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Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate

12-10-2020

The Minutes of the Marshall University Faculty Senate Meeting, December 10, 2020

Marshall University Faculty Senate

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THE MINUTES OF THE MARSHALL UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020, AT 4:00 P.M.

MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: **CAM:** Jack Colclough, Adam Dalton, Rob Rabe, Sandra Reed, Mark Zanter **CECS:** Mehdi Esmaeilpour, Sungmin Youn, Sarah Surber, Cong Pu **LCOB:** Daesung Ha, Uyi Lawani, Doohee Lee, Timothy Bryan, Uday Tate **COHP:** Sujoy Bose (*Secretary FS*), Bethany Dyer, Carrie Childers, Annette Ferguson, Debra Young (*Liaison*) **COLA:** Marybeth Beller (*Vice-Chair FS*), Robert Ellison, Anita Walz, Penny Koontz, Jana Tigchelaar, Jose Morillo, Boniface Noyongo, Megan Marshall, Kelli Prejean, Barbara Tarter, Kristen Lillvis (*Liaison*) **COS:** Philippe Georgel (*Chair, FS*), Jon Saken, Kyle Palmquist, Stephen Young, Bill Gardner, Rosalyn Quinones-Fernandez, Sean McBride, Jiyeon Jung, Elizabeth Niese (*Liaison*) **CITE:** (*Cross-reference Cong Pu in CECS*) **COEPD:** George Watson, Timothy Melvin, Mindy Backus, Kimberly McFall, Feon Smith-Branch **SOM:** Chris Risher, Subha Arthur **SOP:** Sarah Plummer, Mindy Varney, Ruhul Amin **South Charleston:** Tracy Christofero **ULIB:** Eryn Roles, Paris Webb

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tina Allen (COEPD), Scott Gibbs (SOM alternate), Vikram Shivkumar (SOM alternate), Dana Lycans (SOM alternate), Tim Long (SOP alternate), Ida Day (COLA), Joel Peckham (COLA), Michael Hambuchen (alternate SOP), Robert Powell (COHP).

EX-OFFICIO, VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Howard (*Graduate Council – cross refer w/COEPD*), Amine Oudghiri-Otmani (*ACF*)

EX-OFFICIO, VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A.

EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Gayle Brazeau, Wendell Dobbs, Teresa Eagle, Dan Holbrook (*Ex-Officio Non-Voting*).

BOG REPRESENTATIVE: Dan Holbrook (*Ex-Officio Non-Voting – Cross reference w/Ex-officio Non-voting*)

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Carl Mummert

GUESTS: Jeffrey Archambault, Jerome Gilbert (*President*), Nancy Lankton, Michael McGuffey, Scott Davis, Michael Prewitt, Leah Payne, Mary Beth Reynolds, Sherri Smith, Avinandan Mukherjee, Mark Robinson, Ginny Painter, Nicola LoCascio, John Maher, Suzanne Konz, Tony Szwilski, Terry Hapney, Susan Tusing.

Call to Order: Declaring that there was a quorum, Faculty Senate Chair, Philippe Georgel, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made & seconded to approve presented FS minutes from:

Dates of Minutes	Discussion	Approval
November 12, 2020	None	MSAP

2. **Announcements –**

Srl.	Items	Reports & Discussion	Votes
a)	Dr. Philippe Georgel	Introduced the 2 agenda items – a. Mental Health Day	

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		<p>b. CourseLeaf Project.</p> <p>Discussions on each as below ensued:</p>
b)	<p>Mental health Day on campus for the Spring 2020-21 Semester</p>	<p>A proposal for a designated mental health day in the Spring 2021 semester, and beyond on campus has been floated by Dean Maurice Cooley et al, as forwarded to the Faculty Senate via the Faculty Executive committee. The proposal, if implemented, will cancel all instructional classes on a designated day, in favor of specific activities (still being developed) to support the mental health of students, faculty, and staff at Marshall University.</p> <p>There was robust discussion, with some specific comments appended below. In general, from faculty standpoint, there is support for mental health for all, but significant resistance to a fixed day that would jeopardize instructional days, and accreditation requirements, esp. those of professional programs, and those with labs. The consensus is that the proposed vehicle for implementation of a single designated day is too nebulous, and a hindrance, if not additional imposition of stress, rather than relief.</p> <p>For now, the proposal is tabled for further ongoing modifications, & deliberations.</p> <p>The details of the discussion that echoed the above summary are abridged below. A full discussion is available per the video of the meeting appended at the end.</p> <p>Sandra Reed (CAM) – Shared constituent faculty feedback in response to Mental Health day proposal from FS ExCom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally, support & appreciation exists for a mental health day to support our students & faculty. ▪ Serious academic concerns reg. the plan to have the mental health day fall on a Tuesday in Spring in light of limited F2F classes, & a significant impact on most importantly, the freshman students. ▪ Suggestion to consider the mental health day in sync with the national model of holding on a Sunday – some discussion highlighted why a

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weekend option may not be optimal with lot of faculty perhaps not being onsite.

