

1 **WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – October 28, 2008**

2 FACULTY SENATE WEBPAGE – <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --- EMAIL DISCUSSION – facultySenate@list.wpunj.edu

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4 **PRESENT:** Andreopoulos, Becker, Bliss, Bhat, Cho, Chung, Diamond, Duffy, Ekmekjian, Ferris, Finnegan, Gardner, Diaz, Godar, Kaufman,
5 Kim, Knaus, Lawrence, Levitan, Liu, Mbogoni, Martinez, Martus, McCallum, Mongillo, Natrajan, Pavese, Peterson, Pinkston, Potacco, Rosar,
6 Scala, Speert, Steinhart, Stroppel. Suess, Tardi, Tesfaye (for W. Davis), Thiuri, VanBoerum, Verdicchio, Wagner, Walsh, Weil

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8 **ABSENT:** J. Davis, Lorenz, Mulrine

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10 **GUESTS:** Basu, Bolyai, Daniel-Robinson, De Young, Feola, Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Hahn, Hilberg, Kashyap, La, Makarec, Olaye, Orr,
11 Overdorf, Sandford, Schaeffer, Schuhmann, Seal, Tirado, Torres-Santos, Wahrman, Zeman

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13 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Godar called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM. Duffy and Levitan moved and
14 seconded approval of the proposed agenda and this passed unanimously. Duffy and Martus moved and seconded
15 approval of the minutes of the October 14, 2008 meeting and this was also approved unanimously.

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17 **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Godar announced that the Senate has been asked to approve three committees for departments
18 without sufficient tenured faculty to self-constitute such. She moved approval of a retention and tenure committee for
19 the Department of Chemistry including professors Gardner and Pardi. Duffy moved and Martus seconded the motion,
20 which was approved with one abstention. Godar moved approval of a promotions committee for the Department of
21 Physics including professors Gerardi and Phadia. Levitan moved and Duffy seconded the motion, which was also
22 approved with one abstention. Godar moved approval of a promotions committee for the Department of Secondary
23 and Middle School Education including Professor Dee Catarina. Moved and seconded by Duffy and Levitan, the
24 motion passed unanimously. Tesfaye announced that students are invited to Hobart Hall today at 2pm to participate in
25 debates sponsored by the Political Science and Communication departments.

26 Godar referred to a recent exchange of email between the President and the Senate on the draft Academic
27 Plan. She said that the Executive Committee met with the President and the Provost recently to discuss how to
28 effectively move the plan forward. She said that the conference committee will meet to revise the goals to include
29 specific targets. She praised the plan’s general aims: to specify graduate program growth areas, define “university
30 center” and “institute”, how programs are evaluated, and the academic direction the institution is to take. Godar said
31 that a more structured discussion is needed to obtain input on what needs to be added to or removed from the draft
32 plan. Speert remarked that there may have been unintended interpretations of his communication with the Senate and
33 that he is sorry for that. He said that he should have conferred first with Godar and the Executive Committee, but as
34 he was abroad at the time and occupied with his interactions in China, an unfortunate miscommunication occurred. He
35 said that he appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Executive Committee and is gratified that the work on the
36 academic plan is moving forward.

37
38 **VICE CHAIR’S REPORT:** Finnegan reported that the Academic Standards Council is discussing an honor code.
39 Elizabeth Stroppel, who chairs the Council, said that the Council’s recent work focused on the Academic Integrity
40 Plan, and that the environment was not quite right for consideration of an honors code. She said that she believes a
41 standard statement on academic ethics and responsibilities will be submitted for approval and eventual inclusion in all
42 course syllabi.

43
44 **GEOGRAPHY PROPOSAL:** Godar said that the Geography & Urban Studies proposal from May 8 was deferred
45 for review by Environmental Science. Phil Thiuri said that the proposal inserts GIS coursework at both introductory
46 and advanced levels. Thiuri said that the courses have not changed, and there is increasing demand in Urban Studies
47 combined with GIS. He said that this will be accommodated with existing faculty and that a slow 20-25% increase in
48 enrollment in the program is expected. He said that graduates of the program will find employment by police
49 departments, municipalities, and companies planning location of retail outlets. The proposal passed unanimously.

