

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – April 8, 2008

FACULTY SENTATE WEB PAGE – <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> -- EMAIL DISCUSSION -- faculty senate@list.wpunj.edu

PRESENT: Andreopoulos, Becker, Bliss, Bhat, Cho, Davis, Duffy, Ekeocha, Finnegan, Godar, Kaplan, Kashyap, Kaufman, Kearney (for Wagner), Kim, Korgen, Lawrence, Levitan, Lisbe, B. Liu, T. Liu, Martinez, Martus, Mulrine, Natrajan, Pavese, Peterson, Pinkston, Potacco, Rehberg, Rivela, Scala (for Singh), Steinhart, Stroppel, Tardi, Tesfaye, Verdicchio, Wahrman, Weil, Weisberg, Xu

ABSENT: Antoniou, Ferris, Lorenz, Mbogoni, Van Boerum

GUESTS: Acosta, An, Barnes, Basu, Bolyai, Cappetta, S. Cook, T. Cook, Delasuaree, De Young, Eberhart, Frye, Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Gritsch, Hahn, Horton, Jemmott, Jian, Kim-Yoon, Maduro, Makarec, Mason, Miller, Rabbitt, Rodriguez, Ruiz, Saa, Schaeffer, Schumann, Scott, Seal, Tajes, Tirado, Vassilev, Vicari, Watanabe, B. Williams, M. Williams, Zeff

PRELIMINARIES: Chairperson Godar called the Senate to order at 12:37 PM. Martus and Duffy moved the Agenda. Duffy and Stroppel moved to amend the Agenda by moving the Edelstein Emeritus to the first order of business after the officers' reports. The amendment and the amended Agenda were approved unanimously. Duffy and Stroppel moved the minutes of the March 25th meeting, which were accepted without correction.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Godar noted that there were still several departments that had not put forward names for the upcoming Senate election; at-large nominees are also still needed. She asked that all interested parties send comments regarding the Academic Plan to her as quickly as possible. Martus and Duffy moved the Senate calendar for the 2008-2009 academic year. After Godar announced that there will be a University Day (graduate classes only) on the first day of the Fall Semester, September 2nd, the calendar was approved unanimously. A new online Undergraduate Catalog will be rolled out on June 24th. There is still time to make changes and double-check the accuracy of the contents.

Godar reported that confusion had arisen in the minds of some of the campus community about whether they should complete the Administrator Evaluations or not. The Executive Committee felt that Zoomerang (the only service within our price range) was trustworthy, and that the University Administration is and would remain in compliance with the IT Policy, which states that e-mail may be searched and read only in extremely limited instances (such as investigating a crime, major violations of University policy, etc.). She did admit that it is theoretically possible to complete a survey multiple times. She views a paper-only survey as a logistical nightmare. Duffy and Kim-Yoon (who conducted the first two Administrative Evaluations – alone and by hand) strongly echoed that sentiment. Tardi reiterated that employees have no right of privacy when using the employer's computer system, and that members should not expect anonymity when using a WPU computer. She also expressed concern about the possibility of multiple completions. An extensive discussion ensued regarding the differences between anonymity and confidentiality, with Tardi, Davis, Steinhart, Weisberg and Pavese commenting. Davis moved (Finnegan seconding) that the Evaluations be done using off-campus computers; the motion quickly passed unanimously. Kim and Pavese moved that the Evaluations be done over using paper. Martus and Weisberg stated that many people will be confused about the situation and might not complete a second set of Evaluations. Verdicchio said that we should go with what we have. [248 individuals, including 3 Adjuncts, had completed some part of the Administrative Evaluations at the time of the Senate meeting.] Andreopoulos and Kashyap supported the idea of disregarding the Evaluations already completed online. Duffy and Potacco's motion to divide the question was approved unanimously. The first part of the motion, to disregard the already-completed Evaluations, was approved by a close vote. Discussion moved to the second part of the motion: to conduct the Administrative Evaluations using paper. Wahrman and Tardi recommended postponing the process until the Fall Semester. Martus and Davis inquired about the costs of conducting the process by mail. Steinhart asserted that the anonymity/confidentiality issue is not a serious problem, and that Zoomerang can probably filter out attempts to complete multiple Evaluations, a point Tardi disputed. Bliss lamented that the Senate would even discuss the notion that professional colleagues would attempt to cheat the process. Tardi noted that the Union does see evidence of such behaviors. Davis expressed concerns about the use of paper (e.g., lower response rates), and urged the Executive Committee to pursue other options. Martus and Korgen moved postponing further discussion on the issue until the next Senate meeting, at which time the Executive Committee can collect data relevant to the many questions raised in this discussion. Fuller-Stanley noted that many organizations use randomly assigned numbers to assure anonymity and prevent duplication. Godar responded that the firms that do this are beyond our means. The motion to postpone was approved unanimously.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT: Finnegan reminded Senators (and all council members) to attend the Senate Appreciation Lunch during Common Hour on April 15th. He also asked that anyone interested in serving on a council next year to send him an e-mail.

