

Faculty Senate Minutes  
March 21, 2017

Attendance: Robin Payne (Soc. Sci.), Harry Baxter (ACF), G.H. Budd Sapp (BOG), William Harrison (Soc. Sci.), Dillon Bradley (SGA), Daphne Ryan (SGA), Deb Hemler (BCG), Tony Gilberti (Tech.), Anthony Yost (Tech.), Bob Mild (Academic Affairs), Gina Fantasia (Business), Amy Godfrey (Business), Amanda Metcalf (SoEHHP), Siegfried Bleher (CSMP), Aimee Richards (SoFA), Dan Eichenbaum (SoFA), Charley Hively (Library), Deb Hoag (Nursing), Veronica Gallo (Nursing), Fran Young (Nursing), Matt Hokom (L&L), Chris Kast (Beh. Sci.), Joe Kremer (Senate President)

Guests: Christ Lavorata, Jack Kirby, John Lympany, Stephanie Jones, Robert Kelly, Jacquelynn Sherman

- I. Senate President Joe Kremer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- II. Reading of the Minutes
  - A. Harry Baxter called for a correction to the minutes of the February 7, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting, which erroneously stated that State Senator Romano was in attendance at the legislative forum. It was Senator Beach who was present.
    1. The minutes were approved pending the above mentioned revision.
  - B. The minutes of the special session of the Faculty Senate to discuss presidential succession were approved without the need for further revision.
- III. Announcements/Information/Discussion
  - A. President Rose
    - A. Provost Chris Lavorata was present to share announcements from President Maria Rose, who was currently in Charleston rooting on the men's basketball team in the on-going championship series.
    - B. Lavorata reported that there had been no major decisions with state legislature and pending budget reductions remained uncertain.
    - C. Lavorata also reported that Maestro Grant Cooper of the West Virginia Symphony will receive an honorary degree from FSU this spring. He is unable to attend the May commencement ceremony, so the degree will be conferred during the intermission of an April 27 symphony performance.
    - D. Lavorata is accepting nominations for the student commencement speaker.
  - B. Dr. Robynn Shannon — Assessment
    - A. Dr. Shannon was unable to attend the meeting. There was no assessment report.
  - C. Dr. Budd Sapp — BOG
    - A. Report on Presidential Search
      1. Sapp commented on the most recent *Times West Virginian* article on FSU's on-going presidential search. He had provided a statement to the journalist; however, he felt his words were misconstrued. As a result, he wanted to stress to the Senate that he had articulated the views of the Senate as well as those of the Ad Hoc Committee — both of which entailed an endorsement of Cirmo, with some stated reservations — accordingly to the BOG and that he continues to represent faculty interests as articulated.

2. Per Sapp's report, the BOG has decided to extend the search, widen the pool of applicants, and to give Chairperson Dixie Yann the authority to hire a search firm to assist the BOG with the process. Sapp reported that he supported the motion to move in this direction and voted in favor of it because he felt that it will enable faculty to achieve what they wanted in the first place — which was more involvement in the process. While it remains unclear how the process will unfold, he believes that it is possible that a new search committee, possibly with more faculty representation, will be convened. He also noted that the current candidates are still technically in the running; however, none of the existing candidates had enough support for a majority decision.
  - a. Bob Mild asked if this possibility was explicitly discussed. Sapp said that it was not; however, his take on the discussion was that such an outcome was a strong possibility.
  - b. In response to further faculty questions, Sapp reported that the BOG was given all data from the Ad Hoc Committee's survey and that he believes they did take into consideration both the endorsement from the Ad Hoc Committee as well as the Faculty Senate. That said, as he had stressed earlier, none of the candidates had majority support on the search committee, which resulted in the decision to extend the search.

D. Dr. Harry Baxter — ACF

- A. March 15 was Higher Education Day in the state legislature. Baxter, as well as other representatives from the university, met with Senators Mann and Karnes, who are the chair and vice chair, respectively, of the Education Committee, as well as Senator Hall, the chair of the Finance Committee. Nothing has yet been determined regarding the budget; however, it is possible that community colleges and regional institutions will receive a 2% budget cut with WVU and Marshall receiving 5% cuts.
  1. Based on other discussions Baxter has had with state legislators — as well as past patterns — he believes it is likely that any budget decisions will be deferred to a special session. Significant tensions remain between “tea party” Republicans, “regular” Republicans, and Democrats and it seems likely that it will be difficult for them to arrive at any consensus. For instance, many of the legislators that he has met with express widely divergent views on tax increases as well as further budget cuts to higher education.
- B. Baxter and Galen Hanson also met with Senate President Mitch Carmichael regarding FSU's budget and were told that the institution could receive anywhere from a 5-10% cut. They also asked about the on-going rumors that WVU will take over the regional institutions. According to Carmichael, this will not happen.
- C. Baxter argued that it remains very important for legislators to hear as much as possible about the economic impact of the institution. For instance, he cited a report put together by Faculty Senator Amy Godfrey indicating that FSU contributes \$82.6 million to the WV economy and that Pierpont contributes an additional \$33 million.

