

WCU FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Date: April 30, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom meeting

Facilitator: Bessie Lee Lawton, President

Type of meeting: Scheduled Meeting

Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Misc.

Members Present: *designated by an X*

Attendees:

Benedict, Kristopher		Major, Marci	x
Bolton, David	x	Mandel, Deborah	x
Brenner, James	x	Mishra, Vipanchi	x
Chang, Janet	x	Mraz, Megan	x
Cherry, Dan	x	Panichelli, Meg	x
Gary Childs	x	Pierlott, Matthew	<i>Proxy Dan Forbes</i>
Cooke, Laquana	x	Raskauskas, Jenn	x
Daltry, Rachel	x	Riley, Kathleen	
Forbes, Daniel	x	Saboe, Matt	x
Guerriero, Tara	x	Sanz-Sanchez, Israel	x
Hill, Erin	x	Schugar, Heather	x
Houser, Mary	x	Scythes, James	
Junius, Premalatha		Smidt, Esther	x
Karahan, Selcuk	x	Studien-Webb, Gretchen	x
Kolasinski, Kurt	x	Tennille, Julie	x
Konigsberg, Lisa	x	Wade, Michelle	x
Lawton, Bessie Lee	x	Wiest, Julie	x
Lightner, Sarah	x	Wilbur, Veronica	x
Adjunct Faculty Rep: Ann Hiloski-Fowler	x	Student Govt. Assoc. Rep: Michaela Karlesses	
Adjunct Faculty Rep: William Sawyer	x	Graduate Student Assoc. Rep: Montana Leaks	
APSCUF Rep: Julie Wiest	x	ROTC rep: TBA	

Guests in Attendance: Kim Johnson, Orkideh Mohajeri, Dara Dirhan, Jackie Hodes, Amy Baker, Landrus Burress, Yuhong He, Karen Watkins, Kerrie Ocasio, Simon Ruchtj, Beatrice Adera, Lauren Stoltzfus, Michelle Kaulback, Stacie Metz, Tony Delgado, Eirini Panagiotidou, Lauri Hyers, Selen Razon

AGENDA ITEMS

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome to Senators, Proxies, and Guests (B. Lawton)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome to new Senators! <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eirini Panagiotidou (CAH), Jackie Hodes (CESW), Stacie Metz (At-Large), Simon Ruchti (At-Large), Yuhong He (At-Large) 	
<p>Dr. Tony Delgado, <i>Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs</i>, Dr. Landrus Burress, <i>Senior Director of Student Health Services</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landrus: From an operational standpoint, Student Health Services did not shut down because of the pandemic. It has been an exciting and interesting time. We've kept our same clinical indicators; we have seen some cases of COVID-19 and worked with students with what they needed to do to quarantine. We've adopted policies to keep staff and students safe. 2. Tony: I work with health and identity and the CARE Team. 3. Landrus: We've worked with the borough to develop protocols. We recommend to our students to get immunized, and will highlight that as students return. 4. Tony: Availability of vaccine is better now, but now we deal with vaccine hesitancy. We have a clinic tomorrow, and there have been cancellations, because some people shop for vaccines. We will continue promoting them, and also will continue testing. Student Health will continue to require tests. We are building capacity to serve the student population. <p>Q: Bessie: Can you talk about how we will be tracking whether students have been vaccinated, so we know how many are unvaccinated? And will there be a testing protocol? Are there isolation plans?</p> <p>A: Tony: Students can disclose that to Student Health. Students in residence halls submit their status to be exempted from testing. We're not able to require testing for students unless they are living on campus or participating in athletics. March 17 CDC provided guidance on when to increase or decrease testing in institutions. We have that guidance moving forward. Students in isolation or quarantine have been given the option to go home, or in provided spaces on campus where they are provided with food by Aramark. We monitor symptoms and release them after evaluation from a clinician. Residence halls will be at capacity this fall, so we have made arrangements with a hotel for isolation space. We are working on transportation to and from the hotel.</p> <p>Q: Veronica: How are faculty being handled in terms of testing or exposure? Who is responsible for that?</p> <p>A: Tony: We have a system with screening questions for students, and that determines whether there is a need for follow up. We'll activate protocols as strictly as possible. We can do that for all students, ask them to self-monitor, and any symptoms flag them for Student Health and professors can be contacted. We don't handle students; maybe HR can answer that question.</p> <p>Q: Kim Johnson: If students knew they were going to be charged for a hotel, that might be an incentive for them to be vaccinated. Can we do that?</p> <p>A: Landrus: That is one of the incentives; we require them to isolate or quarantine. It depends on the clinical outcome, of course. Since the vaccine is not fully FDA approved we cannot require individuals to get it. We have to operate on preventive healthcare measures. Tony: There's a lot of movement for incentivizing vaccines. Education will be very important in making those decisions and expected behavior in different settings. We've consulted with CHS on this. More information will be coming out in marketing, helping students to make the choice, emphasizing that the vaccine is freedom, you can continue your social life. We'll see a lot more movement during the summer; we have a lot of homework to do. Costs for isolation will be added on to the housing bill, so it is worth getting the shot.</p> <p>Q: Kim: Can we separate students who have not received the vaccine in the dorms?</p> <p>A: Tony: PASSHE general counsel is reviewing that; we'll get advice on that soon. It will have a lot of impact on practice on the ground.</p>	

