

1 WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY – **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES** - February 24, 2009

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

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4 **PRESENT:** Andreopoulos, Becker, Bliss, Bhat, Cho, Chung, Davis, Diamond, Duffy, Ferris, Finnegan, Gardner, Gazzillo-Diaz, Godar,
5 Kaufman, Kim, Knaus, Lawrence, Levitan, Liu, Lorenz, Mbogoni, Martinez, Martus, McCallum, Mongillo, Mulrine, Natrajan, Pavese, Pinkston,
6 Potacco, Falk-Romaine, Rosar, Scala, Selke (for Van Boerum), Steinhart, Stroppel, Suess, Tardi, Tesfaye, Thiuri, Verdicchio, Wagner, Walsh,
7 Weil, Werkley (for Healy), Wong (for Ekmekjian)

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9 **ABSENT:** none

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11 **GUESTS:** Basu, Daniel-Robinson, Feola, Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Hahn, Jemmott, Kashyap, Ku, Lee, Martone, Miller, Olaye, Rabbitt, Robb,
12 Sandford, Schaeffer, Schuhmann, Seal, Snyder, Soto, Tiernan, Tirado, Torres-Santos, Trelisky, Williams, Winslow, Zeff

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14 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Godar called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM. The proposed agenda was moved
15 and seconded by Martus and Duffy and approved unanimously. The minutes of the February 10, 2009 meeting were
16 moved and seconded by Duffy and Martus. Potacco asked that line 87 be amended to read "...nominations, and
17 reaffirmed that they needed this information to make their recommendation to the Senate." With this addition the
18 minutes were unanimously approved.

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20 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Godar said that she was pleased with the Provost's comments at the recent Faculty Meeting and
21 said that the Senate is influential in the academic planning process. She congratulated the Senate on its thoughtful
22 discussion of the plan. Mulrine announced the upcoming Homecoming/Reunion celebration and said that the planning
23 committee is trying to increase attendance. He asked that the Senators inform their colleagues that the committee
24 would appreciate any feedback on whether stronger faculty participation at Homecoming would be possible. Jane Zeff
25 announced that the new NESSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) has been made available to students and she
26 encouraged the faculty to ask students who have received an invitation to respond. Anne Ciliberti and Pixy Ferris
27 delivered a report on the Learning Literacies Project (<http://www.wpunj.edu/senate/Learning-Literacies-Project-090224.pdf>).
28 They reviewed the project's timeline and progress, saying analyses of information literacy and critical
29 thinking skills have been done and that this year's work focuses on student technology skills. They reviewed the five
30 desired student critical thinking skills and the results of the fall 2008 Critical Thinking Survey, which showed that
31 students in capstone courses had a significantly elevated critical thinking skill set than did students in GE courses.
32 Ciliberti and Ferris said that a technology skills assessment will be deployed this spring, and thanked the members of
33 the Learning Literacies team.

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35 **VICE CHAIR'S REPORT:** Finnegan reported that the Council Chairs and Executive Committee luncheon will be
36 held on March 12 in Student Center 171B.

37
38 **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL – BA IN MUSIC STUDIES-EMPHASIS IN POPULAR MUSIC:** Music
39 Department Chair Diane Falk-Romaine discussed the new degree program proposal. She characterized the program as
40 a non-performance and non-professional liberal arts degree. She said that only a few new courses would be needed and
41 some new adjunct faculty to teach them. She said that two new courses are Interpretation of Popular Music and a
42 seminar course. She said that the program costs would be minimal and that only a few new pieces of equipment will be
43 required. Pavese voiced concerns from the adjunct faculty: that Ramapo offers a similar program with even more
44 courses and to compete we would need more resources than described. Pavese continued, saying that he feels that most
45 students are immersed in popular music already and that the university should teach something at a higher level.
46 Pavese added that teaching classical music technique is essential to a full understanding of music. He said that this
47 program is not necessary. Falk-Romaine said that Ramapo does not offer a complete program in popular music, that
48 an academic study of popular music is about more than the student's present casual listening. She reiterated that the
49 proposed degree is not oriented toward performance. Tardi asked what careers this is intended to prepare students for.
50 Falk-Romaine said that it is not directed at a particular career but could assist in many music-connected professions.
51 Verdicchio, Bliss, and Knaus voiced support of the proposal. Knaus added that in times of economic uncertainty it is
52 wise to put resources into areas that are already proven popular and successful, such as Music at WPUNJ. Kim called
53 the question and this passed with four nays and one abstention. The proposal passed with one nay.

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55 **GOVERNANCE COUNCIL – ACADEMIC PLANNING RESOLUTION:** Gardner asked whether the resolution
56 that the Planning and Budget Council be actively involved in academic planning is already a part of the Council's
57 charge. Godar replied that it is. Steinhart said that he found the "be it further resolved..." statements to be odd. Duffy
58 replied that the new Council's charges are still evolving. Godar said that one of the Council's jobs is to make sure that

59 the projected costs of new programs be taken into consideration during academic planning. Martus said that “sufficient
60 time” is overly vague. Potacco said that it was intentionally left fluid. Ferris suggested collapsing the last “further
61 resolved” paragraphs. Verdicchio moved to table the motion and this was seconded by Tardi. The motion to table
62 failed. Weil said that, originally, the draft Academic Plan was submitted to the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils
63 for review and comment but henceforth the Planning and Budget Council will be included. Tardi voiced confusion
64 over the purpose of this resolution, saying that it seemed like the Provost can submit plans without Senate
65 coordination. Davis also said that she was confused about the purpose of and motivation behind this resolution.
66 Steinhart moved to split the question and vote on each of the resolves, and McCallum seconded. The motion to split
67 passed with one nay and one abstention. Liu suggested adopting a middle ground between the vague “sufficient time”
68 and a strict deadline. After further discussion the question was called. With five nays and three abstentions the question
69 was called. Martus moved to amend the resolution, adding “one year prior to implementation.” Levitan and Davis
70 spoke against this. Steinhart spoke in favor. Bliss called the question and this failed a first vote but passed a second
71 time. Tardi moved to table, which passed with two nays and one abstention.

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73 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – ACADEMIC PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SECTIONS ON**
74 **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & EXTERNAL COLLABORATION:** Finnegan questioned the requirements for
75 a Director of International Education, and said a doctorate should be a requirement. He asked if we have the money to
76 implement these plans. Weil said that this plan does not have to take the current economic picture into consideration.
77 Gardner said that all of the recommendations sound worthwhile. Steinhart also agreed that the recommendations seem
78 sound. Weil said that he will meet with the Executive Committee to make sure that the Senate’s suggestions about the
79 recommendations are all included in the Academic Plan that is submitted to the Board of Trustees.

80
81 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – REDUCTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATION**
82 **REQUIREMENT TO 120 CREDIT HOURS:** A motion to adjourn failed. Godar said that this information is being
83 provided to facilitate a discussion of the proposal and she asked that senators take the proposal back to their
84 departments for discussion. She said it will return to the Senate floor for a vote at the March 10th Senate meeting.
85 Davis voiced concerns over the lack of context and rationale for this proposal. She asked if there is evidence that this
86 proposed reduction benefits our student and if they actually base a decision to attend WPUNJ on the credit
87 requirements. She added that it does not seem prudent to enact such a change in the midst of the GE reform currently
88 under way. Tardi said that previous discussions of this topic should be on record and asked the administration to
89 explain the choice of 120 credit hours.

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91 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:46 PM. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th,
92 2009 at 12:30 PM in UC Ballroom A.

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94 Respectfully submitted: K. Wagner, Secretary

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96 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate>