Faculty Senate
Minutes
4/27/2017 Overflow Business Meeting  3:00-5:00 pm

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
ROLL CALL

Present: Bob Beaudet, Rus Binkley, Patricia Bricker, Dan Clapper, Mae Claxton, Erin McNelis, Niall Michelsen, Malcolm (Mack) Powell, Brian Railsback, Liz Skene, Katerina Spasovska, Wes Stone, Tonya Westbrook, Weigu (Bill) Yang

Members with Proxies: Catherine Carter, Robert Crow, Kae Livsey, Bill (William) Richmond, Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Robert Steffen, Zsolt Szabo

Members Absent: David Belcher, David Dorondo, Ian Hewer, Beth Huber, Frank Lockwood, Andrew Mannion, David McCord, Alex Sargsyan, Damon Sink, Jamie Vaske, Cheryl Waters-Tormey,

SENATE COUNCIL REPORTS

APRC Report: Kae Livsey

Student laptop requirement: Annette Littrell

Fall 2018 laptop initiative: We have been collecting data for quite some time. We have a current policy in effect since 1998, which says each student must come to WCU with a personal computer. We began to collect data and gather feedback, and we felt it was time to update this policy. For 2018, we will change “computer” to “laptop”. Data from 2016 shows that 97.4% of students already come in with a laptop. 77.3% use a laptop for their assignments, and 81.9% ranked having a laptop. Desktops and laptops are comparable in price. We took the financial aid piece into consideration as well, and students will be able to cover it. We also looked at STEM Building Planning, which is using laptops. We are looking into a sustainable refresh. As we start changing classrooms around, we want to think about laptops, tablets, and cell phone usage rather than VGA cables, etc....

We need to fund and keep the classrooms up to date. We are putting resources into VCAT so students can use a browser and access a desktop. We have 80 different applications available on VCAT currently. We are currently testing local saving of files and are working on making things viable.

We are looking at a phased in approach starting with our freshman class in 2018. We have questioned every college to receive departmental recommendations about the need.
Some feedback results are: beefed up MacBook’s, advanced graphic cards, and devices that can run Office 365. We will compile the information on our website and admissions will include this in the students’ information.

We are increasing loaner computers as well. We are well geared towards this initiative.

**Question**- As you are going through the various required equipment, some majors may require more...is that falling on the student?

**Response**- The cost will be covered in their financial aid.

**Question**- What will happen with the computer labs?

**Response**- We are making sure the E-classroom computers are moving to zero clients. They will be slowly phased out as needs change. For the demonstration classrooms, we are trying to update connections and make sure you have options to plug in your own laptop.

We are going to double our band-with and have tasked our team to do a saturation test. As we are renovating classrooms, we will pull power all the way around. This is the prototype with other classrooms. Forsyth 313 is a prototype classroom.

**Concerns**- For faculty, if something fails in VCAT, everyone goes home. As we get more and more things on VCAT, it will get more expensive for bandwidth, and it will get slower. We need to find out if people are experiencing slowdown or failure.

**Response**- VCAT has been a pilot for 5 years. It is a continuing process as we continue to receive feedback.

**Concerns**- student expense, and troubleshooting/supporting the electronic… Colleagues in our department are concerned about other issues as well, including when a student changes majors and all of a sudden they may have to get another laptop now. What about faculty that don’t allow laptops?

**Response**- We are working on a 3-year IT information that will be available publicly.

**Curriculog Items:**

No voting items. We had long discussions on Accounting, BSBA that ended resolved. One issue in the Parks and Recreation program change, is that it does not seem to meet academic standards. Students are required to have a second major or minor when they are under 45 hours. A compromise was to allow this program change to move forward, but then require them to bring the program into accordance with university standards. Brandon Schwab will make a note of this.

**FAC Report: Mack Powell**

Resolutions based off non-tenured task force will be on the agenda in the fall.

**Senate Chair Report: Bill Yang**
• Reminder: open forum for Faculty Handbook changes, April 27, UC Multipurpose Room, 4-5pm
• Committee nominations-
  o Paul A. Reid, need 2 faculty members, TBD
  o Athletics, need 1 faculty member, Wes Stone
  o IT Council, Dan Clapper
  o IT Advisory Committee, needs 1 member
  o Tuition & Fees Committee, Brian Railsback

MEETING ADJOURNED