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51 **ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATIONS:** Godar thanked the ad hoc committee that reviewed the results of the
52 Administrator Evaluation conducted last spring: Kate Makarec, Ginny Overdorf, Kathy Torsney, and Melda Yildiz.
53 Tardi asked why a more detailed analysis of the results was not done and Godar said the report was modeled on the
54 level of analysis done for previous evaluations. Kim commented that he was concerned about the overall results of the
55 evaluations and asked whether the results were considered valid and reliable. Ferris said that typical return rates
56 average about 20%. Godar said there was little response from the adjunct faculty. Duffy said that the numbers are
57 consistent with return rates of previous evaluations. Godar said that this evaluation included a response of “do not

58 know enough about this person to respond” and that this is important to know. Ferris said that she is concerned that
59 the responses were not more positive. Torsney said that for the administrator she summarized there was an increase
60 from the last evaluation in the level to which the person was known to those responding to the survey. She also said
61 that in some cases the responses were strongly bimodal. Duffy said that this time the subject’s job descriptions were
62 included and that the surveys were written to focus more directly on their performance. Godar said that the goal was
63 to deemphasize the subject’s personality. Tardi asked if the comments are available and Godar said that they are
64 available via email by request to the Senate office. Overdorf said that since the evaluation was rewritten it was not
65 possible to do much comparison to the previous results.

66
67 **LIBQUAL:** Librarian Mark Sandford presented the results of the recent Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
68 LibQual+ library service quality survey. He said that it was first conducted here in 2005 and steps were taken to
69 improve service in several areas. He said additional funds were allocated to improve the Library’s collection in
70 subjects deemed deficient. Sandford said that a lounge area was created to improve the Library as a desirable place to
71 be. He said that the current results indicate an increase in users’ expectations of service, an increase in the minimum
72 acceptable service, and also an increase in their perception of service rendered. Sandford said that response rates
73 exceeded the national norm. He described the three areas of focus: affect of service, information control, and library
74 as place and said that the Cheng Library does very well in the first and last area, but struggles to meet expectations in
75 information control, which includes the library’s print and journal collections, databases and computer infrastructure.
76 Sandford identified specific problem areas: noise control, deficits in some areas of the collection, and inadequacies in
77 the library’s online search interface. He discussed plans to address these areas: increased attention to noise control on
78 part of the second floor, outreach to departments in order to improve the collection, and exploration of alternate
79 catalog search interfaces. Kim asked what was specifically complained about. Sandford said that issues of excessive
80 noise, lack of available study rooms, inadequacies in the business and biology collections were among the complaints.
81 It was pointed out that the Paterson Room might not be the best place for faculty to hold meetings. Verdicchio asked
82 if we have reciprocal lending or library use relationships with other universities. Duffy said that most New Jersey
83 academic libraries offer such services to each other, but that use of Princeton’s Firestone Library requires a special
84 card that is borrowed from the Cheng Library. Finnegan said that the problems perceived in the library’s collection
85 are due to inadequate funding and called for this to be remedied. Ferris asked for more meeting spaces that allowed
86 food. Potacco said that the website needs improved navigation. To Andreopoulos’ question about the collection
87 Sandford said that some subject areas are more of a problem than others. Godar thanked Sandford for the report.
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89 **VOLUNTARY SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY:** Provost Weil discussed the Voluntary System of
90 Accountability, a national initiative in which 4-year public colleges and universities measure educational outcomes to
91 identify effective educational practices and assemble and make accessible easily comparable information. Weil
92 presented a [slideshow describing the program](#). Jane Zeff said that among the documents available [is information about](#)
93 [the 2001 cohort and their disposition](#). Weil said that the VSA relies on national indicators such as the National Survey
94 of Student Engagement (NSSE) to provide data that allows comparisons with other institutions. Kim asked for
95 confirmation of the total cost of attending WPUNJ for a student, Weil said it is about \$24,000 per year for in-state,
96 and \$4000-\$5000 more for out-of-state students. In response to Diamond’s question, Weil said that the VSA/WPUNJ
97 website will have a sequenced set of pages. Knaus asked how WPUNJ ranks with regards to these national standards.
98 Zeff replied that detailed comparisons are the next step. Scala asked how this effort is related to our branding
99 campaign. Weil said that Lipman Hearne is working on a webpage that could be linked to the VSA pages.
100 Andreopoulos said that she would like to see something about the employment obtained by WPUNJ graduates. Weil
101 said that alumni survey findings could be included. Tardi said that it would be advantageous to know how WPUNJ
102 stands in comparison to other institutions before publishing this information. Speert said that since this may become
103 mandatory, it is a moot point.
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105 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:48 PM. The next meeting will be at 12:30 PM on Tuesday,
106 November 11, University Commons Ballroom A.

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108 Respectfully submitted: K. Wagner, Secretary
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110 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate>