Fairmont State University
Faculty Senate Minutes
November 12, 2013
303 Education Building
3:00-5:00 p.m.


Visitors: M. Rose, C. Lavorata, J. Kirby, V. Dempsey, C. Kast, S. Boni, D. Hoag, F. Young, M. Ransom, and J. Matthews

I. Reading and approval of October 8, 2013 minutes – It was moved by S. Kelley and seconded by B. Michael to accept the minutes from Oct. 8 as read. Motion carried.

II. Announcements/Information/Discussion

- President Rose updates
  - Budget process – Informed that there is a 300 to 350 million dollar deficit
    - 34 million below the state projection of revenue
    - The current 7.5% cuts will only generate an additional 80 million
    - Declining state revenues:
      - Decreased coal sales
      - Increased costs of Medicaid and Medicare
      - Lottery revenues down
      - Removal of food tax
      - Personal income tax revenues down
      - $7500 tax credit for new flex car purchase - 100 million dollar shortfall
    - Many discretionary accounts cannot be touched (ie: K through 12)
    - Possible government hiring freeze mid-year after Nov. 1
    - Decline in FSU enrollment – even though # of freshmen increased this fall, there were less previously enrolled students returning (changes in financial aid regulations)
    - Proactive plan: Need to increase enrollment numbers by 100 and retain at least 100 more students previously enrolled. (students returning to class)
    - Decreases in money from Pierpont C and TC is a major hit on the budget
    - Plan to have own services, which were previously purchased from FSU - loss of $400,000 in chargebacks this year - Will be even more next year as 8.9% additional cut on top of 7% cut
When budget was cut last year, FSU was able to increase tuition to help offset decreases – To do so again would lead to hardship for the students. We don’t want to increase tuition any more than necessary

- Campus-wide budget cuts (not just academic units)

- Budget committee – hope to develop plan for “strategic cuts” – possibilities/plans: Manage budget in order to keep students

- Change in how refunds to students are made

- Changes in how insurance pay-outs made (can only accrue ½ as much leave as previously)

- Discontinue winter commencement??

- Retirement incentive package (payout of 1 year salary over 2 years) then FSU may not always hire to replace or the new employee will have a lower salary.

- Online course fees – give part of fees back to academic units (where course originates)

- More online courses result in additional enrollment

- Call to legislators to come to campus for open dialogue

- Talk/persuade re: budget cuts Help make more aware of importance of higher education to the state – ask not to cut any more $$’s

- Educ is to state/ critical need

- HEEPS $$’s may be cut

**BOG representative - Bob Mild**

- Data from Mike McCowen, State Office Budget Director – state budget projection for 2014-2015 is $260 million short

- General action items from last meeting
  - Approved MBA program review and Campus Compact goals
  - Correction to housing master plan
  - Capitol budget review
  - Architect approval for Feaster Center renovations

- Last possible option would be cutting of positions

- Question asked of legislators - Are political interest groups more important than constituents?
➢ ACF representative - Sue Kelley

➢ ACF put up link to a discussion on SB 330, which Mark Toors will be coming to discuss

➢ Seems moot point to be concerned about SB 330 when there is no money available

➢ Talking with other entities about higher education situation – little sympathy due to loss of business and revenue throughout the state

➢ Tom Susman hired as lobbyist for regional colleges and universities of WV (Bluefield, Concord, Fairmont State, Glenville, Shepherd, West Liberty, and WV State)

➢ PEIA meeting

  o Using “rainy-day” funds so no increases for two years (this year and next)

  o Individuals hired after 2012 will not have substitided health insurance after they retire ($5 million fund put aside)

  o Rules becoming much more stringent

➢ Student Government representatives - Randy “Mitch” More

➢ R. More introduced Stephanie Yost as additional student representative

➢ Ongoing

  o Movie night with veterans to honor/celebrate Veterans Day

  o State-wide student government advisory board meets periodically throughout the year - made up of 1-2 reps from each state institution