	<p>Q: Bill: Can the university require everyone to wear masks? A: Tony: Yes! We will be talking about mask enforcement.</p> <p>Q: Matt: How are other universities able to require student vaccination? A: Tony: Can't answer that. In Harrisburg there has been legislation introduced to prevent vaccine requirements in school systems.</p> <p>Q: Gary: Has any absence policy been developed for students who have to quarantine? There are issues relating to content delivery at that point. A: Tony: Absences are ultimately faculty decision; on the Student Affairs side we can account for the absence, but it is up to the faculty to make decisions about it. Absences will be disruptive.</p> <p>Q: Kim: Is it a 3 foot or 6 foot social distancing rule? A: Landrus: Looking at the health research, we're promoting at least 6 feet apart and wear a mask. We will have to adjust that according to transmission rates.</p> <p>Q: Ann: Will there be campus contact tracing? A: Landrus: That is the responsibility of the county.</p> <p>Q: Bill: 6 foot distancing is difficult for laboratory courses. Is that handled by the Dean's office? A: Landrus: I would check with the Dean's office.</p> <p>Q: Simon: General counsel usually thinks about cost/benefit and lawsuits. Is that really in the best interest and safety of our community, or are they driven by lawsuits? Do they need to have an assurance that we might not sue about the policy? I'm nervous! A: Tony: I can't speak for general counsel. We can't require the vaccines; if there's an order from the department of health that could change that, but institutions don't have that ability. I was surprised that we have only a meningitis vaccine requirement here; other places require an MMR.</p> <p>Q: Kim: Are we going to be in a hybrid mode, if there's a 6 foot distance requirement? A: Tony: I can't speak to that; ask your Dean or the Provost.</p> <p>Q: Bessie: There has been a fall planning committee that has been set up; we'll be soliciting your concerns about returning to campus for the fall.</p>	
Senate business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of minutes of 3/26/2021 meeting. 2. Update on meetings with President Chris Fiorentino and Provost Laurie Bernotsky and Deputy Provost Jeff Osgood <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bessie: There has been a vote to integrate some of the PASSHE institutions. It makes some sense, as it consolidates programs and allows smaller sized institutions can offer more. There's no guarantee that this will work to keep students, so it can still lead to retrenchment. Chris says that institutions that are doing well are being asked to support failing institutions. There are faculty teaching very small classes at other schools. Now that the vote has happened the issue is in the public realm; there is a 60-day period for comments, and he expects that to be ugly. Will students pick these schools with all the public talk about them failing? The integration deadline is fall 2022, so they need to recruit more students. Even if we get more appropriations, there are questions of how it is distributed. b. Bessie: We are looking good for the fall, but enrollment is down, though the time myWCU is down might have impacted that. Grad enrollment is up by 10% and this is expected to continue. The leadership is focused on long-term health. c. Bessie: Our budget is in good shape. We modeled on 1-2% tuition increase, but it didn't happen. Because of contract increases, costs will increase. If we get all the students we will be at negative \$7 million. d. Bessie: We asked about the cyberattack. Our IS&T caught it early and was able to respond. Millersville had a longer downtime, and another institution paid a ransom. e. Bessie: The Provost says that under no circumstance changes that have happened due to COVID-19 will become a new baseline. f. Bessie: We shared feedback concerns about the fall with them. We raised the concerns about vaccination, and students selecting whether they wanted to go remote or face-to-face. Chris says the students will not have the option to 	

