PRESENT: Andreopoulos, Barrow, Bhat, Bliss, Chabayta, D’Haem, Diamond, Dinan, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Finnegan, Garfinkel, Godar, Kearney, Kelly, Kim, Korgen, Lee, Liu (for Nyamwange), Martus, Mathew, Mbogoni, McNeal, Natrajian, Nyaboga, Parras, Pavese, Perez, Rosar, Sabogal, Schwartz, Slaymaker, Snyder, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Verdicchio, Wagner, Waldron, Walsh, Weil, Wicke

ABSENT: Bernstein, Cruz Paul, Healy, Ndjatou, Sheffield

GUESTS: Adineran, Ambroise, Bolyai, Burns, Cohen, Daniel-Robinson, Fanning, Frierson-Campbell, Gritsch, Hahn, Jones, Kubeyinje, Liautaud, Malu, Martone, Miller, Noonan, Olaye, Potacco, Rabbitt, Refsland, Rosengart, Seal, Sherman, Teirnan, Trelisky, Wolf

PRELIMINARIES: Chairperson Parras called the Senate to order at 12:32 PM. Pavese and Martus moved acceptance of the Agenda. Tardi and Martus moved to amend the Agenda by adding a new Item #7, Submission of Grades. The amended Agenda was then approved unanimously.

The draft Minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting were moved and seconded by Martus and Slaymaker. Tardi noted that she, not Godar, had moved the motion at line 84. She clarified her remarks at line 86. McNeal suggested that standard replace sophisticated at line 102. The amended Minutes were accepted unanimously. Natrajian noted that several past minutes have not yet been posted on the Senate homepage. Parras said it would be updated. Tardi asked if the Minutes were open to all, and Parras replied that they are. Pavese asked why historical Minutes were no longer posted. Parras said there were no plans to put them back. Pavese reiterated that it would be good to do so. Martus and Wicke moved the draft Minutes of the November 27th meeting, which were approved without comment.

CHAIR’S REPORT: Parras reported that the Executive had named Jason Ambroise to be its representative to the Senate representative to the Strategic Task Force. He mentioned that the Provost Search Committee planned to make its recommendations by Friday. The Provost has announced that all program proposals must be accompanied with a budget form from now on. At the November 30th Board of Trustees meeting more than a dozen faculty spoke regarding advising, especially the issue of advising students with multiple majors. Vice-President Martone’s e-mail mentioned that some of the students currently being handled by the Advisement Center will be transferred to academic department in the Spring

Godar asked when data from the Blue Ribbon Task Force will be available. Waldron replied that Associate Provost Schrader will report to the Senate in the Spring.

VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT: Falk-Romaine announced that she will soon be asking for volunteers to serve on the next Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Evaluations.

SUBMISSION OF GRADES: Tardi stated that the January 2nd date for submission of final grades is burdensome, especially since faculty extended the time for term papers to be due. She asked that the date be moved to January 5th so faculty be able to evaluate students properly. She said that the administration refused without giving a reason. Weil noted that the Spring semester starts earlier next year and that there are scheduling, financial aid and other processing issues to be considered. McNeal said that Christmas vacation days should not count toward the five working days after the end of the exam period, and that the due date should be January 7th. Finnegan noted that both students and faculty need the extra time due to Sandy. Garfinkel pointed out some reasons why the Registrar needs the earlier date. Snyder didn’t remember things being so tight previously. Godar and Tardi moved that grades be submitted by January 4th. Bliss noted that delaying grades may affect course cancellations and closures. Trelisky mentioned legal, academic and financial
aid implications. Levitan urged faculty to submit grades as early as possible. Refsland added that there are Basic Skills issues that require early submission of grades. The motion passed by voice vote.

GRADUATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS: Diamond and Bliss moved the Council’s resolution calling for the use of an online application system. Kelly, Falk-Romaine, Diamond, Finnegan, Kubeyinje, Bhat and Lee discussed the needs and problems. After the question was called, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Diamond and Nyamwange moved the Council’s resolution calling for graduate assistantships be awarded earlier. After very brief discussion, the resolution was approved with one objection.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT: Over Kim’s and Tardi’s objections, Parras permitted Cohen to continue her presentation of the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan. He said questions could be raised later. After Cohen finished, Lee asked if subsidized housing were an option, and Bhat suggested that it be piloted during the Summer. Verdicchio addressed the need for strategies for increasing graduate enrollment, and suggested that we have an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss graduate studies to come up with operational strategies. Cohen called that an excellent idea, and would include a number of constituents such as student development and financial aid. Pavese noted socio-economic factors that influence enrollment decisions by students, and called for more and better marketing in South Jersey. He also asked what was the justification for the decline in talented groups. Cohen noted some work being done in Ocean and Monmouth counties. Kelly recalled the University’s core values, and cautioned against too much emphasis on purely quantitative metrics. She noted that diversity, citizenship, and other values are important. If we rely too much on the SAT, we will lose diversity. Kim reiterated his questioning of some of the enrollment data presented in Cohen’s report. She responded. Tardi asked for comparative data with other institutions. Cohen said it will be provided. Andreopoulos urged honesty and not recrimination in analyzing what WPU did wrong in the past to cause a decade of relative enrollment stagnation. Cohen admitted that there were missed opportunities. Waldron noted some of the things that we did wrong – our pricing was off, we were late to the gate on advertising, the 128 credit graduation requirement, and we offered too few undergraduate degree programs compared to our competitors – but we have addressed or are addressing all of those points. Cohen hopes that the conversation will keep going.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon Levitan and Quicke’s motion, the Faculty Senate went into adjournment at 1:50 PM.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on THURSDAY January 17, 2013 at 12:30 PM in University Commons Ballroom C.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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