

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES –September 9, 2014
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --
3

4 **PRESENT:** Aktan, Andreopoulos, Avdeev, Broome, Cano, Decker, Diamond, Dinan, Duffy,
5 Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Furst, Gazzillo-Diaz, Griswold, Gundling (for Cunningham), Kearney, Kim,
6 Kothandaraman, Ku, Levitan, Lum, Maduro, Magaldi, Makarec, Martin, Martus, O'Donnell,
7 Owusu, Perez, Polchak, Rosar, Sabogal, Sandmann, Schwartz, Sheffield, Smith, Snyder,
8 Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Tirado, Verdicchio, Wagner, Waldron, Wallace, Wicke
9

10 **ABSENT:** Alon, McNeal,
11

12 **GUESTS:** Bolyai, Brenenson, Burns, Cammarata, Chabayta, Corso, Daniel-Robinson, Diaz,
13 Escobar, Ferguson, Flint, Fuller-Stanley, Glassman, Godar, Goldstein, Howell, Huckvale,
14 Kubeyinje, Liautaud, Miller, Moore, Olaye, Potacco, Rabbitt, Refsland, Rosenberg, Ross, Seal,
15 Schneider, Sherman, Shojai, Tiernan, Trelisky, (and one unintelligible)
16

17 **PRELIMINARIES:** Levitan called the Senate to order at 12:33PM. The Agenda, moved by
18 Martus and Snyder, was approved unanimously. The Minutes of the 5/1/2014 meeting, moved by
19 Dinan and Duffy, were also approved unanimously.
20

21 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Levitan noted that long-time Adjunct Faculty representative Frank Pavese
22 had not run for re-election (and that an election will be held soon for his replacement). Tardi and
23 Martus moved that the Senate express its thanks to Pavese for his strong advocacy for the adjunct
24 faculty. The motion was approved by applause. President Waldron later expressed her own
25 appreciation for his efforts.
26

27 Levitan noted a message from Dean Rabbitt about the passing of long-time faculty member
28 Vernon McClean, and a moment of silence was observed in his honor.
29

30 New senators and those returning after long absence were invited to meet with the Executive
31 Committee in the Senate Office for an orientation session on Wednesday, 9/10 from 2-3:30 or
32 Thursday from 3-4:30.
33

34 The new SGA President, Mikaela Polchak was introduced. A second SGA representative will be
35 named soon.
36

37 Levitan made a number of housekeeping announcements:

- 38 ■ Senate documents are posted under various links on the Senate Homepage.
- 39 ■ Please circulate and return the Attendance Sheet after it has passed around the
40 table and through the guests' gallery. Duffy urged guests to *print* their names
41 clearly.
- 42 ■ If extra meetings are necessary (e.g., for Administrative Evaluations), they will
43 most likely be on Thursdays during Common Hour.
- 44 ■ Senators should be sure to report on Senate activities at departmental meetings.
- 45 ■ Freshman Convocation is Thursday, September 18th during Common Hour.
46 Faculty should report to Shea to robe at 12:15.
- 47 ■ Last year the Senate decided that reports by the Senate representatives to the
48 two Board of Trustees committees (Educational Police and Student

49 Development; and Finance, Audit and Institutional Development) should be
50 posted rather than be brought to the floor, with senators able to ask questions if
51 necessary. Duffy substituted for Makarec and Finnegan at the Board's meetings
52 during the summer, and noted that there was very good news from Institutional
53 Advancement, which he invited VP Ferguson to discuss. She deferred to the
54 President (see below).
55

56 Levitan formally introduced three new administrators: Reginald Ross, VP for Enrollment
57 Management, Siamack Shojai, Dean of the Cotsakos College of Business and Paul Glassman,
58 Dean of the David and Lorraine Cheng Library.

