

Glenville State College Faculty Senate Minutes

Date: April 2, 2019

I. Call to Order and Roll

- President Tim Henline called to order the Glenville State College Faculty Senate at 12: 25pm in the Mollohan Conference Room, Room 319.
- Senators present: Tim Henline, Adam Black, Jeremy Keene, James Bradley, Jason Yeager, David O'Dell, Amanda Chapman, Kevin Evans, Wenwen Du, Dana Wilson.
- Also in attendance: Matthew Thiele, John Beckvold

II. Approval of Minutes; Reports

- Motion to approve minutes for March 19 from Marjorie Stewart, seconded by Kevin Evans, carried.
- Reports
 - President's Report: Tim Henline invited John Beckvold to come and talk to us about the current campus situation with President Pellet resigning and acting duties passing to John Beckvold. He may join us. Mr. Beckvold has shared numbers regarding residence hall occupancy, as we requested at our last meeting, and Tim shares them with the Senate. David O'Dell notes it does not offer all the information we were seeking. Tim Henline says we can ask for clarification. For example, the numbers we were given indicate a capacity of 40 at Riverfront, but David believes there are 80 double rooms, meaning a capacity of 80 residents. At this point John Beckvold joins us, and clarifies that the current capacity of Riverside is currently 84. He notes that we have been moving some residents between halls as certain buildings are being refurbished. David O'Dell asks whether there's a timeline for fully refurbishing Pioneer Village. John Beckvold notes that we are only working on buildings as we secure funding, and not getting ahead of ourselves as we did with the Riverfront Residence. He adds that Pioneer Village requires refurbishment because of water/mold problems, HVAC deficiencies, and normal wear and tear. Also, the Riverfront capacity does not include the 2-bedroom apartment of the former owner (currently unoccupied), or the unit housing the RAs. Tim Henline notes that we've all gotten the email announcing the resignation of President Tracy Pellet, and asks if we have any questions for John Beckvold. Marjorie Stewart expresses distress about two facts. First, the internal communication on this thing was less

than ideal, and now the media reports seem to indicate that President Pellet has taken control of the narrative. She expresses concern that the official statements of the college have been misleading, and accrediting bodies are going to react badly. Marjorie asks how we will reclaim the narrative. Second, Marjorie notes that while John Beckvold will be taken control of daily presidential duties, the email states that the board will appoint an interim president soon, and also instate a search committee. Marjorie notes that we need a firmer timeline on these things. John Beckvold confirms that the narrative has not been well-controlled, in spite of his recommendations. John also confirms that a committee meeting tomorrow will be defining timelines for appointing an interim and creating a search committee. John has been speaking to members of the board about using the Registry (a consulting firm that helps colleges fill interim positions with highly experienced professionals who are not going to make rookie mistakes) to find candidates for an interim president. John's opinion is that it would be best to conduct a permanent presidential search after we have stabilized matters at the college. If we start our search while facing an HLC visit and an uncertain budget, we will not attract the best candidates. Six months of solidifying our situation would give us time to make ourselves more attractive. James Bradley asks whether interims would focus on long-term growth, or lean toward cutbacks. John answers that there's no reason to believe they would default to cutbacks; they would use their expertise to assess our problems, listen to the board and other stakeholders, and advise on the best solutions to our problems. Tim Henline notes that the email states John Beckvold will handle day-to-day activities of the president, and asks whether he, the cabinet, and the board will be the main levels of administration going forward. John answers that the cabinet has been revitalized and new members added, but no further levels are set to be added to the top of the chain. John will take on day-to-day functions like having a vote on the MEC board. Marjorie quotes the part of the announcement that says President Pellet will assist the board on continuing his initiatives, and asks what that entails. John relays that Tracy Pellet will give recommendations to the board, but will not be representing the college from here on out. Marjorie notes that his quote in the newspaper must be the last time he insults the college. James Bradley asks about the discussions that have been happening about cutting departments, faculty, etc: will these be ongoing concerns, as in his view they stand to make the college less attractive to students. John Beckvold notes that the Reduction in Force Committee was created to recommend personnel cuts, but has been disbanded after seemingly

providing no solutions. However, we are looking at significant budget deficits in the near future, so some cuts are likely inevitable, unless we increase on-campus enrollment. Marjorie asks whether it has been taken into consideration that we are top-heavy in terms of personnel, and John replies that it has, though he notes that the problem might be less that we are top-heavy and more that we are bottom-light. Tim Henline, as a member of the RIF committee, never received communication indicating that the RIF committee had ended. John Beckvold asks whether he should send out an announcement that the committee has been disbanded until further notice. Tim says yes, and John agrees to do so.

- Board of Governors/ACF Representative Dr. Kevin Evans: Kevin notes that the executive meeting was held, so not much can be reported from that, though we can assume that the recent announcements are a result of that meeting. The board has invited faculty to attend the next meeting on May 8, and Kevin reminds us that we need to show up and make ourselves a presence so that we can establish better communications with the board. Kevin will attempt to send out a text to let us know at what time of day faculty will be invited into the meeting. At the last board meeting, Kevin suggests a dinner including faculty and the board, maybe even something that becomes a regular function. The board indicated interest in the idea. Tim Henline notes that the faculty party was a great success, and thanks Jason Yeager and Marjorie Stewart for their work on that. Jason Yeager notes that he hopes to organize another event for the 13th beginning at 11am, though it might be complicated by other functions running concurrently. Perhaps a cookout to coincide with open house would be ideal, though currently only eight prospective students have committed to being here that day. We can do it anyway, though, and this time incorporate not only faculty but also community and staff, hopefully including athletics, to build relationships and sweeten the local conversation about the college. He'd also like to initiate an end-of-the-year event. Marjorie Stewart notes we need events like this to rebuild our reputation as a campus family. Jason Yeager also thanks Marjorie Stewart for all her help on the last event. John Beckvold notes that there have been post-commencement luncheons for faculty and staff, and John is hoping to hold that event before commencement so that more people can attend. Marjorie Stewart notes that last year it was unclear why people were cited by the president at that event, which led to some bad feelings, especially when some departments seemed conspicuously left out. John Beckvold notes that it might be better to announce formal awards at commencement, and limit recognitions at the luncheon. Kevin Evans notes that as faculty marshal he has not been invited recently to

Commencement Committee meetings. David O'Dell notes that marshals used to play a larger role, but those positions have been reduced. John Beckvold believes that convocation and commencement should be in the hands of the Provost primarily, as the chief academic events of the year. Victor Vega has indicated to Kevin that he wants to re-establish some of the academic traditions.

- Administrative/Academic Updates:

III. Old Business

- Faculty Senate Constitution: Dennis Wemm is not present, so we will delay this business.

IV. New Business

- Emeritus Status for Paul Peck: Kevin Evans notes that the Department of Science and Mathematics has nominated Paul for Emeritus status, which requires a letter from Faculty Senate supporting the nomination. Larry Baker has himself written a letter of support. The letters of support will go to the provost, and we hope he will be recognized at commencement.
 - WenWen Du motions that the Senate honor Paul Peck as Emeritus Professor, seconded by Marjorie Stewart, carries.

V. Departmental Representative Concerns

Meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm

