
ABSENT: Alon, Broome, Owusu, Perez

GUESTS: Arevalo, Betts, Bolyai, Brenenson, Burns, Chabayta, Cook, Daniel-Robinson, DeDeo, Escobar, Flint, Fuller-Stanley, Godar, Hahn, Harris, Hollema, Jackson, Kollia, Liautaud, Louie, Luzzi, Martinez, McCoy, McLaughlin-Vignier, Miller, Moore, Phillips, Rabbitt, Rosengart, Ross, Ruiz, Sandford, Shojai, Suess, Tiernan, Trelisky, V Wagner, Weisberg, Williams, Wolf, Yucel,

PRELIMINARIES: Levitan called the Senate to order at 12:32PM. The Agenda, moved by Martus and Ku, was approved unanimously. The Minutes of the 2/10/2015 meeting, moved by Dinan and Martus, were also approved unanimously.

CHAIR’S REPORT: Levitan welcomed Anne Ciliberti back for a three-month stint as Interim Dean of the Cheng Library.

The Executive Committee and the Administration have continued their discussion of class caps. The Provost will address the issue later in the meeting. In Banner, the total cap for a cross-listed class is under XL. It does not reflect students who have withdrawn from courses. The Executive Committee withdraws its earlier motion on the issue. Other motions may be made in the future.

The Board of Trustees has revised its Dashboard Indicators (posted in the 2/10/2015 Packet). VP Ross will discuss them at the March 24th meeting.

The Institutional Research and Advancement website has links to the materials distributed at the Assessment Workshop (and links to other data and relevant material).

There have been questions about revising the rules of UCC courses in areas 4, 5 and 6. No specific proposal has yet been forwarded to the Executive Committee.

VICE CHAIRS REPORT: Dinan announced that there will be a Graduate Policy Forum on the topic “Extending Our Global Reach: Attracting Foreign Students,” on Friday, 3/27 from 11:30-1:15. More details to follow.

GRADUATE COUNCIL: CHANGE IN MSN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Yucel and Dinan moved approval of the change, which remove the requirement of GRE or MAT scores. Kothandaraman commented on the conflicting literature about the correlation between GRE scores and success in a program. The proposal was then approved unanimously.
GRADUATE COUNCIL: REMOVAL OF NON-DEGREE ADMISSION TO MSM PROGRNM: Yucel and Dinan moved approval of this change, which was approved unanimously without debate.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COUNCIL: KINESIOLOGY: Sandford and Sheffield moved the change regarding grades below C in the Athletic Training Professional Preparation major. After McNeal raised several questions that Gazzillo-Diaz answered, the proposal was approved unanimously.

ACAMDEIC STANDARDS COUNCIL: CHANGE IN GRADE REQUIREMENT TO REMAIN IN MAJOR: Sandford and Aktan moved the proposal which would reduce the number of grades below C that a nursing major could have from three to two. It was approved unanimously without debate.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COUNCIL: CHANGE IN NURSING ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Sandford and K Wagner moved changing the minimum GPA for admission into the nursing program from 2.5 to 3.0. Steinhart, Aktan and Gazzillo-Diaz all noted that the University must work to find alternate majors for students affected by higher standards in various programs. The change was the approved unanimously.

ACAMDEIC STANDARDS COUNCIL: LATIN HONORS: Sandford and Martus moved a reduction from 48 to 45 credits that must be earned at WPU to qualify for Latin honors. Martus, Trelisky, Dinan, Tardi and Sandmann spoke to the issue, which primarily affects transfer students. The proposed change was approved by voice vote with one negative and one abstention. Gaudeamus igitur! (Let us therefore rejoice!) quipped Duffy as this long-standing issue was resolved.

SCHEDULING AND COURSE CAPS: Provost Sandmann presented a PowerPoint (archived in the Packet for today’s meeting). Among the points he emphasized: sections are up but enrollment is down, the average class size for undergraduate courses is about 18 and 8 for graduate courses, the student-faculty ratio, currently 14, is below national figures, the number of full-time and adjunct faculty has increased. We are spending more on smaller classes: this is not sustainable. We must return to a more balanced situation like we had five or six years ago. We must match revenue with student numbers. Some courses, especially in graduate programs and certain majors, require smaller class sizes. The deans and chairs must consult on these issues. We must use the resources we have to serve the students we have. When we get more students, we’ll have more money to work with. New Jersey is facing a serious deficit which may affect our level of State funding. Class size, caps, must be a factor under consideration, as well as educational quality. The Board of Trustees wants a 19-1 student-faculty ratio (the norm for our cohort). Currently our online course enrollments average is 18. Deans are not only looking to raise caps; some courses might get lower caps, if justified.

Snyder asked how transfer students affect the numbers. Sandmann replied that more than 50% of our students are transfers. Verdicchio asked about increases in staff and administration. Sandmann said there were modest increases and promised to supply data. Kothandaraman wanted to know what will happen if the expected enrollment increases do not happen. Sandmann reiterated the Board’s (and the Strategic Plan’s) goals. Steinhart noted the challenging demographics. He also would like to see more information about adjunct budgets,
ART, administrative accountability, etc. Sandmann replied that all administrators are accountable. He pointed to the Fact Book for a great deal of data and said that a comprehensive report on administrative released time is being prepared.

Kim is concerned with enrollment. He fears that if caps go to 25 now they’ll eventually creep to 30. Sandmann reiterated that there are no hard numbers on the table, but that the deans and the departments need to work on the issue. He noted that the University doesn’t have any huge classes and that specific classes can have higher or lower caps, as appropriate. There must be some variability.

Tardi raised several issues: boutique courses skew the numbers, lack of equity among colleges, the lack of shared governance in decision making pitting faculty against faculty, the lateness of the Provost’s explanation, conversations are turning into negotiations, chairs are being forced to make decisions administrators should be making. Sandmann agreed equity is important, but maintained that the uniqueness and difference among classes demand classes of variable sizes. He said that the deans and the departments work together.

Andreopoulos said that all parties must collaborate to maximize revenue. Sandmann said that VP Ferguson will speak about external funding at an upcoming meeting. He said that talk should not only be about cutting things: some programs are expanding.

ADVISEMENT AND REGISTRATION COUNCIL: REPORT ON WITHDRAWAL PROCESS: V. Wagner presented the Council’s Report on the withdrawal situation. No resolution is being put forward at the present time. Some important points to consider: faculty should talk with students prior to withdrawal; a pop-up suggesting consultation with faculty and noting some of the financial and other possible consequences should appear before students and effect a withdrawal; the Student Success Team should explore these options in Banner. The Council is also working with the Academic Standards Council to clarify the course repeat and withdrawal policy.

ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at 1:48pm.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Tuesday, March 10th in Ballroom C.

Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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