➢ Marshall Univ. has hyperlink when students register – allows them to view each course description and syllabus as well as CRN, times, … etc.

  o Feel will be beneficial for students

  o Will be suggesting that FSU adopt something similar, possibly when new program initiated (Degree Works)

III. Unfinished business

• Election of representatives to “Critical Friends” and Leadership Council committees - handouts provided by V. Dempsey describing “critical friends” and “leadership council”

  ➢ “Critical friends”

    o V. Dempsey related that concept of “critical friends” is to create a community of professionals around a shared focus (ie: assessment)

    o Identified as a group of faculty/educators working together to determine need for capacity building and identification of available resources

    o Group will help pull the professional community together to determine the structure and substance of the assessment process. (see attached handout for additional descriptions).
o Has applied for $10,000 grant to help support this process - money received from grant will be utilized to provide materials and a small stipend for members who will be working “after hours”

o If grant proposal accepted, there will be a need to identify two people from each of the six academic units with strengths in assessment to serve as the initial members of the “critical friends” group.

o B. Sapp moved that the faculty from each academic unit, by democratic process and in collaboration with their dean, should select two faculty members to serve as “critical friends”

o Motion was seconded by M. Ryan and unanimously approved with no additional discussion

➢ “Leadership council”

o Group representation - is not a decision-making body, but represents well-being of the broader organization

o Perspective-sharing group – to provide direction to those who are decision-makers (administrators/executives)

o Coalition committee formed – currently 45 members – meeting next Thurs. for first time under direction of V. Dempsey Goal is: Ideas to increase enrollment by 100 freshmen & an additional 100 students returning. The long range plan in terms of enrollment is a successful return rate.

o President of Faculty Senate will be on this committee

o V. Dempsey stated, “Can’t evolve into defending special interests, rather should have a collective focus related to overall functioning of FSU.”

IV. New Business

➢ Curriculum proposal 13-14-01 (Nursing: LPN to ASN Program revision) first reading
➢ Curriculum proposal 13-14-04 (Nursing: 3320 & 4410 combining clinical hours) first reading
➢ Curriculum proposal 13-14-05 (Fine Arts: Removal of Pre Major codes for BA in Fine Arts) first reading) first reading

➢ It was moved by D. Long and seconded by B. Sapp to consider all proposals together for first reading. Proposal passed after discussion.

➢ It was moved and seconded to approve all three curriculum proposals for first reading - passed after discussion.

➢ It was moved By D. Kirchoff and seconded by B. Sapp to suspend the rules and waive the time between 1st and 2nd readings for curriculum proposals 13-14-01 and 13-14-04

o Discussion - Important for nursing proposals to be approved as still must go through the accreditation process prior to instituting the changes.

o Motion approved
Moved by D. Hemler to approve curriculum proposals 13-14-01 and 13-14-04 for second reading - Seconded by C. White and motion passed after discussion

General Studies policy statement – moved by B. Sapp and seconded by B. Michael to approve the policy statement as submitted

Executive Committee Member-at-Large

- D. Long appointed by C. Shields to serve as interim Vice-President of Faculty Senate
- C. White nominated B. Sapp to serve as the executive committee member-at-large – second by D. Long
- It was moved and seconded that nominations be closed. B. Sapp indicated willingness to serve
- Nomination was approved and B. Sapp will serve as a member-at-large on the executive committee

V. Open Forum

- A. Patterson – announced that changes have been made for admission to two Dept. of Music productions
  - General admission will be $10.00 per performance
  - Faculty and staff will be charged $5.00 admission for the Holiday Concert & Spring Gala
  - Students presenting a student ID will not be charged for admission

*Items for the agenda should be sent to the President of the Senate by Tuesday morning, one week prior to the next Senate meeting, for consideration by the Executive Committee

Next Meeting: December 10, 2013
    Rm. 303 ED 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Gale Kirby, Faculty Senate Secretary
Nov. 12, 2013