

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES –October 14, 2014
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --
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4 **PRESENT:** Aktan, Avdeev, Broome, Cano, Crick (for Lum), Cunningham, Decker, Diamond,
5 Dinan, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Furst, Gazzillo-Diaz, Griswold, Kearney, Kim,
6 Kothandaraman, Ku, Levitan, LoMartire, Maduro, Magaldi, Makarec, Malindretos (for
7 Andreopoulos), Martin, Martus, McNeal, O'Donnell, Owusu, Perez, Polchak, Rosar, Sabogal,
8 Sandmann, Schwartz, Sheffield, Smith, Snyder, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Tirado, Verdicchio,
9 Wagner, Waldron, Wallace, Wicke

10
11 **ABSENT:** Alon, Andreopolous

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13 **GUESTS:** Arevalo, Bae, Barautogon, Bolyai, Burns, Cammarata, Chabayta, Coley, Corso,
14 Daniel-Robinson, Feola, Ferguson, Fuller-Stanley, Gilley, Godar, Goldstein, Hahn, Huckvale,
15 Jones, Kubeyinje, Liautaud, Mankiw, Moore, Noonan, Olaye, Rabbitt, Refsland, Richardson,
16 Rosenberg, Rosengart, Ross, Sandford, Schneider, Sherman, Shojai, Tiernan, Trelisky, Van
17 Riper, Vasquez, Weng, Williams, Wolf, Yoo, Yucel

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19 **PRELIMINARIES:** Levitan called the Senate to order at 12:37PM. The Agenda (with the
20 Minor in Italian Studies and the Major in Geography postponed to a future meeting), was moved
21 by Sheffield and Martus and approved unanimously. The Minutes of the 9/23/2014 meeting,
22 moved by Martus and Dinan, were also approved unanimously.

23
24 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Levitan reported that the Executive Committee approved several
25 committee appointments between Senate meetings, and asked the full Senate to confirm those
26 actions:

27 DAC for Owusu in Geography: Ellis and Principe – moved and seconded by Levitan and
28 Martus; approved unanimously.

29 Promotion for Nyamwange in Geography: Ellis – moved and seconded by Levitan and
30 Sheffield; approved unanimously.

31 DAC for Scala in Women's and Gender Studies: Sheffield and Levitan – moved and
32 seconded by Levitan and Martus; approved unanimously.

33 DAC for Martus in Physics: moved and seconded by Levitan and Sheffield; approved
34 unanimously.

35
36 Levitan and Martus nominated Feng of Marketing and Management to be the representative to
37 the Marketing and Public Relations Advisory Committee; approved unanimously. Levitan and
38 Perez nominated Malindretos of Economics to be the representative to the Board Finance, Audit
39 and Institutional Development Committee; approved unanimously.

40
41 The Senate recommends the following faculty be added to the Student Success Team (moved
42 and seconded by Levitan and Martus):

43 Zhang (Economics and Finance) from the Cotsakos College of Business

44 Pozzi (Educational Leadership) from the College of Education

45 Marshall (English) from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

46 Bae (Kinesiology) from the College of Science and Health

47 All were approved unanimously. [L. McLaughlin-Vignier volunteered to be the representative
48 from the College of Arts and Communication and will be confirmed at the next meeting.]

49

50 There will be a Faculty and Professional Staff meeting (a closed meeting) to continue the
51 discussion (begun at the April 22 closed meeting) of the results of last year's Administrative
52 Evaluations. Discussion will include suggestions for revising/shortening the instruments and
53 distributing the results. A new Ad Hoc Committee must be formed for this year's round of
54 evaluations. The meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13th in the Atrium Auditorium.
55 Lunch will be held in the Atrium lobby before the meeting; no food is permitted in the
56 Auditorium.

57

58 Overlap was again discovered between the winter and spring semesters, and has been corrected
59 (with the winter semester to begin on 12/22). Discussions must be held to set the dates for future
60 semesters in a way that best serves students, faculty and the institution. The Union and the
61 administration are in discussion, but have not reached resolution.

62

63 The first of the ongoing series of fora on Student Success will be held on Friday, October 17th in
64 Ballroom A from 9:30-12:30. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

65

66 **VICE CHAIRS REPORT:** Dinan reminded the campus community that all proposals intended
67 for discussion by the various Senate councils must be sent to the Senate office before anything
68 should be sent to the councils.

69

70 **RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL SURVEY:** Arevalo and Gilley briefly
71 reiterated the importance of the survey, which is intended to help identify areas in need of
72 funding for research. Wicke and Martus moved approval to conduct the survey; approved
73 unanimously.

