FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – November 25, 2014


ABSENT: Alon, Avdeev, Polchak, Swanson

GUESTS: Bolyai, Brenenson, Burns, Cammarata, Chabayta, Corsetto, Corso, Diaz, DiNoia, Feola, Fuller-Stanley, Godar, Goldstein, Hahn, Jackson, Jones, Kollia, Liautaud, Malindretos, Miller, Moore, Nauta, Noonan, Rabbitt, Refsland, Rosenberg, Rosengart, Ross, Rozewski, Schneider, Seal, Sherman, Shojai, Tajes, Tiernan, Trelisky, Wolf, Zeff (and one unintelligible)

PRELIMINARIES: Levitan called the Senate to order at 12:36PM. The Agenda was moved by Martus and Diamond, and was approved unanimously. The Minutes of the 11/11/2014 meeting, moved by Wagner and Sheffield, were also approved unanimously, with one correction.

CHAIR’S REPORT: Levitan noted that while the Executive Committee, the Undergraduate Council and the Graduate Council are continuing to work with the Provost’s Office on the process and flow charts for course and program submissions, until a new process is formally adopted, college curriculum committees and deans should continue to forward clearly identified materials to the Senate Office so the appropriate Senate councils may review the proposals.

The report of Malindretos, the Senate’s representative to the Board of Trustees’ Finance, Audit and Institutional Development Committee, has been posted in the Packet. Levitan noted a correction Bolyai noted: All university position may be delayed, not just academic lines.

Andreopoulos and Wicke moved that this important topic be added as a separate item on the next Senate Agenda, and it will be taken up again in December.

Kothandaraman reported that WPU hosted 40 universities (and numerous prestigious corporations) for the Eighth National Sales Challenge. For the first time WPU won the competition, which he described as a major achievement.

VICE CHAIRS REPORT: Dinan announced that due to sabbaticals, etc., there will be vacancies on several Senate councils in the Spring. She will be seeking volunteers in the near future.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL: MINOR IN SPANISH FOR THE PROFESSIONS: Roux and Duffy moved approval of the new minor. After several clarifications and the correction of a course number, the minor was approved unanimously.

GOVERNANCE AND ELECTIONS COUNCILS: Jackson and Duffy moved the first proposed Amendment to the Senate By-Laws regarding the nomination and election of Senate officers. Vigorous debate ensued over whether the Elections Council should distribute “standardized election procedures” – or even if there are such things. Steinhart and Weisberg
moved to delete the sentence in Item E calling for that action. Steinhart, Broome, Duffy, Kearney, Weisberg, McNeal, Sheffield and Simon expressed various opinions on the issue. The amendment to strike the sentence was approved unanimously.

Fengya asserted that Item D, which states that uncontested elections do not require a paper ballot, is dangerous: a positive showing of support is necessary. She and McNeal moved to delete the word “not.” During brief discussions, others said that the roll call paper ballot is a non-productive waste of time in uncontested elections. The amendment was approved by a vote of 20 yes, 17 no, with 5 abstentions.

Wicke and Sheffield moved to add an Item F: “The list of eligible voters will be called only when ballots are collected.” This amendment passed with one negative vote and 2 abstentions.

Levitan suggested that the Elections and Governance Councils clean up the resolution for a final vote at the next Senate meeting.

Jackson and Duffy moved approval of the second Amendment to the By-Laws regarding the calendar for all-campus elections. Martus asked what “late fall” means. Verdicchio suggested “post-midterm.” Weisberg proposed a specific number of weeks into the semester. Gazzillo-Diaz noted that the date could impact certain things (like Promotions). Martus noticed that the motion doesn’t align with the numbering of the lines in the By-Laws. He and Wicke moved to return the motion to Governance, but the motion was defeated by a vote of 15 yes. 22 no with 5 abstentions. After further discussion, McNeal and Kim moved to return the resolution to Governance and Elections, but that motion failed with only 2 yes votes. Martus and Kim then moved to correct the numbering of the lines: 84 to 83 and 87 to 86, and this was approved unanimously.

Levitan stated that the amended resolutions would be sent back to the Elections Council and the Governance Council for corrections, and the revised resolutions would be presented for a final vote at the next meeting.

TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL: Council Chair Wagner introduced CIO Rosenberg and the chief of support, Chris Rozewski, who presented a PowerPoint (archived in the Senate Packet of today’s meeting) discussing the Ticket System for BlackBoard, HELP, printing, etc. They fielded a number of questions. Andreopoulos asked about weekend support. Rozewski said there isn’t any 9-5 support on weekends, but things are monitored remotely. Kothandaraman asked about having guest passes for on-campus visitors. Rosenberg said that at present (except in the Library) a faculty member would have to log the visitor in with his/her own password. Magaldi brought up the issue of a perceived lack of adequate support for MAC users. Rosenberg replied that there is, proportionally, more MAC support (1 full-time person) than PC support (1.5 persons). He renewed his call for faculty to use Tickets. Makarec and McNeal objected that impersonal mechanisms lose the nuance, while Ellis and Weisberg agreed with them on the overall issue. Several other senators noted very bad experiences with the individual responsible for MACs. Rosenberg reiterated the need for a formal record, and repeated his plea: use Tickets, don’t call.

ADJOURNMENT: Wicke and O’Donnell moved for adjournment, which occurred at 1:44pm.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Tuesday, December 9th in Ballroom C.
Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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