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL RESOLUTION: EMERITUS STATUS FOR MEL EDELSTEIN: Duffy and Finnegan moved the Governance Council's resolution. Duffy read the resolution. Tardi, Rivela, Wahrman and Cho spoke warmly about Edelstein's integrity, devotion to the University, his excellence as a teacher, his boundless energy and his commitment to projects. The resolution was approved unanimously, and will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for action at their May 10th meeting.

Wahrman and Duffy moved a change in the Agenda to bring consideration of academic programs before the Provost's discussion. The Provost and the full Senate approved.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON MINIMUM GRADE FOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS: Makarec discussed the resolution, which requires that no grade lower than a C- will count in the Psych major. Duffy asked why C isn't required; Makarec said that point was considered, but voted down. Korgen noted that a similar resolution regarding Sociology majors was passed by the Senate last year, and was now in the Provost's Office. Weil stated that these proposals would be acted upon promptly. The resolution was approved with one negative vote.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION REMOVING PSYCH 110 FROM THE MAJOR: Makarec stated that this resolution will replace Psych 110 with an elective. Kaplan asked if this will increase the number of credits in the major. Makarec said no, and that General Psych will now count towards GE. The motion passed unanimously.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON CERTIFICATION CHANGES IN WRITING AND LITERATURE PROGRAMS: Barnes described the changes and after some brief discussion regarding the need for departments to consult when considering waiving another department's prerequisites, the motion was approved unanimously.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO MAKE FOREIGN LANGUAGE FROM A GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT TO A GRADUATE REQUIREMENT: Kaufmann introduced the resolution for the Undergraduate Council, but noted that she would prefer it be considered by the General Education Council. Godar discussed the new State law regarding transfer students with AA degrees: foreign language is not included. Steinhart saw this as a way around the ongoing discussion, and asked why not do the same thing for other disciplines? Rabbitt responded to a number of points: 4 year degrees are different from 2 year degrees. Most of our GE categories are similar to community college GE requirements, except languages. If the issue is removed from GE, then it's no longer a decision to be made by the GE Council. Kashyap asked for clarification of the new situation. Godar responded: with the exception of State-mandated items, community college graduates can only be required to take two more years of college to get their 4 year degree. Hahn noted that we can maintain prerequisites for courses in majors, which might add courses beyond 64 credits. Wahrman and Levitan stated that, like the postponed GE Honors program, this proposal should be considered in the context of the entire GE revision. Martus, Martinez, Kaufman, Godar, Horton, Weisberg and Davis discussed transfer issues, programs without language requirements, competitive advantages and disadvantages, and other aspects of the problem. Davis moved (Kaufman seconded) amending the resolution to exempt programs that do not have foreign language requirements in GE. Before the amendment could be discussed, Rivela (and the inexorable movement of the hands of time) moved that further discussion be postponed until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:50 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 12:30 PM in University Commons, Ballroom A.

Respectfully submitted, B. Duffy, quondam Secretary.