74

75 **GRADUATE COUNCIL: MASTERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION WITH A**
76 **CONCENTRATION IN AUTISM:** Yoo and Yucel noted that the Senate approved the
77 Master's program last year. Today the Council presented a small change regarding a specialized
78 certificate in autism. After general discussion by Kim, Ellis, Burns and Moore, Trelisky raised
79 several technical and procedural issues that must be resolved. Levitan directed the Graduate
80 Council to resubmit the proposal as a new certificate program at a future Senate meeting.

81

82 **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL:**

83

84 **MINOR IN GEOGRAPHY:** Mankiw and Martus moved approval of the new minor. Sheffield
85 spoke in favor, but questioned the number of courses that can be taken outside the minor. Owusu
86 responded that the program is deliberately cross-disciplinary. The minor was approved
87 unanimously.

88

89 **MINOR IN URBAN STUDIES:** Mankiw and Ku moved approval of the minor. Verdicchio
90 asked how such a small department could offer a minor. Owusu noted that it is interdisciplinary
91 and faculty from other departments teach some courses. The minor was approved unanimously.

92

93 **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT REPORT:** Waldron introduced the new Vice-President
94 for Enrollment Management, Reginald Ross. Despite difficulties with the PowerPoint (which is
95 archived in the Packet for today's meeting, along with the other reports he referenced), Ross

96 presented the latest data on enrollment. He noted problems with attrition in undergraduate
97 enrollment. There has been an increase in applications, but a decline in converting them into
98 enrolled students. He attributed part of the problem to the previous scholarship model that put us
99 at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis rival institutions. SAT scores and high school GPAs of
100 new freshmen have declined slightly, after years of steady increase. Overall, our graduation rates
101 are slowly improving: Our four-year graduation rate is now 21.2% -- the highest it has been
102 since the 1990s -- and our six-year graduation rate is now 50%. This is the first time since 2003,
103 when the rate was 51.45, that we've hit 50%. We hope to soon reach the national average of 56%
104 (but this still leaves us well below the state average of 66.5%). For the first time the WPU
105 student body is now 25% Hispanic and more than 50% minority.

106
107 Directions in which the University is moving: Changes in the scholarship formula (including the
108 already-successful 30/3.0 program), more active recruiting of international students, efforts to
109 strengthen graduate program admissions, expansion of weekend and adult learning programs,
110 active promotion of the finish in four, and active participation by faculty in the Student Success
111 Team efforts.

112
113 Snyder hopes the University will look beyond things like high school GPA. Ross said that the
114 highest level of math that a high school student takes is the best predictor of college success. He
115 added that we collect masses of data, but we use little of them properly. Tardi asked to see more
116 data, especially in comparison to our peer institutions. She also questioned why half the money is
117 spent on promoting graduate programs, which constitute only 10% of our student body. She
118 noted that we need to promote our image, not just our visibility. She also pointed out that this is
119 the first time she'd heard any administrator say we need more international students. Ross said
120 that most college data are collected and reported according to IPEDS standards, but that he
121 would make more data available to the campus. Kim also congratulated Ross on emphasizing
122 international students (a topic Kim has been raising for over fifteen years), a population that all
123 our peers exceed WPU in attracting.

124
125 Wicke asked about the long-term enrollment goals. Ross said that while the goal is to increase
126 undergraduate enrollment to 12,000, the University needs to decide: Are we the right size?
127 Verdicchio expressed disappointment that nearly a third of our students transfer from WPU.
128 What is it about WPU that says to students: Go away. Steinhart applauded the promise of more
129 data, but asked that they be broken down in a variety of ways: Why do students transfer? Why is
130 there nothing on weekends? Why isn't there more engagement? Why are our summer schedules
131 less attractive than our competitors? We need to bring more high school students to campus.

132
133 Martus noted that upward enrollment trends seemed to stall when WPU went from the traditional
134 GE program to the new UCC, and he raised the question: Is the UCC what our population
135 needs? 31% of our non-returning students are due to academic problems. Why enroll students
136 who have such difficulty with academic rigor? Do our competitors have similar problems?

137
138 Magaldi pointed out that new graduate programs need a few years to catch on and show
139 enrollment increases. Griswold urged that more guidance counselors be brought to campus to
140 learn more about WPU. Lots of students are "lost," and need better advisement. Ross
141 acknowledged that WPU must do a better job of promoting our values and expectation of
142 students.

143

144 **ADJOURNMENT:** Levitan urge all senators to take the proposed Course Repeat Policy back
145 for discussion in their departments in preparation for the next Senate meeting.

146
147 Dinan and Makarec moved for adjournment, which occurred at 1:52pm.

148
149 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Tuesday, October 28th in Ballroom C.

150
151 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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153 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
154 www.wpunj.edu/senate