

1 **WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – MAY 8, 2008**

2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE: <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --- EMAIL DISCUSSION: facultysenate@list.wpunj.edu

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4 **PRESENT:** Andreopoulos, Betts (for Kim), Bhat, Cho, Davis, Diamond, Duffy, Ekmekjian, Ferris, Finnegan, Gardner,
5 Godar, Kaplan, Kashyap (for Knaus), Levitan, Lindsey (for Mbogoni), B. Liu (for Thiuri), T. Liu, Lorenz, Louie (for Bliss),
6 Martinez, Martus, Mongillo, Mulrine, Natrajan, Overdorf (for Rehberg), Pardi (for Becker), Pavese, Peterson, Pinkston,
7 Potacco, Rivela, Speert, Steinhart, Stroppe, Suess, Tardi, Tesfaye, Van Boerum, Verdicchio, Wagner, Weil

8
9 **ABSENT:** Kaufman, Lawrence, MacDonald, Scala

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11 **GUESTS:** Basu, Ciliberti, Deller, Miller, Owusu, Schuhmann, Sandford. Schwartz, Tajes

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13 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Godar called the meeting to order at 12:34 PM. The proposed agenda was
14 moved and seconded by Duffy and Rivela and was approved unanimously. The minutes of the April 29, 2008
15 meeting were moved and seconded by Pavese and Duffy and approved unanimously.

16
17 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Godar welcomed newly elected Senators: Payton MacDonald, Music; Lisa Ekmekjian,
18 Accounting & Law; Roy Knaus, Marketing & Management; Eileen Gardner, Biology; Bruce Diamond,
19 Psychology; Geraldine Mongillo, at-large; and Barbara Suess, at-large. Duffy and Cho moved approval of the
20 updated membership, and this passed unanimously. Godar said that at the last Senate meeting the Provost
21 announced that a conference committee would be formed to address faculty concerns about the Academic Plan.
22 She said that the Executive Committee will meet with the President and Provost on May 15 to begin the
23 formulation of this committee. Godar said that the matter of more standards for program approval by the Senate
24 will also be discussed. Godar reflected on David Weisberg's recent email to the Senate calling for direct faculty
25 representation on the Board of Trustees. She said that the idea of adding non-voting faculty members to the Board
26 will also be on the agenda for discussion with the President and Provost.

27 Overdorf reported on the Board of Trustees Education Policy Committee, saying that the committee
28 recently approved a B.A. program in educational disorders that had been approved by the Faculty Senate six years
29 ago. Overdorf said that the Committee discussed the Voluntary System of Accountability, which she said has
30 focused national recognition on WPUNJ.

31 Godar reported on the Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee, saying that the committee was
32 updated on campus safety issues and the enrollment cycle and had no action items for the Board.

33 Ferris reported on the activities of the Learning Literacies Committee, saying that a survey has been
34 distributed for the assessment of critical thinking. Kaplan said that she has heard reports that some have had
35 trouble accessing the evaluations of the administrators. Godar said that anyone who has a problem should contact
36 James Claiborne, the technical person at Campus Vote. Tardi asked President Speert about the implementation of
37 the safety task force. Godar encouraged everyone to complete the administrator evaluation by noon on Friday,
38 May 16.

39 Godar thanked everyone for their support of her as Senate Chairperson over the past year. She said that
40 the Senate has done important work including beginning the process of revising General Education and
41 establishing a Planning and Budget Council. She said that next semester the Senate will take up the revised
42 academic integrity policy proposal and a proposal to reduce the number of credits required for graduation to 120.

43
44 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Finnegan distributed a table listing proposed membership of Senate Councils for the
45 upcoming academic year. He said that he attempted to give people their first choice of council assignment, but
46 that it was not possible in each case. Several corrections were suggested. Finnegan said that since at-large
47 positions were eliminated, about 18 people could not be placed. Pavese said that the adjuncts need more time to
48 respond. Martus and Tardi moved and seconded approval of the Councils thus far composed. Tardi asked for an
49 explanation of the criteria by which selections for the councils were made. Finnegan replied that assignments
50 were made according to a person's desire to serve and balancing each council's membership between veterans
51 who are familiar with the council's work and new members who bring fresh perspectives and new ideas. Martus
52 said that he objects to not knowing who else applied for council membership and having a vote in this manner.