E. SGA — Daphne Ryan and Dillon Bradley

- A. SGA recently held elections, resulting in the election of new Faculty Senate representatives. This is the last meeting for Ryan and Bradley; however, they will be in attendance at the next meeting to introduce the new representatives.

IV. Unfinished Business

- A. Discussion of Library Concerns/Resolutions
  - 1. John Lympany announced that Sharon Mazure has been appointed as Interim Director of the Library. A campus-wide announcement will be made shortly.
  - 2. Regarding the tabled resolutions, Matt Hokom reported that the Department of Language and Literature had heard nothing further from Robert Baker on behalf of the Library Committee. Furthermore, the resolution regarding the naming of the library Help Desk in honor of Thelma Hutchins had been deferred to the BOG.
    - a. Sapp had circulated information regarding the BOG policy on naming, which makes it clear that the naming of buildings and other entities on campus is decisively linked to financial contributions. Naming, however, is different than commemoration with a plaque. Provost Lavorata confirmed that this was indeed the case and that there are commemorative plaques on campus elsewhere acknowledging the service of certain employees. Lympany noted that he believed there would be significant support for a plaque commemorating Hutchins and that as CIO he would be willing to provide funding for it. Lavorata offered to double-check that there would not be the need for approval from the Fairmont Foundation or the BOG in order to move forward.
    - b. In light of this discussion, the resolution to rename the Help Desk was revised to request the placement of a plaque in Thelma Hutchins's honor, with the Library Committee helping to determine the specific wording of said plaque.
- B. Support of International and Other At-Risk Students
  - 1. Donna Long, who was absent due to illness, had provided rough draft of a resolution, which was tabled until the next meeting.
- V. New Business
- A. Minor Business
  - 1. Affirmation of Committee on Committees
    - a. The following individuals were asked to serve on the Committee on Committees: Veronica Gallo (Chair), Amy Godfrey, Deb Hemler, Matt Hokom, and Aimee Richards
    - b. The Senate voted to affirm the committee members.
- B. Major Business
  - 1. Curriculum Proposal #16-17-11 -- Professional Writing Minor
    - a. Matt Hokom was present to address questions on the proposal.
    - b. The proposal passed first reading with no discussion.
  - 2. Curriculum Proposal #16-17-12 REV #1 -- Math Course Updates
    - a. Stephanie Jones was present to field questions on the proposal.
    - b. During discussion, Jones was asked why so many course numbers were being changed in the math curriculum. She explained that it primarily had to do with ensuring that the course numbering matched the level of the course and to facilitate the addition of more courses within the existing numbering framework.
    - c. The proposal passed first reading.
  - 3. Curriculum Proposal #16-17-13 -- Computer Science Updates
    - a. No one was present to speak on behalf of the proposal.
    - b. The proposal passed first reading with no discussion.
  - 4. Curriculum Proposal #16-17-14 -- Ocean Issues & Society

- a. Deb Hemler was present to address questions or concerns about the proposals. She noted that the proposed class was designed to be interactive with practical applications of science.
  - b. The proposal passed first reading with no discussion.
5. Curriculum Proposal #16-17-15 REV #1 -- Occupational Safety
- a. Anthony Yost was present to address questions and concerns.
  - b. The proposal passed first reading with no discussion.
6. Jack Kirby explained that the goal was to include this set of curriculum proposals in next year's academic catalog. That, along with the fact that there were still at least two to three more curriculum proposals in the pipeline for the next meeting, warranted the waiving of the time period for the second reading.
- a. A motion was made and seconded to waive the time period. The motion passed.
  - b. A motion was made and seconded to consider the proposals collectively for the second reading. The motion passed.
  - c. All five proposals passed for second reading without further discussion.

#### VI. Open Forum

- A. Chris Lavorata reported that the Personnel Committee has completed deliberations regarding tenure and promotions and have sent their recommendations to President Rose. People who applied will hear news of the decisions shortly.
1. Lavorata also noted that the Faculty Development Committee was completing its observations for faculty awards. The luncheon to honor award recipients will be held on April 19.
  2. In addition, Lavorata complimented the Department of Language and Literature, whose English co-requisite model for incoming freshmen as been ranked #1 in the state with high success rates for completion. Compliments were also extended to the Math program, whose co-requisite model is ranked #2.

VII. Senate President Joe Kremer adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.