

William Paterson University - **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES** - March 16, 1999

PRESENT: Agard-Jones, Ariosto, Bareford, Bhat, Bolyai, Chesney, Ciliberti, Cleary (for Boroznoff), Coomes, Din, Duffy, Dye, Edelstein, Gaboury, Garcia, Goldstein, Haroian, Haver, Hirstein, Kim, Kim-Yoon, Maheshwari, McCallum, Murphy, Mwaura, Nack, Overdorf, Parker, Phadia, Sesay, Scala, Schubert, Swanson, Tardi, Vardiman, Wagner, Weidenaar, Weltman

ABSENT: Grodner, Hayden, McClean, Morganstern, Ndjatou, Pope, Wolf

GUESTS: K. Armah, S. DeYoung, M. Evangelista, S. Ferris, D. Fountakidis, J. Gazdag, N. Jemmott, R. Kloss, P. Malone, G. Robb, S. Robinson, M. Schaeffer, R. Seal, M. William, M. Zeman

PRELIMINARIES: The Senate was called to order by Overdorf at 12:36 p.m. The Agenda (moved and seconded by Duffy and Goldstein), was accepted unanimously. The Minutes of the 2/23/99 Senate meeting (moved and seconded by Ciliberti and Garcia) were likewise accepted unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Overdorf noted that the Amended Final report and resolution on Probation/Dismissal Policy for Undergraduates was a part of the packet for this meeting. Wagner announced that an initiative would begin to identify one person per department to receive a subscription to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, funded from the Provost, to promote awareness of important issues in our field. An announcement letter will soon go out to departments. Overdorf reminded all that on 3/25/99 the second Senate/Provost Forum on Classroom Expectations would be held in the Student Center Ballroom. Light lunch will be provided. Contact Wagner or Fountakidis to sign up as a facilitator for the small group discussions. The Statewide Senate Meeting: Shared Governance in the New Millennium, will be held at WPUNJ on April 9, 1999. Due to limited space, please contact Vice-Chairperson Garcia to arrange to attend.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT: Garcia recognized Dye, who announced that the AFT Local 1796 will sponsor an adjunct reception 3/24/99 at the Union office. Dye distributed flyers and asked that they be placed around campus. Ciliberti announced that the first round of nominations for Senate elections would close 3/17/99. Elections will be held 4/21 & 4/22. Ciliberti asked that in addition to a signed nomination form, those submitting nominations need to confirm by telephone or e-mail that their nomination has been received.

REPORT of the FACULTY SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE: R. Kloss presented the Comprehensive Assessment Plan, Part III: Student Services and Student Development. He remarked that Student Services would be assessed "locally" – each area of student services would be required to develop its own assessment plan, with annual re-assessment. Kloss then described the recommendation that all students entering WPUNJ in 2002 be required to create and maintain a personal portfolio containing examples of their best work. Kloss indicated that this would be consonant with Middle States Association outcome assessment guidelines, and move us towards infusing assessment/outcomes mechanisms throughout our curricula. We are already assessing our GE program, and the Comprehensive Assessment Plan continues these efforts. Kloss asked for questions from the Senate. Ciliberti moved and Weltman seconded that the Senate move into the committee of the whole for discussion. Kloss noted that the student portfolio would not be "graded" in the usual sense, but instead receive a pass/fail evaluation from the student's faculty advisor. Weltman asked if the portfolio requirement would consist of a reflective essay. Kloss replied that the portfolio would include a number of reflective essays, referring to the example from Kalamazoo College (page ten of report). Parker expressed concern that the portfolio requirement might be seen as being "irrelevant busywork." Kloss countered that if the faculty advisors worked to keep the portfolio concept "important and serious" as well as useful, it would not become irrelevant. Parker then asked how the portfolio will be judged and what would be the consequence of a "failed" portfolio. Kloss referred to page six of the report under "Student Responsibilities" wherein is stated that students not completing portfolio requirement would not be reclassified to the next class standing. Goldstein voiced numerous concerns, primarily that this evaluative component will interfere with the mentoring role of advisement. Weltman expressed concern over a situation where a student might pass all coursework, but fail to meet portfolio requirements. Tardi also expressed concern that this might interfere with advising/mentoring. Kloss offered the perspective that because we point out student deficiencies we should not look upon that as being punitive or adversarial. Kloss pointed out that the particulars of the portfolio process will be handled by individual departments as they see fit. Nack warned that including work that a student does out of direct supervision of the instructor may invite inclusion of plagiarized material. Maheshwari asked whether or not the Advisement and Registration Council has had input to this report. Kloss mentioned parallels between his committee's work and that of the Council. Schubert spoke

