. Student Government

- No major updates.
- We are in talks with continuing the United Way selling T-shirts.
- Speaking with Robin Yeager to do a food and security drive for the Nest. There have been 40-50 students a week using it this semester, so we know there are students in need.

We will continue to provide this resource. Robin has a list of specific items that are popular since many items just sit and expire.

- Talking with the city about a Fairmont State volunteer day. With the crosswalk painting campaign. SG is wanting to do some artwork with art students FSU related to give back to the community.
- Freshman elections are coming up. Packets are in their email.

F. BOG attendance at October Senate Meeting

- Informational reminder. BOG has been invited to October meeting, Budd has said at least some have said they will be there.

G. Executive Committee letter to SGA

- A copy of this went out with the meeting documents. The easiest thing for me to do was to read it. You can comment, SG can comment, or not comment as you wish. As you know, last meeting SG passed out the document and were collecting signatures. The FS Executive Committee tried to get together with SG leadership but our schedules didn't allow it before this meeting. I wrote the following letter with committee help (letter was read).
- This letter was sent to the SG, but it was unpersuasive as you are continuing to ask for signatures, which is fine.

SG Comment: When we initially set out in June to write this letter, we never intended it to be strictly to students, we sought community and legislature recommendations. We want people to have a voice. Faculty, students, and staff will be receiving a survey which is appropriate. We wanted to give an opportunity for people to express first amendment rights and show their support. We have also been approached by faculty who are reluctant to sign because of possible departmental retribution. We want to let as many people voice their opinions as want to. We want to make the University more cohesive moving forward.

Question: When did you first make the faculty aware you would write the letter? We undertook the process over the summer because our constituency was home on break. We met with SG Executive Committee to draft the letters, going back and forth, and sought counsel with a member of the BOG to make sure it was in the right direction. We wanted to get it to faculty but we don't have access to that e-mail list. It took us a while to compile the faculty/staff email list when we got back this semester. It was our desire to get it out and be as transparent as soon as possible.

Comment: The letter struck me as a surprise. RESPONSE: We apologize for that. Continued Comment: You talk about a collaborative process, but I don't see one. I see one that was dumped on us. When you talk about faculty perceptions and fear, you have to understand there is a lot at stake here. For this to occur with such short notice, you have to understand that it is jarring for people whose careers may be on the line. RESPONSE: The first FS meeting was a month ago, when we saw concerns, that month is when we started compiling the email addresses. We distributed hard copies, and tried to give access to as many people as possible. We apologize that we may have come up short.

Comment: The other thing that concerns me is when you talk about retaliation from departmental leadership, that is pretty serious. RESPONSE: I don't know that they meant from leadership, but ill will, perhaps, from others.

Question: You said you began the process in the summer when students were gone, give me context for that decision. We had been talking about it from May-June. Question: When you say "we" who do you mean? RESPONSE: The Executive Board had mentioned it in one of the meetings at the end of the year. We were working toward this decision, we wanted to say "Students, we see this, better financial situation, etc.". We were going to do strictly students, but, then started talking to local legislatures who were interested in it and could get behind and it evolved from there. One faculty member was used as a sounding board for a draft. By the time it hit drafting stage in June we saw it wasn't going to be just from students.

Comment: Note that we are in the U.S.A. In this country if you want to sign a petition, you can. I don't think you should stifle who can sign a petition. COMMENT (from FS Executive Committee Member): I agree with you, what we wanted to make clear was that faculty, as was pointed out whose careers are on the line, are being asked to sign something when they may feel they must sign in order to protect their careers. We wanted to make sure the SG saw that as a layer in case they may not have considered that.

Comment: It seems the distribution has been spotty, I don't think anyone is tracking who signed.

Comment: It may or may not be, but the fear of it being justified or not is real. Yes, SG can do what they want, we have no authority over what they do. We represent the faculty, not staff or students. Anyone can sign or not if they wish. Please take back to your departments that they don't have to sign. The Presidential Perception Survey is the official measure of the faculty.

Comment: Anyone who was willing to sign received a briefing, hardcopy, and digital copy of what they were signing. There was nothing nefarious, we were trying to be transparent.

Comment: I have heard, that faculty have been asked to sign but were not presented with a document. When passing around a petition, please make sure they do have the physical thing and have time to read it. RESPONSE: We will readdress that with our assembly to double-check I would hope they don't sign without reading.

Question: There was an update to the letter, were those that already signed sent an update?

RESPONSE: The only update was the additional names and the items discussed with Dr. Clark in the last meeting relating to the Master's degree program. There were no substantive changes. Thank you for making that change. It was a substantive change without which puts the administration and faculty in a tough spot.

Comment: You can also tell from the letter that those in the position to write the letter on the FS Executive Committee were cherry picking from the SG to Constitution in the response. The SG constitution states "to constitute a medium for expressing the opinion of the student body on matters of general interest; as well as promoting those opinions on relevant matters to strengthen the professional and academic relationships existing between the faculty, staff, students, and alumni." This statement could have been included in the letter and given strength to the SG position on distributing this petition. Also, faculty can sign whatever they want.

Comment: I would also point out that any decision of the EC can be reversed by the senate.

Comment: Just to clarify the record, it wasn't just a cavil, faculty members did contact us to express concerns. As senators we have to represent our constituents that is what drove this.

Question: Can an argument also be made that non-tenured faculty should not sit on senate, that way intimidation cannot be a factor? RESPONSE: With all due respect, that is a separate issue that we can make. Comment: the letter wasn't just asked to be signed by Faculty Senate, it was across campus so the point is moot.

Comment: I will say: I have been on senate a long time. A lot of people don't talk. A lot of senators don't talk. A lot of not tenured faculty are doing the heavy lifting.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Ad hoc committee on bylaws and constitution, Prof. Davis

- Met again last week. Did complete the constitution as the current structure is. They are currently working with the committee that is working on the faculty handbook as they do intersect several places. Hope to have it done as soon as they can.

B. Updates to committee membership

- We are still continuing to update this list and are making some good progress.
- I sent an e-mail to all chairs that I could ascertain, just a reminder that if you were a chair last year it is your duty to convene the first meeting this year. If you know of someone who has left, let me know and I will convene the first year. We don't want a committee to never meet because there isn't someone to convene them.

C. Campus Climate Committee membership

- Still in limbo, but I hope to have it ironed out by next week.

D. Presidential survey committee, Dr. Savage

- I am happy to take Questions, otherwise I will keep it brief. It will open at 8am Friday, and close at 4pm the 23rd. That gives the faculty 2 weekends and the work days between to complete it. Jacob Abrams and Charley Hively put together the full time faculty list serv that will be used. It was checked twice for accuracy to make sure no one was missing, and no one was on it that shouldn't have been.

Question: knowing that there is a special BOG meeting on the 16th should we close this earlier to get that information that is surveyed to the board? RESPONSE: Well, since we all learned of this today, it certainly that is something to consider. But, I would be wary of opening a survey for 3 days and expecting the results to be accurate and comprehensive. I will take it back to the committee, but I don't see how we can turn around the paper surveys with confidence that we have gathered all the faculty who want to participate.

Comment: We were told to have the information by the October BOG meeting. RESPONSE: Budd will present this information [regarding the PPS timeline] to the BOG at the Monday meeting. This was a specially called meeting, and is required to be posted 5 days in advance.

Comment: I know that VP Merri was working on a staff and student one as well, she hasn't gotten back to us on the student one. Do they coincide with this survey? RESPONSE: They are not the same survey.

IV. New Business

A. Admissions and Credits

- The Committee approved a motion to recommend to the Senate that the Director of the Tutoring and Testing Center be added to the list of *ex officio* members.
- Motion to approve, seconded. No discussion. Passed.

B. Parking issues

Some people have come to the Executive Committee with concerns about parking, they felt it was too difficult to get guest passes for departments. Wanted us to investigate whether the process could be simplified or expedited. There was at once time a committee on parking issues, even as recently as last year. I don't know that they have met or done anything. Do you have suggestions on what we should do with this?

Comment: I think first, Matt Hokom needs to contact Matt Swain to find out what the current process is. There may be a process in place that we aren't aware of. RESPONSE: There is a current process, either you park in a meter or lower level of the garage.

Comment: I will contact Matt Swain to verify just for the record and see if we can make it easier.

Response: (Dr. Harvey) We are already addressing the after school program issue and trying to get ticketing to stop after 4pm. Right now the rule is that it doesn't start until 6.

Comment: Can we just print something to put in their windshield temporarily with a date/event title. RESPONSE: I can shed some light on that: When we first started doing parking permits they gave the blue tags for visitors and people abused them. If you do a blanket thing, they will show up in everyone's windshield.

Question: I would ask if there is any problem that if our guests get a ticket can we walk it over there and they will take care of it? RESPONSE: That currently depends on who you speak to. If you go to the top, they will excuse it.

Comment: I would be concerned that continuing to ticket would be off-putting to community members who are using Chic- Fil-A and Starbucks.

Comment: I will go to Matt Swain and bring those concerns and possibilities to him, and report back to you. Then we can proceed depending on how satisfactory or unsatisfactory the response is.

V. Open Forum

- At the Oct 8 meeting we did make arrangements to have food/drinks/social event with BOG members following FS meeting please share this with the departments so faculty who may not be able to attend the meeting may be able to attend the social.

Comment: I do think that is a good idea, just to get to know them and them get to know us. I am as far from a social butterfly as there is, but we need to know each other

- Sept 20-21 we will have guests on campus, Kestrel contributors will doing readings at the Folk Life Center and Joe 'n Throw downtown.
- Please go back to your departments and tell the students that the WV Business Plan Competition is taking place. Deadline is Nov 15. On Oct 12 workshops will begin on Mondays to help those who may want to enter, there are \$40k in prizes at stake. They don't just want business majors, they want STEM, etc. to participate. Semifinals are here on campus so it's easy to participate if you make it beyond the local level. So far, I feel there isn't much interest in it based on what I have gauged. It is easy to enter, begs everyone to go back to departments and come up with ideas. Basically they are looking for "how do I solve problems" with a new product or service.
- Sept 27-28 West Fork New Music Festival, 6 concerts over 2 days. There will be two professional ensembles Friday & Saturday at 7:30.

Motion to adjourn at 3:54, seconded and passed.

Next Meeting*: October 8, 2019 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. 303 ED

*If you have items for the agenda please send your request to the Faculty Senate President by Tuesday morning October 1, 2019 for consideration by the Executive Committee.