PRESENT: Andreopoulos, Barrow, Bhat, Bliss, Chabayta, Cruz Paul, D’Haem, Diamond, Dinan, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Finnegan, Garfinkel, Godar, Healy, Hong (for Walsh), Kearney, Kelly, Kernan (for Levitan), Kim, Korgen, Lee, Martus, Mathew, Mbogoni, McNeal, Natraj, Nyaboga, Nyamwange, Parras, Pavese, Perez, Rosar, Sabogal, Schwartz, Shefield, Slaymaker, Snyder, Tardi, Verdicchio, Waldron, Weil, Weiner (for Wagner)

ABSENT: Bernstein, Ndjatou, Swanson, Wicke

GUESTS: Bolyai, Cohen, Daniel-Robinson, DeDeo, Ferguson, Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Gritsch, Hahn, Kashyap, Liautaud, Malu, Miller, Noonan, Olaye, Rabbitt, Refsland, Rosengart, Schrader, Seal, Sherman, Teirnan, Wolf

PRELIMINARIES: Chairperson Parras called the Senate to order at 12:36 PM. Sheffield and Pavese moved acceptance of the Agenda. Godar and Perez’s motion that a new Item VI be added for discussion of Registration was accepted unanimously. The amended Agenda was then approved unanimously.

The draft minutes of the October 23, 2012 meeting, moved and seconded by Slaymaker and Garfinkel, were accepted unanimously.

CHAIR’S REPORT: Parras called for a moment of silence in memory of Fletcher Fish, long-time member of the University’s Board of Trustees and Foundation Board, who was killed in hurricane Sandy. Pavese warmly recalled his financial contributions, his support of the High Mountain Symphony and the competition he established for young musicians.

Associate Dean Kashyap announced that WPU students are in the finals of the National Sales Challenge Competition to be held on Friday. Kim said that the competition needed better press coverage, to which Kashyap replied that Goldstein had sent press releases to all the media. [Peter Malvasi won three individual awards competing against students from across the country and abroad.] He also invited the community to attend Cotsakos College’s Leadership Forum on Thursday at 11AM in the Valley Road Building; David Steele, VP for Global Strategy at Samsung will be the featured speaker.

Dinan requested donations of used or new coats for the Honors College’s annual clothing drive for families with children attending Passaic County Head Start.

Ellis reminded the campus that DRIVE Week was ending with a Poetry Slam on Friday night at 7PM in the Multipurpose room.

There will be a Graduate Open House on December 2nd.

President Waldron thanked the many WPU staff who worked to put the campus back in working order after hurricane Sandy. She thanked faculty for the flexibility that they have shown to students, and noted that most of the e-mails she’s received from students have been complimentary. She expressed appreciation for all the support – from the Senate, from the Union, from the American Democracy Project, etc. – for the bond issue (that was approved by 62% of the electorate). This will enable WPU to move on facilities projects sooner than planned, and will contribute to the renovation of the core corridor buildings.

Parras announced that the Senate website has been updated to include the Implementation Team rosters, and that the Strategic Plan is linked to the homepage as well. He is pleased by the large number of senators serving on various teams.
**VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT:** Falk-Romaine reported that due to time constraints, the Executive Committee had approved the following members for the Geography and Urban Studies Promotion Committee: B. Liu, C. Flint and M. Ellis.

**REGISTRATION:** A number of senators presented specific instances of serious problems with registration: Bhat (the system not recognizing three digit prerequisites and the necessity for many permits); Perez (the permit problem and the fact that business students weren’t being allowed to register for business courses); Kelly (the prerequisite issue); Godar (priority registration not permitted); Dinan (faculty need to have schedules and PINs earlier); Korgen (problems with degree audits; she also wondered if the Registrar’s Office has enough staff); McNeal (the main campus doesn’t realize the all education students require permits); Ellis (a dozen incorrect degree audits); Finnegan (illegible print-outs of degree audits); Godar and Martus (priority registration needs to be extended for another day or two). Cohen said that she would address the priority registration immediately [and in an e-mail to the faculty on November 14th she mentioned some other corrections]. Tardi stated that these problems lead to the Advisement issue. She noted that Policy 28 requires that PINs be given to faculty four weeks ahead of time.

**ADVISEMENT:** Tardi said that there were a number of questions raised at the last Senate meeting that had not been addressed, and asked if any of the administrators present would respond to them. She called, specifically, for empirical evidence supporting the validity of the reports distributed two weeks ago, for justification for not having multiple advisors, and for proof of the causal relation that was asserted between advisement and retention. Lee stated that many of the new advisors don’t know the students and the majors as well as departmental advisors, for whom it is important to start bonding with students in freshman year. Verdicchio questioned the Blue Ribbon Task Force’s timeline, doubting that a new advisement plan could be implemented by Fall 2013. He urged that some short-term actions be taken to stop the bleeding. Parras said that he would ask the Task Force to come up with short-term solutions, and to address all the issues raised in the Senate. Waldron said that the timeline is flexible and that no new plan would be implemented that had not been vetted by the Senate first. In response to Sheffield’s question about feedback, Waldron replied that the Task Force would give reports. Parras said that the issue would be brought to the Senate in the Spring. Pavese reiterated the need for direct contact between student and faculty.

Kelly asserted that study should be done before making policy. She found two assumptions embedded in the Task Force’s narrative: that graduation rates are due to advisement and that students receive good advisement with professional advisors. She suggested that at least two other factors should be considered: the change of graduation requirements to 120 credits and the implementation of the UCC. Andreopolous called for more discussion and insisted that costs should be discussed when speaking on this topic. Kim called for immediate action on advisement for students with two majors. Sherman said that single advisors can work and that the Advisement Center has added professional advisors over the past two years. Natrajian made several points: The Senate needs to hear from the Administration about whether the current model of advising is not in step with other NJ institutions, and that we need to test our own models since not all trends are good to follow. He called for standard data analysis of the materials distributed by the Administration and for a Retention Task Force. He also distributed a graphic of two alternate advising models (Tinto and Swail), and mentioned that a 2004 EPI Lumina study concluded that resources trump all other factors. Sheffield declared that there is no empirical but only anecdotal evidence to support the proposed actions. She noted that small departments are harmed by some of the advice given by the professional advisors.

Tardi and Godar moved that any document presented must be addressed by the individual presenting it. Tardi stated that for two meetings documents have been discussed and questions raised, but the Senate is not getting answers from the responsible parties. The Advisement Center is doing good work –faculty advisors have a different role. She said that there has been no assessment of faculty advisement in years (something that she has
been calling for over the past 7 or 8 years), and that there is no administrative accountability. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Kelly noted that since graduation rates have been brought into the discussion of advisement, raising the issue of retention is absolutely legitimate. We need to know what’s broken and how to fix it. How can we deliver the best advisement for our students in a fiscally responsible way? Snyder said that students should be thinking for themselves and taking a more active role. Diamond said that if new policies and procedures are going to be based on data, let’s see the data, the models and the methodology. He believes that what has been presented so far is simplistic and wouldn’t get published. Sherman said that the new model begins to connect students with advisors during the summer before their freshman year, and that they keep in constant contact after orientation. The students will be good advisees when they are turned over to the departments. Martus said that some departments need to start working with students in freshman year.

Bhat and Martus moved that at soon as students declare their major they should be afforded a second advisor (one in the Advisement Center and one in the major department). After a brief discussion about the ability of students to see departmental faculty at any time, the question was called. By hand count the motion passed by a vote of 13 Yes, 8 No, with 9 abstentions.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon Godar and Tardi’s motion, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:48 PM.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday November 27th at 12:30 PM in Ballroom C.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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