in favor of the portfolio process – the Arts already make use of this approach. McCallum countered that while the Arts may be able to use portfolios, Chemistry would not be able to easily do so. In his opinion the portfolio requirement might dissuade potential students. Edelstein agreed that we need to improve our students' abilities to write, but does not favor the portfolio approach. Haroian objected to what he called a "one philosophy fits all" model that was not well suited to all disciplines. Kloss reiterated that this initiative is not intended to replace individual department's assessment policies. Weidenaar agreed with the idea that we should be able to prevent a student who cannot write well from graduating. Goldstein indicated that she was not happy with this proposal's seeming lack of regard for individual program's accreditation standards. Provost Sesay commented that our accreditation work is ongoing and that evolving assessment is a critical aspect that will be looked at during the Middle States accreditation. The Provost insisted that ways be found to assess student development and that by April 15, the date when a Middle States representative will be visiting, that we be able to show positive work in this area. Dye commended Kloss and the Assessment Committee's work and urged that we carefully consider the amount of work the portfolio model would entail and whether it would be met with opposition. Dye recommended that there be no decision on this important issue today and that we not rush to approve something by April 15<sup>th</sup> that could have such far-reaching implications. Ciliberti suggested that departments take up this discussion. Edelstein proposed that each department devise an "action plan" and submit it by April 15 as evidence to the Middle States representative that this issue is being discussed. Ciliberti moved and Goldstein seconded that we come out of the committee of the whole. Edelstein moved that by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999 every department provide a statement to the Assessment Committee of how they assess a student's work with regards to the five learning outcomes, and ensure that they graduate with writing competency. Bhat seconded the motion. Provost Sesay commented that he didn't favor rushing the departments into quickly writing policy but rather that they indicate general support for the Committee's efforts and concepts. Edelstein's motion was amended : by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999 every department will provide feedback to the Assessment Committee of how they assess a student's work with regards to the five learning outcomes, and ensure that they graduate with writing competency. Dye and Weltman both voiced concern that this was being rushed into. Ciliberti called the question. 10 ayes, 14 nays, 1 abstention; the motion failed. Goldstein and Dye requested that this item return in the next Senate agenda for more discussion and that the departments analyze the five learning outcomes with regards to their own requirements. Ciliberti called the question. Garcia seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

**RESOLUTION to ENDORSE a PRE-ENGINEERING PROGRAM:** B. Weltman represented the Undergraduate Council and spoke on behalf of the resolution. This program will provide the foundation coursework a student would need to be accepted by NJIT. S. Robinson answered questions – NJIT will accept all coursework credits completed here. Some students that would not be able to get directly into NJIT can begin their work here and then transfer over. Robinson said that initially there would be 10-15 students in the program but that it could rise to as many as 30. Wahrman asked for clarification about GPA requirements in the program. Ciliberti asked whether there had been discussion about implications for the Library – whether increased spending in pertinent areas was being considered. Goldstein and Kim called the question. The resolution passed with two abstentions.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 1:51 p.m., moved and seconded by Goldstein and Wagner, the Faculty Senate adjourned. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 29, 1999 in Student Center 203-5.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kurt W. Wagner - Secretary