- Another suggestion to acknowledge importance of a mental health day with a shortened class period on designated date rather than a full cancellation of classes.

Barbara Tarter (COLA) – presented feedback from COLA constituents:

- Mixed support with majority against a specific mental health day.
- Consensus is against another day off that would interfere with academic calendar, and against a specific day. Faculty would be willing to work with students as needed.
- Impression - One day would not change mental health
- Even if agreed upon, activities should be made available for everybody for the day.

Carrie Childers (COHP) – presented feedback from COHP constituents.

- Strong concern to lose an instructional day, as also hindrance with off-site clinical placements, especially as it applies to graduate professional schools. In context a letter from SOPT has been shared with faculty senate officers.
- Not in their best interests for students who have class, then clinical placement on different days of the week. These concerns extend from clinical programs like communication disorders, nursing, and physical therapy, among others, which are accredited programs and may interfere with accreditation standards if specific day of week was lost to a non-instructional day.
- Generally, the COHP constituents support student mental health day, but the structure needs a different approach.

Jon Saken (COS) – (in addition to acknowledging above comments)

- Loss of another instructional day will have severe impact, esp. on lab courses – With the calendar change, losing another day will result in a 12-week semester.

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Maurice Cooley - (one of the proponents of the mental health day proposal) – spoke for in support of a designated mental health day for students – He is sensitive to faculty comments but would like to use a different perspective.

Penny Koontz (Dept of Psychology) – As a licensed clinical psychologist, made following observations:

- Opposition to a designated fixed mental health day is not to be construed as lack of interest on part of the faculty and would be an erroneous conclusion.
- Instead of designating days to mental health, university should invest in providing tangible resources to mental health care. There is a paucity of mental health providers on campus, who are understaffed, and under supported and would really make a difference if such support were provided to boost mental health efforts on campus.
- There is a desperate need for more licensed psychologists, licensed counselors in the counseling center, more licensed social workers among others has been long in coming.
- A need to look at some of the University policies that promote this imbalance in work & school, and self-care for our students, faculties, and staff.

Boniface Noyongo (COLA) –

- Observation that tight scheduling of classes often works as barrier, as well as add stress to the students who have to walk across campus for classes, where they barely have any time for even having lunch, yet, having to be so much more productive during the course of the day.
- Suggested designing schedules to allow for unwinding between classes.
 - E.g., time allowance for students to get across campus to make it to the next class in good time.
 - Instead of one designated day, creating schedules with days that are interspersed throughout the semester in a way that also encompasses other groups (e.g.,

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		<p>LGBTQ) with respect to mental health, while preserving the number of instructional days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While this scheduling may be difficult to implement yet being observant of pressure being created on students by semester schedule layout might be more productive for mental health vs. a single designated day.
<p>c)</p>	<p>Amie Maynard - CourseLeaf Project – CAT & CIM</p>	<p>Amie Maynard - The University is in process of developing a centralized Course Catalogue (CourseLeaf or CAT), and Curricular Flow Management (CIM) system, with a goal of completion, and implementation with a target date of Aug. 1, 2021. The CourseLeaf project will allow a single point of truth instead of many departmental websites with their own information. Once implemented, CIM will allow for efficient single point-of-data entry with tracking of when and who is making or required to do the next changes.</p> <p>The goal of this project is to make curricular approvals centralized, automated, and efficient, while reducing processing times, redundancies, and learning curve, especially with turnover of senators & committee members. This system will provide centralized tools, and flowthroughs in the curricular approval process. There will be the capability of voting within this model (anonymous or not), that will be an option that the UCC or the faculty senate may opt to use but is not mandatory.</p> <p>CourseLeaf Catalogue (CAT) is an adaptable online tool for managing academic institutions’ course catalogue – this has been implemented with integration into Banner – thus this is what the students are seeing and provides consistency across the institution.</p> <p>An accompanying product of the CAT is CIM (<i>pronounced “KIM”</i>) curriculum flow management. CAT allows a web-based online curriculum flow via the CourseLeaf Curriculum or CIM.</p> <p>CIM will allow the institution to edit, track and approve new & existing courses and programs across campus, using web-based customized forms, and manageable workflows. Thus, this will allow and will be used for online</p>

