

**Fairmont State Faculty Senate**  
**Minutes**  
**12 September 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), **Frankie Delapas** (SGA), **Nicholas Myers** (SGA), **Rick Harvey**, (Academic Affairs), **Donna Long** (Exec Committee: Secretary, Humanities), **Gina Fantasia** (BOG Faculty Rep), **Todd Clark** (ACF Rep, Social Sciences), **Julie Reneau** (Education), **Nathan Myers** (Humanities), **Chris Kast** (Academic Affairs), **Rachel Cook** (for Kelley Flaherty, Natural Sciences), **Malisa Eades** (ASN), **Stephanie Jones** (CSM), **Jason Frazer** (CoBA), **Tabitha Lafferre** (ET).

Guests: **Mike Davis** (President), **Dianna Phillips** (Provost), **Deb Hemler** (Natural Sciences), **Jan Kiger** (HHP), **Frank LaFone** (IR&E)

Meeting called to order 3:00 p.m.

Agenda approved; 2 May 2023 minutes approved with one correction.

President Davis spoke briefly about his commitment to faculty governance and the Strategic Plan process. In the next month, information about the SP will be forthcoming; in November/December, Academic Units will be asked to brainstorm ideas; this will be followed by cross-unit discussions and then whole campus discussion. Davis recognizes that we all need to know what everyone is doing and expertise within the disciplines will be respected. There will be no “meddling.” He has an “Open Door” policy and encourages faculty to come and talk with him.

Old Business

5.a Voluntary Committee Assignments for 2023-2024. Second reading. Harrison moved and Singer seconded for approval. Motion passed.

5.b Elected Committee Assignments for 2023-2024. Second reading. Several names were removed (faculty who have left) and some were added. Discussion: CoBA wants to allow any faculty member from the College to represent Aviation and the member’s own Academic Unit. Such an arrangement is not in line with Senate Bylaws. Having Aviation listed as “Vacant” on the Committee List may look bad but may also signal to the Institution that the Unit needs more faculty. Questions about how many votes that person would have and what would constitute a quorum, as well as whether very small units should be Academic Units, were raised. Harrison moved and Delapas seconded for approval. Motion passed.

5.c General Studies Bylaws revision. Second reading. Fantasia moved and Harrison seconded. Motion passed.

New Business (Two minor items only)

6.a Executive Committee membership. Due to Chuck Shields’ resignation (to become chair of Social Sciences), Bob Niichel assumes the Senate President position. That vacated the VP position; Bill Harrison agreed to serve as VP, which vacated his member at large position. Denice Kirchoff agreed to serve as member at large. Singer moved and Clark seconded for approval. Motion passed.

6.b Senate Committee Reports. Chairs have been invited to address Senate. Niichel has shared concerns

raised in the reports with the Provost. Fantasia moved and Clark seconded for approval (acceptance). Motion passed.

#### 7. Provost Announcements:

Dr. Phillips welcomed Dr. Harvey back. She outlined the organization of the Provost's Office: Susan Ross is responsible for curriculum and student appeals; Rick Harvey for Dual Enrollment and budget; Tim Oxley is Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; Pam Stephens is responsible for Academic Advising, Recruitment and Retention (these are all back under Academic Affairs rather than Student Services, as is the Registrar's Office). These changes will allow for greater speed and flexibility in the Provost's Office.

Dr. Phillips noted that Fairmont State was fully accredited by the HLC for ten years (2032-2033 next accreditation), though we will file interim monitoring reports in August 2025 for Systemic and Integrative Planning, Finances; Online & Distance Learning, and Assessment.

Dr. Phillips discussed on-going work of the revived Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation under the direction of Valerie Morphew.

Dr. Phillips shared from Susan Ross that we need a session on HEPC Series 10 as it will affect how we review and assess programs. Series 10 goes into effect July 2025. She will provide a list of programs up for review this year; she will find out if these programs are impacted by Series 10. Architecture BS and MS were fully accredited, and ours is the only program in the state.

Alvarez requested feedback from CoBA's program review last fall to be able to "close the loop."

Dr. Phillips noted that Fairmont State will support 2 sabbaticals next year. Applications now being accepted. Contact Dr. Oxley with questions.

Finally, Dr. Phillips noted that she will meet regularly with the Senate Executive Committee to provide a "direct line of communication."

#### 8.a. ACF

Clark thanked Alvarez for help getting him connected to ACF. He will attend the ACF meeting in November. He wants to identify issues at Fairmont State for ACF's agenda. In response to a question about legislative action on tenure, Clark said he needs data and that the legislative tone on the issue has changed.

#### 8.b. BOG

Fantasia noted that BOG committees are meeting in the next weeks to prepare for BOG meeting next month. In response to a question, she stated that the BOG has not met on strategic positioning, but they will be listening to HEPC and Charleston. There is BOG training in Charleston in October.

#### 8.c SGA

Delapas introduced a new student rep to the Senate, Nicholas Myers. SGA is working on Homecoming and getting its new board up to speed. In response to a question, Delapas said SGA has funding for clubs and organizations but does not have initiatives for fundraising.

9. Call for nominations for two members for Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee. This committee looks at faculty nominations for honorary degrees and awards. The committee was reinstated last year after a hiatus. Julie Reneau volunteered. Senators should ask their faculty to find a second member.

In response to a question, Niichel (who served on the committee last year) stated that whether a nominee had donated to Fairmont State was not part of the selection criteria.

Nominations for the second member to be sent to Long by 9/26. [NOTE: Janie Leary agreed to serve

again so no additional nominations needed.]

## 10. Open Forum

Kiger noted that the deadline for applications for General Studies Core will be announced soon.

Stephanie Jones provided the following deadlines for Curriculum Proposal: New Program/Oct. 10; Curriculum revision or minor courses/Nov. 14; discontinuance of a course/Dec. 10; changes to prerequisites or course revision/April 24.

Kast reported that NESI and FESI survey results (student and faculty engagement, respectively) provide data that will be used for planning. Data needs to be quantified to make informed decisions.

Fantasia asked when results will be shared and noted that previous survey results have not been shared.

LaFone said that the data needs an “architecture” to be useful and his office is in the process of creating that. Phillips said the goal is to democratize data so anyone can see it and use it. She also notes that new IR personnel have only been here since January.

MacLennan noted that Janie Leary also has data from a study her students did, and MacLennan has “anecdotal” information that she will share if LaFone’s office thinks it useful.

Kast asked that anyone with questions about data or anyone who can help with the infrastructure for providing data to please contact him. Also, anyone with data needs, please let Kast know as that will help IR design needs infrastructure.

Discussion on a resolution in support of WVU faculty, students, and staff raised many concerns. No action taken beyond the recommendation to come up with a policy for how, when, and what format to use for Senate responses to public events.

Robert Baker fielded questions regarding the Common Book and Honorary Award Committees.

MacLennan and Jacki Sherman are co-chairs of Common Book. *Radium Girls*’ author Kate Moore may be invited to campus in November.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Long  
Senate Secretary