59 Levitan briefly reviewed Student Success efforts from last year, including the formation of the
60 Student Success Team (headed by Liautaud and Sherman) and the AFT-Faculty Senate co-
61 sponsored Student Success Conference, which brought faculty, staff, politicians and
62 administrators together to discuss this vitally important topic. She noted that the campus must
63 continue to strategize for greater student success, and that the Senate, the AFT, the Provost, the
64 VP for Student Development and the VP for Enrollment Management are working to set up an
65 ongoing series of sessions more community input and plans for improvement. The first event has
66 been tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 26th; more information to follow.

67 Among the topics that will be on the Senate Agenda in the upcoming semester: Enrollment data,
68 changes in the Advisement process, how WPU offers classes (size, room availability, etc.), the
69 student profile and the ranking of WPU *vis-à-vis* its competitors. A number of new program
70 proposals are in the pipeline, and the Senate will address and pass a recommendation regarding
71 repeat grades.

72 The Provost has posted the new Online and Hybrid Course Policy passed by the Senate last
73 semester with but a few edits.

74 The Senate did not complete its discussion of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on
75 Administrative Evaluations last semester, and another closed session will be scheduled later this
76 semester. Recommendations for membership on a new Ad Hoc Committee for the next round of
77 evaluations (Provost and the deans), and suggestions for changes in the instruments or process
78 should be sent to the Executive Committee.

79 **VICE CHAIRS REPORT:** Dinan announced that she will be meeting with all 13 councils to
80 explain their Charges for the year, and will develop a timetable for each council to submit its
81 reports and recommendations to the Senate in a timely fashion. She noted that there are still
82 vacancies on several councils: Advisement and Registration – College of Education; Budget
83 and Planning – Arts & Communication; Elections – Cotsakos College of Business, and Adjunct
84 representatives in many areas.
85

86 **PRESIDENT WALDRON:** Waldron noted that with the hiring of 17 new faculty, the full-time
87 faculty roster now stands at 402, and that two new lines will be created, one each for the new
88 Clinical Psychology doctorate program, and one for Criminal Justice in Sociology.
89

90 She was pleased to report that Institutional Advancement had recently secured \$2,000,000 in
91 funding: \$600,000 for the Center for Chinese Art (from a group of Chinese business

92 professionals), an anonymous gift of \$400,000 for needs-based scholarships, and \$1,000,000
93 from WPU alumni Will and Henrietta Pesce to found the Pesce Family Mentoring Institute. It
94 will be housed in Career Development Center in the University Commons. A formal ceremony
95 opening the Center and honoring the Pesce family will take place on Wednesday, 9/10 at 3pm in
96 suite 301 in the Student Center.

97
98 Continuing the theme of the opening day faculty meeting, she emphasized the need to demand
99 excellence from our students. She reviewed a new 30/30 Scholarship program: every student
100 who completes 30 credits per year and maintains at least a 3.0 GPA will be awarded a \$1000
101 scholarship for the following year. Nearly 400 students qualified for this year.

102
103 **PROVOST SANDMANN:** The Provost gave a brief Student Success update. There is some
104 improvement in retention but a slight decline in graduation rates. We are below our peers, which
105 is an important factor for rating services, parents and politicians. He announced three initiatives:
106 1. An increase in the number of Peer Leaders in Freshman Seminar classes. Research supports
107 student-student contact leading to improved academic achievement. 2. A Supplemental
108 Instruction pilot wherein students who have successfully completed a course tutor students
109 currently having difficulties in the class. 3. More linked courses. Approximately 500 students
110 are already in learning communities.

111
112 He followed up on Levitan's comments about future Student Success events, and urged everyone
113 to participate and contribute ideas. We all share the same goals, but faculty have the most direct
114 contact with students and can help them work toward timely graduation. Griswold wondered
115 why there is no mention of Advisement in the Student Success documents. Sandmann replied
116 that due to the findings of the Blue Ribbon Task Force there is a new advisement model that will
117 be key to moving forward. Snyder asked if there were any follow-up to the DFW Analysis.
118 Verdicchio inquired if the letter to parents were only sent in English. Cammarata stated that her
119 division is actively moving to get such materials translated. Kim noted that 2000 students leave
120 each year and stated that we must retain more good students in order to improve graduation rates.
121 Kothandaraman asked if there is a strategy to influence the metrics of the ratings, and said that
122 WPU must not look at only one table in the ratings. Andreopoulous noted that the academic
123 world defines success differently from students and parents who see it as obtaining a good job
124 after graduation, and she again emphasized the importance of internships. Tardi asked why there
125 weren't focus groups and other faculty input before the implementation of things like the
126 Supplemental Instruction pilot. Better participation through shared governance before decisions
127 are made is the best approach.