	<p>choose. We noted that students have developed expectations about flexibility due to work during the pandemic. There is a module being developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Bessie: We also raised concerns about campus climate in coming back; Jeff suggested this should be included in the required module. h. Bessie: In the last month there was a COVID-19 outbreak in the resident halls. Some students partied, they think in the borough. Chris says there are some problem houses in town, and that is the jurisdiction of the borough police. If the borough sanctions them, WCU can also sanction them. i. Bessie: There is an estimate that 25-30% of our population will refuse to get the vaccine. Chris was more optimistic a month ago than he is now. They are asking for our help in encouraging faculty and students to get vaccinated. <p>3. Discussion: Fall reopening concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bessie: Heather reports that the fall planning committee will be meeting next week. b. Kim: What are people fearful of? Bessie: Some faculty are fearful due to campus climate issues. Some faculty who is Asian fears coming back to campus in the fall. There's also fear of getting COVID-19 from someone unvaccinated. c. Erin: What's the appetite for coming back face-to-face? We assume students want that because they didn't like remote, but what does the community want? Bessie: Some of my advisees say they enjoy the online environment. I don't know. Bill: I have about 100 students, and I've asked them; by and large they are happy with online, but they like being face-to-face. d. Kurt: Polling of students is very fluid. Chemistry students say they want to be back face-to-face. The students want to be face-to-face, but they look at how things are on the ground to make the decision. e. Dan Cherry: Space issues are a concern for music. We've done a lot of instruction in person with a lot of mitigation, for example with wind instruments. We're functioning. I was assuming we would be going back to normal in the fall, but now I'm seeing that's probably not going to be the case. f. Erin: I don't understand how this would work with high-flex; who will do the scheduling? Is it going to be up to the faculty how they are going to divide up the class? g. Jackie: We need very clear guidance about this from the academic leadership, so we don't have to guess at it. Julie: At Meet and Discuss, it came up that upper administration is considering all these things. But a lot can change between now and then, and so being explicit now may not be helpful. I don't know that they will be able to solve them all, but it's on their radar. h. Israel: I hope the administration that is in tune with other institutions who have tried this model this whole year. In Texas universities faculty were able to divide up students, which made students unhappy, so then students got to choose whether to be remote. At the end of the day most students are online and faculty are forced to teach from campus, just so the institution can say the university is open. i. Bessie: If you think of any other concerns, email them to me! <p>4. Other business</p> <p>5. Learning Lab update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Megan: We've been meeting with Dean Williams. The conversation is looking at all the pieces to present to administration. It's looking beyond a learning lab to a child-care center, a possible third-party vendor, really taking a deep dive into the various options. Early learning centers combine learning lab and child-care center. We're going to assemble a proposal; our due date is end of May, so final proposal should go up in June. <p>6. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bessie: Thank you to all the senators and proxies for your participation during the pandemic. We've been invited to participate on many committees, and administration regularly consults with us, and we have a good relationship with APSCUF and CAPC. We did not have active committees due to the pandemic, but 	
--	---	--

