

4 **PRESENT:** Andreopoulos, Barrow, Bernstein, Bhat, Bliss, D’Haem, Diamond, Dinan, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-
5 Romaine, Finnegan, Furst (for Korgen), Garfinkel, Godar, Healy, Kearney, Kelly, Kim, Lee, Levitan,
6 Maganuco, Martus, Mbogoni, McNeal, Natrajan, Ndjatou, Nyamwange, Parras, Pavese, Perez, Refsland (for
7 Cruz Paul). Rosar, Sabogal, Schwartz, Sheffield, Slaymaker, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Verdicchio, Wagner,
8 Waldron, Walsh, Weil, Wicke

9 **ABSENT:** Chabayta, Mathew, Nyaboga, Polchak, Snyder

10 **GUESTS:** Bolyai, Burns, Daniel-Robinson, Ferguson, Fuller-Stanley, Gritsch, Jones, Kashyap, Kubeyinje,
11 Liautaud, Martone, Olaye, Rabbitt, Rosenberg, Schrader, Seal

12 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Parras called the Senate to order at 12:37 PM. Martus and Wagner moved
13 acceptance of the Agenda, which was approved unanimously.

14 The draft Minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting, moved and seconded by Godar and Sheffield, were also
15 approved unanimously with two small corrections.

16 **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Jane Zeff spoke movingly about Rich Varron, the recently deceased member of her
17 department, and noted that a collection is being taken up to purchase Library books in his memory. If anyone is
18 interested in contributing to the fund, please contact Zeff or Trelisky. Pavese moved that the Senate observe a
19 moment of silence in honor of our colleague.

20 Bernstein urged the community to attend the lecture on African American English by Lisa Green on April 2nd in
21 the Atrium Auditorium.

22 Daniel-Robinson of the First Year Experience renewed the Provost’s invitation to faculty and staff to teach a
23 section of First Year Seminar. If interested, contact her.

24 Pavese announced that the annual Hindemithon will be held on April 7th. The University Wind Ensemble and
25 the West Point Band will perform Hindemith’s E-flat Symphony.

26 **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Parras noted that the Executive Committee will be meeting with the President and
27 Provost on Thursday.

28 **VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT:** Falk-Romaine stated that the Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Evaluations
29 will be chaired by Jason Wicke.

30 **DEANS COUNCIL PROPOSAL ON ONLINE AND HYBRID COURSES:** Parras put the proposal on the
31 floor for discussion and recommendations. Levitan asked who determines an individual faculty member’s work
32 load and whether teaching online is a matter of choice by individual faculty members. Parras replied that it is
33 the dean’s choice. Rabbitt noted that faculty request teaching schedules and courses, but that the final decision
34 is always based upon programmatic needs, not entirely the individual faculty member’s needs. Burns pointed
35 out that the current policy is dated 2005 and needs to be updated. Parras asked about the rationale for limiting
36 faculty to teaching no more than two classes online. Finnegan said that this proposal needs to be vetted by the
37 appropriate Senate council(s). He also asked if the policy applies to Adjunct Faculty, to which Parras replied
38 yes. Weil said that the language needs to be clarified, but that the proposal is meant of focus on full-time
39 faculty. Finnegan pointed out some things in the proposal that are, literally, impossible for faculty to do. Kelly
40 agreed with him and detailed some examples. She also stated that the proposal shows no understanding of labor
41 loads in the digital age. Andreopolous inquired about the caps in online courses, which she believes are
42 currently 20 students. Weil said that the caps will be discussed as part of the process.

43 Godar asked about the definition of hybrid classes and flipped classes. Weil noted that if a course starts as an
44 online course, it must remain an online course. Tardi expressed concerns about why faculty who have been

45 teaching two courses a semester online for nearly a decade should now be cut back. She said that students want
46 more online courses. She said that access and availability of faculty and courses must be seen in different ways
47 in the online environment. She asked what was behind the proposed changes in policy. Weil said that the
48 question before the Senate is how does WPU address online education. He noted that faculty currently teach
49 about 1% of all courses online. Ellis asked what happens when a faculty member teaching online gets ill or
50 injured. Parras replied that the dean and Provost would work it out. Wicke called for a better definition of
51 hybrid courses, one that states minimum and maximum proportions of online teaching.

52 Sheffield pointed out the absurdity of Point #11 in the proposal: faculty may only teach online if they've already
53 taught online – so new faculty never get to teach online? Bliss suggested that perhaps BlackBoard training
54 could count as previous experience. Sheffield and Perez also reiterated Andreopolous' call from a previous
55 meeting that students need to demonstrate success in traditional courses before being allowed to take online
56 courses. Barrow said that students should be required to take BlackBoard training. She also asked how to
57 interpret 25% in the context of hybrid courses, especially in terms of examinations.

58 Pavese displayed the Montclair State newspaper in which 160 online or hybrid courses are advertised at a 17%
59 discounted tuition. Bliss noted that it is difficult to assess online courses. Levitan asked if there were a timetable
60 for adopting this proposal, and said that she did not want the Administration to act unilaterally. Parras said that
61 it probably would not be done this year. Tardi raised the issue of requiring students to physically show up for
62 exams. Weil said doing that would require that the course be called a hybrid course. He noted the difficulty of
63 verifying that it is actually the real student taking online exams.

64 Kelly repeated her previous question about the rationale behind this proposal. Rabbitt noted that in some
65 programs online courses may significantly reduce faculty engagement in departmental and campus activities.
66 Full citizenship may be lost. Kelly understood the intention, but questioned the use of outdated industrial
67 terminology. She said that this can't be squared with the digital push that is transforming education. Finnegan
68 noted problems with several aspects of the proposal, including lack of faculty development support.

69 Levitan and Wicke moved that the proposal be sent to the Academic Standards Council, the Undergraduate
70 Council, the Graduate Policy Council and the Technology Council for revisions at the earliest possible date.
71 During discussion, it was decided that Academic Standards would take the lead, but that the other councils must
72 be consulted and involved. Ellis said that the issue of cap size must be included in the discussion, since teaching
73 20 students online is very different from teaching 35. Tardi noted that cap size is a managerial prerogative, but
74 individual faculty members can decide whether to teach online classes or not. Waldron stated that until the
75 matter is settled, the 2005 policy will remain in effect. Weil added that policies and procedures regarding
76 Summer Session will remain in place. The motion was approved unanimously.

77 **ATTRITION REPORT:** Zeff resumed discussion of the Attrition Report, summarizing highlights. Martus
78 asked about the number of credits attempted by transfer students who left as upper class students. Various
79 statistics were presented by Zeff, Kim, Parras and Weil to illustrate different points. Verdicchio called for more
80 attention to the open-ended questions. Kim noted that if WPU reduced attrition by half, our attrition rate would
81 be very favorable vis-à-vis our competitor institutions. A Martus and Pavese motion that the discussion on this
82 topic be postponed until the next meeting was approved with one no vote.

83 **ADJOURNMENT:** Upon Wicke and Godar's motion, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:45 PM.

84 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 12:30 PM in University
85 Commons Ballroom C.

86 Respectfully submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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