

Glenville State College Faculty Senate Minutes

January 19, 2010

I. Call to Order and Roll

President Dennis Wemm called to order the Glenville State College Faculty Senate at 12:20 p.m. on January 19, 2009 in the Mollohan Center Conference Room, Room 319.

Senators present: Dennis Wemm, Arthur DeMatteo, Liza Brenner, Jonathan Minton, David O'Dell, Fred Walborn, Larry Baker, Paul Peck, J. Morgan, Rick Witte, John Taylor, Dorman Batson, Lisa Castle, and George Hoshell

Senators absent: Cinda Echard and Connie Stout (excused),

Others present: Dr. Kathy Butler, Ida Mills for Jill Haasch

II. Approval of Minutes and Ongoing Reports

Motion to approve minutes of December 1, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting. Motion passed and minutes approved.

Reports:

Dennis Wemm (President's Report):

- The Facilities Planning Task Force – Maintenance meeting will be Feb. 17th. The focus will be issues of deferred maintenance and current needs.
- In the next Senate meeting, Feb 2nd, Dennis would like to identify ways and means of encouraging support for the college among legislators.
- Paul Peck notes two potential issues: 1. The legislature may want to give more power to the HEPC and 2. The recent statement that WV has too many four year colleges for its population. He believes the recent statement was directed at a school in the Kanawha Valley.
- Kathy Butler states that Brent Boggs created a Press Release in defense of GSC.
- Baker states according to a news cast that President Barr will discuss the issue on the radio in the next couple of days.
- Peck requests to ask Brent Boggs to come to campus and talk to the faculty about these issues.

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

- The ACF meeting is this week. Issues which might be discussed: 1. Tuition increase freeze 2. Budget cutbacks. 3. Legislative Audit report.

- Board of Governors had a meeting in December and discussed the following issues: 1. Discussion of ACF action towards merit pay increases and the governor stopping raises. 2. Renewed audit of the college. GSC is in decent financial condition. 3. Board of Governor's approved President's contract. Can GSC support football in the future?
- Peck requests that the Senate find out what the next step is for changing the due date for the FRM .

Larry Baker reports: (Vice President)

- On Jan. 21 the staff council will vote on the Tuition Waiver policy.
- Baker states that a group of GSC faculty members have presented him with a resolution regarding Kathy Butler and would like for him to read it to the Senate. (see resolution below)

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Larry Baker reads the proposed resolution presented to him by the faculty.
- Motion to accept the resolution. O'Dell/Taylor m/s
- Fred Walborn sees no negative side to presenting this resolution to the Provost. The Senate must move fast because the search committee is meeting tomorrow.
- Ida Mills asks the Senate if Kathy Butler wants to stay?
- Larry Baker states she has not turned in a letter of resignation.
- Ida asks the Senate whether or not a new person could move us through change?
- Wemm is concerned with the upcoming North Central and NCATE accreditations.
- Baker states that Kathy is the one who drove us through this process.
- Taylor states Kathy is the most competent person he has met. She does a world of good. He is totally for her.
- O'Dell states she has an open door policy which is highly unusual.
- O'Dell calls the question ending the discussion on the topic. O'Dell/Baker m/s
- Wemm then took the vote for accepting the resolution as presented. The resolution was passed unanimously.
- Wemm will send the resolution to the President, the Board of Governor's and cc Kathy Butler.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No unfinished business at this time.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m; motion to adjourn by Castle/Batson (m/s). Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution

When faculty and staff returned back to work at the beginning of the spring semester, Dr. Barr greeted them by saying that he would not be giving a “gloom and doom” opening speech. Those in attendance quickly saw gloom, however, when the President announced that Dr. Butler would be stepping down from the position of Provost and Senior Vice President.

Dr. Butler has been a tremendous asset to Glenville State College since she joined the faculty in 1989. She epitomizes the philosophy of “coming up through the ranks,” assuming the duties of Director of Field Experiences in 1990, Dean of Teacher Education in 1998, and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs in 2000. In 2003 she became Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, as well as Registrar and Director of Institutional Research, positions which she kept through 2007 when she became Provost and Senior Vice President. Dr. Butler is intimately familiar with the workings of Glenville State College, and her diverse experiences give her a unique appreciation for the challenges faced by those whom she ultimately supervises.

Since the President’s announcement on January 5th, a legislative audit has questioned the viability of some of the “isolated” colleges of West Virginia, and Glenville State College unfortunately was listed in the report. Coming at a time when the state is experiencing a protracted budget crisis, this raises the specter that GSC may once again be struggling for survival as it did circa 2002. Dr. Butler’s experience with accreditation will prove invaluable in our efforts to demonstrate the importance of Glenville State College, especially since she was a major part of the administration during a similarly tumultuous time in the past.

Dr. Butler’s leadership has been a driving force in the growth of Glenville State College. Perhaps her greatest strength is the ability to earn the confidence and respect of the faculty, staff, and administration. When Dr. Barr announced Dr. Butler’s intention to step down from her current position, his immense praise was justified and his realization of loss was shared by the entire College community. Dr. Butler has a unique ability to appeal to all constituencies of the College. She has taken the time to become extremely familiar with all academic programs, and to seek the input of faculty when making important decisions regarding these programs. Her open-door policy and willingness to truly listen to faculty concerns has not only earned her the trust and respect of the faculty, but also sustained the morale of the faculty. While one may not always agree with her decisions, one can be assured that Dr. Butler has always consulted with the appropriate persons and has made an informed decision that reflects the best long-term interests of Glenville State College and the students we serve.

While it is unreasonable to expect that Dr. Butler can remain Provost and Senior Vice president in perpetuity, the faculty feels that her planned departure from the position is premature. As Dr. Butler has not yet announced her resignation to the faculty, the Senate strongly urges that she reconsider any intention of tendering her resignation as Provost and Senior Vice President of Glenville State College.