

Glenville State College Faculty Senate Minutes

November 3, 2009

I. Call to Order and Roll

President Dennis Wemm called to order the Glenville State College Faculty Senate at 12:20 p.m. on November 3, 2009 in the Mollohan Center Conference Room, Room 319.

Senators present: Dennis Wemm, Arthur DeMatteo, Liza Brenner, Jonathan Minton, David O'Dell, Cinda Echard, Connie Stout, Fred Walborn, Larry Baker, Paul Peck, Sara Sawyer, J. Morgan, Jill Haasch, Rick Witte, John Taylor, Dorman Batson, Randy Unger, and George Hoshell

Senators absent: none

Others present: Dr. Peter Barr and Dr. Kathy Butler

II. Approval of Minutes and Ongoing Reports

Motion to approve minutes of October 20, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting. Motion passed and minutes approved.

Reports:

Dennis Wemm (President's Report):

- Nothing to report at this time

Paul Peck (ACF and Board of Governors Representative Report):

- Motion to endorse Advisory Council of Faculty recommendation on PEIA changes was approved. (see Appendix) Peck/Baker m/s
- Peck requests Senate's approval of the letter to PEIA communicating the Senate's endorsement of the Advisory Council recommendation. (see letter below)
- Wemm requests a motion to approve. O'Dell/Peck m/s
- Brenner suggests a sentence change. (highlighted in green letter below)
- J.Morgan comes up with a language change for that sentence. (highlighted in blue below)
- Dr. Barr recommended a language change to remove accusations against legislators. Wemm recommended a language change as highlighted in yellow.
- O'Dell and Peck accepted the changes as friendly amendments.
- The motion was approved.

Dr. Peter Barr answers the faculty's questions:

1. There are recurring concerns in the newspaper that the county could be held liable for defaults on the new residence hall construction projects. How can GSC better address these concerns?

Barr: The county will not be liable for any default on the new dorm construction. The GSC Housing Corporation will be liable. Barr also states that a local citizen voiced a criticism: the President should quit building buildings and try to bring GSC up from being a 4th tier college. Dr. Barr thought this comment was out of line.

2. Is there a threshold level for college reserve funds that, beyond which, you would be prepared to recommend increases to faculty salaries?

Barr: doesn't know if there is a threshold in the reserve funds. We planned the budget to allow faculty raises. The Chancellor recommended no raises. Lewisburg voted yes to salary raises despite the Chancellor's recommendation. GSC's goal is to be at a 100% match among its peers. He is waiting for further guidance from the Chancellor.

Baker : asks who are GSC's peers? (see below)

3. In lieu of raises that are added to base salary, is there a way to grant a bonus? Is the Board of Governors authorized to do this?

Barr: states there was a bill passing that included a bonus for higher ed faculty but it died. He is committed to trying to get pay raises.

4. Are there any provisions that can be made to provide faculty with a voice in future planning for Building and Grounds improvements?

Barr: Yes. Clark and Pickens Hall present open opportunities. He has formed a committee to look at a master plan so we can move forward. Barr welcomes any input for suggestions for the buildings and grounds committee.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Larry Baker reports: (Vice President)

- Working on tuition waiver draft with FA Karen Lay and HR David Stanaker.
- He will have a more complete draft by the Senate meeting in January.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- There is no new business at this time.
- Since committee work will not be completed in time for the scheduled November 17 Senate, that meeting will not be held. Wemm requests a motion to approve. J. Morgan/Echard m/s

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m; motion to adjourn by Baker/Morgan (m/s). Motion passed unanimously.

APPENDIX

Motion that the Glenville State College Faculty Senate endorse the following recommendation approved by the Advisory Council of Faculty at its October 23, 2009 meeting:

“In light of State recommendations that there be no raises for 2009-2010, the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) strongly endorses a recommendation which urges the State and WV-PEIA to implement a moratorium on any increases in PEIA premiums, co-payment deductibles, and out-of-pocket maximum and/or decreases in medical/pharmacy benefits to all state employees both active and retired.”

Letter to PEIA

Robert W. Ferguson, Jr., Chairman
PEIA Finance Board
601 57th Street, SE
Suite 2
Charleston, West Virginia 25304-2345

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The Faculty Senate of Glenville State College has endorsed the following recommendation made by the Advisory Council of Faculty at its October 23, 2009 meeting

“In light of State recommendations that there be no raises for 2009-2010, the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) strongly endorses a recommendation which urges the State and WV-PEIA to implement a moratorium on any increases in PEIA premiums, co-payment deductibles, and out-of-pocket maximum and/or decreases in medical/pharmacy benefits to all state employees both active and retired.”

Most state employees will not receive raises this year, higher education faculty among them. West Virginia higher education faculty, who teach our students, manage accreditation, and oversee curriculum, have been asked increasingly to bear many of the financial burdens associated with **decreasing legislative support of institutions of higher education. Most of us will not receive salary raises this year even though the state has not reached a financial crisis point.** To raise PEIA rates or reduce benefits at this time seems to us highly inappropriate since, in real terms, **an increase in PEIA premiums or a reduction in benefits amounts to an overall**

decrease in compensation for most public employees, including those in higher education. We therefore ask that you and the State consider all other possible options rather than continuing to increase the burden on individual employees.

The letter, if approved, would be signed by Dennis Wemm in his capacity as Senate President.

CC: PEIA Finance Board Members: Joshua Sword, James W. Dailey II, Troy Giatras, Elaine A. Harris, William Ihlennfeld, John R. Ruddick, Joe Smith, Michael Smith
Chancellor Brian Noland
Chancellor Jim Skidmore
Senator Robert H. Plymale, Senate Education Committee Chair
Senator Erik Wells, Senate Education Committee Vice-Chair
Delegate Mary Poling, House Education Committee Chair
Delegate Brady Paxton, House Education Committee Vice-Chair

Language Change Suggestion:

“To raise PEIA rates, or reduce benefits even though the state has not reached a financial crisis point, seems to us highly inappropriate.

GSC-PEERS

St Mary's College of Maryland
University of Minnesota-Morris
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
The University of Virginia's College at Wise
Ohio State University-Marion Campus
Dakota State University
Lyndon State College
University of South Carolina-Aiken
Valley City State University
University of Maine at Presque Isle
SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Mayville State University
Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Western State College of Colorado
University of Maine at Machias
University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
University of Minnesota-Crookston
Glenville State College
The University of Montana-Western
Indiana University-East