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		<p>course additions, course changes, deletions, intent to plan, degree program addition, addition of a major for now. CIM will do keyword searches on existing courses/programs in CAT to reduce duplication. This will generate recommendations in a timely, and efficient manner, reducing significant paperwork.</p> <p>Courses withdrawn from approval process will be also be option (with or without rationale). There will be other options available for future development.</p> <p>A Vizio work-flow model has been developed and was shared via screen-share that shows how the flow occurs. (The soft copy of the Vizio flow-chart will be shared by Amie Maynard with the FS after the meeting).</p> <p>Recommendations can be submitted by standing committees, & ad hoc committees; the UCC Committee can submit curricular forms. These will move through the process in an automated manner without having to be physically presented from one step to the next.</p> <p>Feedback and support from the faculty is solicited as this project moves forward. Feedback can be submitted to the faculty senate office. The Executive Committee will draft a resolution recommendation depending on the process that needs to be followed, and it will be brought back to the full Senate for further discussion.</p>
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3. **Recommendations:**

Items	Discussion	VOTE
<p>SR 20-21-11 CC Recommends approval of the listed UNDERGRADUATE COURSES DELETIONS in the specified college and/or schools/programs</p>	<p>No discussion</p>	<p>MSAP</p>

4. **Report of the University President** – Dr. Jerome Gilbert

- a. Dr. Jaime Taylor is interviewing for position of President at his alma-mater Austin Peay State University – wish him the best but would hate to lose him. If he does leave, a national search for a new Provost will be conducted.

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- b. Vaccine info – Vaccine survey disseminated today, with deadline for tomorrow noon. Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) is receiving vaccines for employees of institutions of higher learning and the first vaccines will be available on Dec. 29th.
 - i. Prioritization for those over 65 with pre-existing conditions.
 - ii. Shipments (of vaccine) expected weekly, beginning Dec. 29.
 - iii. Initially, 1000 vaccines will be available each week for the entire higher education system of West Virginia.
 - iv. In mid-January, there will be 2000 vaccines available each week, again, applicable for the entire higher education system in West Virginia.
 - v. Hence, initially, not a huge number of vaccines will be available. Current estimates of vaccinating the entire Marshall employee force over several months' time.
 - vi. Determination of how many vaccines will be made available to each institution will be made at the central office of the HEPC.
 - c. Surveillance testing – will continue next semester. In addition, all employees will be tested within 3-days of return-to-work (RTW) on campus. Will be switching to saliva testing after the holiday break.
 - i. **CANNOT eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum, 30 minutes prior to taking the test** – E-mail has been sent out to sign-up for a time to be tested.
 - ii. At least one other University in West Virginia is holding virtual classes in the first week of classes to give time for the students to take their (COVID-19) test and receive the results back before they begin Face-to-Face (F2F) classes. There will be F2F classes as appropriate after that.
 - iii. President is not “pushing” for above, and will follow what the Faculty Senate prefers, but wants us informed what other Universities are doing.
 - d. Financials:
 - i. Mark Robinson will verify that there will be no salary or employment actions in January, and the current impression is that salaries will be restored by July 1, 2021.
 - ii. Will continue to conserve revenues for now. Provost to look at possibility of restructuring the first year seminar to save money, and also to look at the possibility of increasing the minimum number of students in a class section. Until our enrollment turns around, we need to continue to look at ways to save money.
 - iii. Grateful for the faculty who have stepped up and volunteered to assist with student recruitment - Provost putting together a plan within academic affairs to utilize your (faculty) assistance.
 - iv. If we can get enrollment numbers up, we will solve all our financial challenges.
 - e. **Happy Holidays** – President wishes everyone Happy Holidays.
 - f. Q&A with Dr. Gilbert: None.
5. **Report of the Provost** – Dr. Jaime Taylor - Dr. Taylor is not on campus as he is interviewing as noted before in President's report. No report.
7. **Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) Report** - Amine Oudghiri-Otmani

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- a. HEPC met virtually via Zoom on Friday Nov. 20...
 - i. Impact of (US) Presidential Election – Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs reported of recently attending a number of workshops with the College Board and the Higher Learning Commission. The primary focus of the workshops was the post-election transition, and possibilities in the first few months after the (presidential) inauguration.
 - 1. While details are not yet finalized or fully known at this stage, yet election policy watchers have an expectation that the new President will revamp the US Department of Education and this shakeup will have a potentially significant impact on established educational standards and policies.
 - 2. Repeal of existing restrictive policies - Major policy changes anticipated by the new administration as it affects International Students & DACA recipients. Transition team has in effect stated that repealing existing restrictive policies will be the first order of business under the new administration. According to education analysts, the likely big winners will be the Community & Technical Colleges, Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), International Students, and students in debt. Current student loan rules will likely undergo revision to help borrowers.
 - a. International students: Enrollment is down 4.4% in 4-year institutions for the fall semester which could be attributed to steep decline in international student enrollment across the State. Should new measures be implemented in 2021, the numbers of international students coming to the US could rebound to normal or better levels by 2022.
 - 3. Traditional regional Accreditation Model will get more attention
 - ii. Enrollment: While most State institutions have seemingly kept student enrollment stable so far, there are concerns about the Spring & Fall semesters for 2021. Indicators for lower enrollment for 2021 include lower applications for the Promise Scholarship (down 81%); and lower applications for the completed FAFS (down 1700-1800). Consequently, institutions need to enhance their recruitment efforts to meet their strategic planning & goals.
 - iii. Michael Farrell, HEPC Chairman:
 - 1. Commended the institutional Presidents on adaptive leadership during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
 - a. Thanked the Governor's Office for providing much needed funds & resources to Higher Education.
 - 2. Sarah Tucker (HEPC Chancellor) –
 - a. Acknowledged Governor Jim Justice for setting aside \$2.5 million, in July for testing students & employees as they return to campus.
 - b. Apart from WVU, <1% of students have tested positive since classes began this fall

