PRESENT: Andreopoulos, Bernstein, Bhat, Bliss, Chabayta, Cruz Paul, D’Haem, Diamond, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Finnegan, Garfinkel, Godar, Kearney, Kelly, Kim, Korgen, Lee, Levitan, Maganuco, Martus, Mathew, Mbogoni, McNeal, Natrajan, Ndjatou, Nobler (for Schwartz), Nyaboga, Nyamwange, Parras, Perez, Polchak, Rosar, Sabogal, Sheffield, Simon (for Pavese), Slaymaker, Snyder, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Verdicchio, Wagner, Walsh, Weil, Wicke

ABSENT: Barrow, Dinan, Waldron

GUESTS: Bolyai, Fuller, Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Gritsch, Hahn, Harris, Kashyap, Kubeyinje, Liautaud, Noonan, Olaye, Rabbitt, Refsland, Rosenberg, Schrader, Trelisky, Wolf

PRELIMINARIES: Chairperson Parras called the Senate to order at 12:33 PM. Martus and Godar moved acceptance of the Agenda, which was approved unanimously.
The draft minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting, moved and seconded by Martus and Wicke, were also approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Faculty Senate Graduate Forum will be held on Thursday, March 28th, from 11:30 – 1:45 in University Commons Room 211. The theme is: Looking into the Crystal Ball.
Cruz Paul noted that a Career and Internship Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 5th, from 1-4pm in the ballrooms. Please urge students to attend.

CHAIR’S REPORT: Parras stated that the NSSE Report and the Attrition Report will be discussed on the Senate floor at future meetings.

VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT: Falk-Romaine nominated (Levitan seconded) Refsland to serve on the Assessment Council; the nomination was approved unanimously.
The Graduate Programs Council still needs a representative from the College of Education.

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE UPDATE: Tina Lesher, Senate liaison to the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Advisement, said that the Task Force is focusing on three areas: characterizing the best advisement system for our type of school; comparing WPU to campuses across the United States; assessing advisement at WPU.
Among her observations: approximately half our students are transfers; advisement needs to be a twelve-month process that should not be left to chairs, alone, during the summer; whether advising is centralized or decentralized, there needs to be extensive training of advisors; students with double majors need two advisors.
SGA representative Maganuco reported that students want and need to be reached out to via e-mails.
Andreopulos asked if the Task Force were assessing the past five years based on empirical evidence. Lesher replied that mainly anecdotal evidence is available, but that more formal assessment will be part of any future model. Parras expressed the hope that the final report will be available for discussion before the end of the semester.

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM COUNCIL: Levitan and Malanga noted that the Senate had requested more background and details before it would consider the Council’s resolutions, and hope that today’s presentation would satisfy the body.
Levitan moved (Garfinkel seconded) that the UCC Council retain its current structure and membership. Duffy and Godar moved to amend by specifying that the enlarged membership continue for two years, until the end of Spring 2015. After brief discussion, the amendment passed unanimously. Tardi asked if the ex-officio members had voting rights. Kearney replied that the By-Laws specifically state that ex-officio members are non-voting. The amended resolution was approved unanimously.
Levitan and Perez moved that the Review Panels be renamed “Area Coordinating Panels” and kept at their current size and structure for two years, until the end of Spring 2015, with expanded responsibilities related to program development. Kelly asked what the new responsibilities might be. Steinhart, Finnegan, McNeal and Sheffield all shared Kelly discomfort with such a vague and open-ended resolution. Duffy and Godar’s motion to divide the question passed with one dissenting vote.

The first part of the motion was considered: that the Review Panels be renamed “Area Coordinating Panels” and kept at their current size and structure for two years, until the end of Spring 2015. McNeal, Tardi, Levitan, Falk-Romaine and Kelly discussed the size and make-up of the various panels. The motion was approved with six negative votes and one abstention.

The second part of the original motion, that they be renamed “Area Coordinating Panels” with expanded responsibilities related to program development, was immediately brought to a vote, and was defeated by a hand vote of 14 yes, 17 no with 6 abstentions. Duffy suggested that the UCC Council might wish to revise the motion for future consideration by the Senate.

Levitan and Wicke moved the Council’s resolution recommending certain language changes in the Advisement Guidelines. Verdicchio, Martus and McNeal noted the vagueness of the motion. Godar and Steinhart moved to amend by adding the wording: the Senate approves clarifying that the Advisement Guidelines for the UCC be modified as follows:

Although UCC courses may serve a number of requirements, the student only receives 3 credits (4 if science lab) for each course regardless of the number of requirements it meets.

Up to 9 (10 if a lab) credits may be in the major with a possibility of 3(4) credits in areas one, two or three.

A UCC course may also meet a writing and/or technology requirement. Students may also satisfy the WI or TI requirements with courses also considered electives or part of a major, minor, certification, or honors program.

as outlined on page 7 of the UCC report. The amendment was approved unanimously, as was the revised motion.

Natrajan began his PowerPoint regarding UCC courses. He noted that this is the first presentation of actual data regarding UCC courses, and he hopes that future decisions will be based on evidence. Approximately half of the undergraduate courses taught at WPU are UCC courses but, he asked, is there a proportionate share of resources devoted to them? He pointed out that there is a Director of UCC, but no office and inadequate staff. There must be more help in the Advisement Center, and deans and department chairs must commit faculty to teaching UCC courses. He asked the Provost how to incentivize teaching UCC courses.

Malanga and Natrajan pointed out how many UCC courses are taken by freshmen. Martus, Kelly, Bhat, Cruz Paul and Verdicchio commented on various aspects of first year students’ needs. Weil noted that the program is only two years old and that it has already caused major changes in the standard operating procedures at WPU – and that more will come. He urged the Senate to examine these data more carefully, and that the UCC Institute should focus on these issues. Parras asked senators to prepare specific questions for the Technology Council, which will be presenting at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon Maganuco and Bhat’s motion, the Faculty Senate went into adjournment at 1:48 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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