	<p>we hope to bring those back. I'd like to thank the exec committee for all their support!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Julie: We've gone from a body of 38 to 40; we realized we were out of compliance because we did not have School of Music reps. Dan Cherry and Marci Major have been converted to School of Music seats. We had to add two At-Large seats to replace them. c. Julie: We've traditionally had current senators elect the executive committee, but our constitution requires that the newly seated senators participate. Outgoing senators did not receive a ballot, but new senators should have received a ballot. d. Julie: The ballot lists known candidates, but there is an opportunity to write-in candidates. Currently none of the positions are running unopposed. Are there any self-nominations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Candidates present statements about themselves and their candidacy. e. Julie: I am opening up voting. Use the link I sent you in email. <p>7. Julie: All of us on Senate want to express our thanks to Bessie for her service. We have made a digital card that senators have contributed to for Bessie. Bessie, you can now open the package we sent you! Bessie: It is a beautiful jacket, thank you! Being on Senate is the best service opportunity on campus, and I really enjoy it.</p> <p>8. Julie: All the candidates nominated have been elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. President: Julie Wiest b. Vice-President: Israel Sanz-Sánchez c. Recording Secretary: Dan Forbes d. Corresponding Secretary: Erin Hill e. At-Large: Kurt Kolasinski, Julie Tennille 	
Liaison reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presidential Cabinet liaison – Senator Jim Brenner 2. R2 Carnegie Classification Working Group – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez - Israel: The R2 task force put together a report; you should have received an email about it. We consulted external in internal sources. This is a designation that happens automatically when thresholds of numbers of doctoral students and research dollars. The biggest question is how this will effect evaluation requirements and expectations; that is still under the CBA. We also need to continue the conversation about research. Kurt: I asked Nikki Bennett about this. We are still a primarily an undergraduate institution, and you can apply for grants as such. 3. LGBTQIA+ Caucus – Senator Julie Tennille – Julie: There are upcoming events. June 3-4 virtual event on LGBT research (https://socwel.ku.edu/research-symposium-2021). We are hosting at WCU an integrated care and support for trans children symposium on Oct. 1. It will be remote but should accommodate up to 500 folks. 4. Campus Climate Intervention Team – Senator Erin Hill 5. Faculty Mentoring Committee – 6. Sustainability Advisory Council – Senator Kurt Kolasinski – Kurt: The WCU Green Office program has been launched to help with making office operations more green (https://www.wcupa.edu/Sustainability/greenoffice.aspx). There will be a planting party at the South Campus Garden, May 8, 1-3pm. RSVP required (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4fa8a82da7fcc43-wcusouth2). 7. ADA – Senator Matt Pierlott 8. University Forum – 9. APSCUF – Senator Julie Wiest – Julie: The Day of Action was Wednesday. It was very well-attended, over 200 for both sessions. More information will be coming out. Elections were a big topic of discussion. Margaret Ervin will assume APSCUF presidency in mid-summer. There will be plans for more socializing in the fall; look out for that. There will be an APSCUF film festival. And there will be a happy hour early in the fall. 10. Multicultural Faculty Commission (MFC) – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez 11. Council for Diversity, Inclusion and Academic Excellence – 12. Budget Review Committee – Senator Kurt Kolasinski 13. President's Commission on the Status of Women – Senator Kathleen Riley – Michelle Wade: There was a conference in the spring on Zoom that went well 	

	<p>(https://sru.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Plenary.PASSHEWC2021/1_vusa0zc4).</p> <p>Basically everything is on hold for COVID-19. Bessie: Is there a study on diversity of faculty in PASSHE? Michelle: Yes, that has been commissioned, but it isn't sharable yet.</p> <p>14. Student Government Association – Michaela Karlesses</p> <p>15. Graduate Student Association – Montana Leaks</p> <p>16. LMS Advisory Committee – Senator Dan Forbes – No report.</p> <p>17. Strategic Plan – Senator Heather Schugar</p> <p>18. Middle States Self-Study – Senator Heather Schugar</p> <p>19. United to End Racism –</p> <p>20. Alumni Association – Adjunct Faculty Representative William Sawyer</p> <p>21. Military Veterans Coordinating Committee – Senator Jim Scythes</p> <p>22. Technology Committee – Senator Erin Hill – Erin: Dan Forbes will be taking over for me soon. Ann Hiloski-Fowler is also on the committee. The cyberattack—they emphasized the importance of having Carbon Black. It monitors system-level activity, not user-level activity; it functions more like antivirus software. It is more about catching the infiltration of the system. They talked about digital content retention; we are over capacity for some of these systems, and they may be reaching out to faculty to think about how to manage digital content and storage.</p>	
Committee Reports	<p>Faculty Welfare/Ethics – Senator Deborah Mandel (Chair)</p> <p>Student Welfare – Senator Julie Wiest (Chair)</p> <p>Membership and Elections – Senator Julie Wiest (Chair)</p> <p>Communications – Senator Kurt Kolasinski (Chair)</p> <p>Research – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez (Chair)</p>	
Committees	<p>Committee meeting:</p> <p>Faculty Welfare/Ethics – Senator Deborah Mandel (Chair)</p> <p>Student Welfare – Senator Julie Wiest (Chair)</p> <p>Membership and Elections – Senator Julie Wiest (Chair)</p> <p>Communications – Senator Kurt Kolasinski (Chair)</p> <p>Research – Senator Israel Sanz-Sánchez (Chair)</p>	
Senate Exec Committee	<p>President: Bessie Lee Lawton</p> <p>Vice President: Julie Wiest</p> <p>Recording Secretary: Dan Forbes</p> <p>Corresponding Secretary: Erin Hill</p> <p>At-Large Members: Kurt Kolasinski and Israel Sanz-Sanchez</p> <p>Immediate Past President: Heather Schugar</p>	
	5 pm adjournment	
NEXT MEETING		
Day and Time:	September 17, 2021, 3-5pm	
Topics/ Presenters:	APSCUF-WCU President Margaret Ervin CAPC Chair Susan Johnston, CAPC Vice Chair Josh Auld	