128
129 **State of the Faculty Report:** Sandmann reported that the Board of Trustees is very impressed
130 by the research and creative work of the faculty. He noted that 24 new faculty lines have been
131 added since 2010, and that soon the total will be 404. He said that WPU must be prepared for a
132 likely wave of senior faculty retirements, and that new leadership needs to be mentored at all
133 levels. The deans have been given specific goals for controlling Adjunct Faculty spending which
134 was far over budget last year. He stated that this will affect class size. While all agree small
135 classes are better, limited resources may require and good pedagogy may allow larger class sizes.
136 When Sheffield requested a definition of "small," Sandmann said that pedagogy drives class size.
137 She responded that 35 students in her non-Writing-Intensive class (which has a heavy writing
138 component) are too many – so to whom should she appeal? Sandmann said that faculty must
139 work with chairs and deans, while he has to balance resources, students and faculty. Dinan raised

140 the issue of faculty who teach courses in more than one college being told that they can't do it
141 anymore. Sandmann says that it can be done.

142
143 **Flow Charts:** Sandmann said that the Administration is moving WPU from “how we’ve always
144 done things” to a more formal process. The documents are drafts submitted for review by the
145 appropriate councils. The intention is to better trace and record curricular flows and academic
146 processes: where things are supposed to go and what happens to them when they are done. The
147 deans and Registrar are also working on these issues. Andreopoulos requested and Sandmann
148 agreed to send one page executive summaries of documents. Martus stated that curriculum
149 committees are among the hardest working on campus but asked why minor changes still take up
150 to two years to effect. Sandmann asked for feedback about where the problems lie and
151 suggestions about how to remedy them. Gazzillo-Diaz suggested that deans be able to handle
152 minor issues. Diamond agreed that many things should be done more quickly while still
153 maintaining accountability.

154
155 **INSTRUCTIONAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY:** Miller clarified the new Fetch It
156 approach to the delivery of media. Since all classrooms have media podiums, there is no longer
157 any need to deliver equipment, so faculty should pick up and return software as needed. If there
158 are problems (e.g., a faculty member with disabilities, faculty teaching on weekends, etc.), notify
159 IRT.

160
161 Dinan pointed out that students are distressed about their print quotas being reduced from 500 to
162 300 pages/year. Rosenberg said that for years there wasn't a business model in place regarding
163 student printing. Thousands of pages were printed and discarded daily at huge expense. His data
164 suggest that for most students 300 pages are adequate and that money saved on paper can be
165 better spent on equipment. If a professor has a specific assignment that will require many
166 students to print large documents, the professor can request that the students in his/her class have
167 their print quotas increased. He urged faculty to move from requiring things being printed off to
168 online submission.

169
170 **NEW BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business, so the floor was opened for New Business.
171 Polchak said that graduation and retention are topics that the SGA is very concerned about. She
172 also noted that the SGA has approved a new Constitution.

173
174 Bolyai reported that the fees for the new Parking Garage are quite reasonable (e.g., \$5.00 for up
175 to six hours; \$8 a week; \$125 a semester) and that more than 300 people have signed up already.
176 He said that there are now approximately 25% more parking spaces on campus. Andreopoulos
177 and Cammarata agreed that communications with parents must be handled better. Waldron
178 announced that a new event, the Family Weekend, is being planned; details will follow.

179
180 **ADJOURNMENT:** Ku and Lum moved for adjournment, which occurred at 1:46pm.

181
182 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

183
184 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
185 www.wpunj.edu/senate