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- c. Encouraged institutions to assess the adequacy of the services & supports that they have in place to cater to the mental health & needs of students.
 - 3. Anna Williams (Chair of the Advisory Council of Students):
 - a. Poor or unreliable Internet access continue to be matter of concern, especially in those living in the southern part of the State.
 - b. Isolation is & limited social interaction with peers appear to be adding to student challenges & affecting their psychological well-being.
 - c. Food Insecurity Concern: Self-supporting students and their families could be experiencing food insecurity due to loss of employment or reduction in work hours.
- iv. ACF, in extended discussion, adopted the following legislative agenda items – Expecting to present this in the form of resolution, perhaps at next Faculty Senate meeting as these are still work-in-progress & under revision):
 - 1. Broadband needs – expand and improve broadband capabilities Statewide to ensure that students, higher education institutions, and industries have access to develop technologies that they need to develop, innovate, and grow.
 - 2. COVID challenges & adaptation strategies: Continue adaptation to the challenges brought forth by the pandemic through working to sustain, improve, & protect the health & education of our students.
 - 3. IT needs: To address IT needs at the institutional level by funding and training faculty & staff.
 - 4. Mental Health needs: Study & improve access to mental health resources for our students
 - 5. Globalization bill or resolution at state legislature – to encourage and support recruitment and retention for post-secondary education globalization initiatives in West Virginia’s higher education institutions.
 - 6. Transparency in Campus governance: Initiate faculty and staff evaluations of Boards of Governors, as well as administrators at the Dean level and above.
 - 7. Legislative priorities list (like this) is set by ACF annually and presented to the Senators & Delegates in Charleston around February.
- b. Q & A for ACF Rep:
 - i. Marybeth Beller Comment – Encourage the ACF to work with Delegate Ellington who is still going to be Chair of the House Education, particularly on the proposal to increase the international students we have coming to campus. Provide Delegate Ellington with all the data demonstrating the viability of international students –
 - 1. that the international students are paying full out-of-state tuition.

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- 2. the numbers (of international students) are low at all of the schools/universities, and colleges.
- 3. Increasing the viability to facilitate international students to come to all our campuses would be very helpful.
- ii. Amine Response – A full report has been prepared. There is a potential senator who is interested in sponsoring a secondary globalization bill, at least a resolution before the legislature to encourage higher education institutions to boost their recruitment & retention of international students.

3. Reports from Standing Committees:

Committee	Report by:	Report Specifics
Legislative Affairs	Elizabeth Niese	Legislative committee met on Dec. 9. In addition to the legislative priorities presented by the ACF, other priorities should be any bills that concern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the budget for higher education ii. PEIA stability iii. Guns on campus iv. Charter schools - may impact higher education institutions as well. Expect resolutions reg. these priorities coming in the next faculty senate meeting.

10. Request to Speak and/or Answer Questions to the Senate: (5 minutes) –

- a. None

New Business:

Dr. Philippe Georgel announced his resignation from the Chair Position. He is stepping down from his Chair position to join Dr. John Maher in the office of research in the role of Assistant VP Research. This is not a new position, rather another task added to Dr. Georgel’s portfolio. He thanked the Senate for the honor & pleasure to have served. He will remain a Senator on the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate will need to meet prior to next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate to elect a new Chair, and possibly a slate of new Officers, as outlined in the Constitution.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 17:00 hours (5:00 pm).

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dr. Sujoy Bose, Recording Secretary

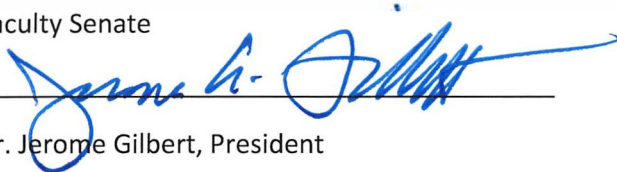
Faculty Senate

MINUTES READ:



Dr. Kristen Lillvis, Chair

Faculty Senate



Dr. Jerome Gilbert, President

Marshall University

Videos of THIS Senate Meeting available at: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/33c40918-4db4-4006-b2dd-b953f4800e9b>