53 Steinhart offered a friendly amendment: that the current roster is approved and that the Executive Committee
54 decides any contested slots. Godar said that this is the usual practice. Duffy said that nominations from the floor
55 are always accepted. Martus asked that the Governance Council look at the protocol for the composition of
56 council membership. Pavese called the question and this passed. A vote was taken to approve the uncontested
57 council roster and this passed unanimously.
58

59 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Maria Tajes and Ray Schwartz of the
60 Elections Council conducted an election of officers and the Executive Committee using electronic voting aids (i.e.
61 “clickers”). Finnegan nominated Godar for Chair. This was seconded by Levitan. No further nominations were
62 made and the Secretary cast one vote, electing Godar as Faculty Senate Chair for the 2008-2009 Academic Year.
63 Cho nominated Finnegan for Vice-Chair. Tardi seconded the nomination. No further nominations were made and
64 the Secretary cast one vote, electing Finnegan as Vice-Chair for the 2008-2009 Academic Year. Duffy nominated
65 Wagner for Secretary. Ferris seconded the nomination. No further nominations were made and the Secretary cast
66 one vote, electing Wagner as Secretary for the 2008-2009 Academic Year. Three at-large seats were filled. Godar
67 said that the purpose of these Executive Committee members is to provide good advice to the Chair and be
68 productive and amenable to work as a close group. Rivela nominated Potacco, who declined. Levitan nominated
69 Davis and Steinhart seconded this. Pavese nominated Pinkston. Ferris nominated Steinhart, who declined. Rivela
70 nominated Duffy and Wagner seconded this. Cho nominated Andreopoulos and Tardi seconded this. Ferris
71 nominated Gardner. Liu moved and Martus seconded a motion to waive the 15-minute caucus. This passed with
72 one nay. Each candidate made a brief speech and a closed vote was taken electronically. Schwartz and Tajes
73 announced that Davis, Duffy and Gardner received the most votes and were elected as At-Large members of the
74 Executive Committee for the 2008-2009 Academic Year.
75

76 **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL – GEOGRAPHY & URBAN STUDIES:** On behalf of the Undergraduate
77 Council, Mark Sandford placed a resolution to revise the BA in Geography on the floor. Thomas Owusu
78 described the changes as updates to the curriculum reflecting current trends in the labor market, emphasis on
79 Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Urban Geography. Pardi asked the Senate to defer a vote on this
80 resolution until it could be reviewed by the Department of Environmental Science. Martus moved and Kaplan
81 seconded that this be done and this was passed.
82

83 **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL – BS IN BUSINESS ADMIN, CONC IN MGMT, HONORS TRACK:**
84 Sandford, on behalf of the Undergraduate Council, placed a resolution on the floor to add a 15-credit honors track
85 in Management to the BS in Business Administration program. Kashyap said that the department worked closely
86 with the Honors College on this proposal, which offers students more challenges and learning opportunities. It
87 was unanimously approved.
88

89 **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL – BS IN BUSINESS ADMIN, CONC IN MKTG, HONORS TRACK:**
90 This proposal closely resembled the preceding item and was, likewise, unanimously approved.
91

92 **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL – BM IN CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE:** On behalf of the Undergraduate
93 Council, Sandford placed a resolution to revise the existing program on the floor. Diane Falk-Romaine described
94 the changes as coming from the reaccreditation process. She said that the main change is the addition of a
95 Performance Seminar that will consist of master classes by visiting performers. She said that pedagogy and
96 literature based classes will be added and that there will be more emphasis on individual performance and
97 leadership. Pavese thanked Falk-Romaine and said that he supported the resolution. The resolution passed
98 unanimously.
99

100 **GOVERNANCE COUNCIL – DUTIES OF SENATORS, 2ND READING AND VOTE:** The proposed bylaws
101 change, amended since the previous Senate meeting, was again placed on the floor for discussion. Martus
102 questioned 3-a-i, asking who was represented by at-large members. Duffy and Tardi offered their perspectives on
103 the roles of at-large members. Davis said that they sample at will and represent the perspective of the faculty as a

104 whole. Potacco said that at-large members converse widely with the university community on issues. There was a
105 discussion of professional staff members and potential conflicts between their duty requirements and the
106 commitments of the Senate regarding meeting attendance. Wahrman and Liu moved and seconded amending the
107 resolution to remove 3-b-iii “Senators shall arrive on time for all meetings and stay for the duration of the
108 meetings.” This passed with 2 abstentions. The amended resolution then passed unanimously.
109

110 **SENATOR LOUIS RIVELA:** Duffy asked that Professor Louis Rivela, on the occasion of his retirement, be
111 recognized for his many years of service to the institution through his work on the Faculty Senate. Rivela was
112 accorded a hearty round of applause.
113

114 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:47 PM. The next meeting will be at 12:30 PM on
115 Tuesday, September 9, 2008.
116

117 Respectfully submitted: Kurt W. Wagner, Secretary
118

119 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate>