

4 **PRESENT:** Andreopoulos, Bliss, Bhat, Cho, Chung, Davis, Diamond, Duffy, Ekmekjian, Ferris, Finnegan, Gardner, Gazillo-Diaz, Godar,
5 Healy, m, Knaus, Lawrence, Levitan, Liu, Lorenz, Mbogoni, Martinez, Martus, McCallum, Mongillo, Mulrine, Natrajan, Pavese, Pinkston,
6 Potacco, Rice (SGA), Falk-Romaine, Rosar, Scala, Steinhart, Stroppel, Tardi, Thiuri, Van Boerum, Verdicchio, Wagner, Walsh, Weil
7

8 **ABSENT:** Becker, Kaufman, Suess
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10 **GUESTS:** Barnes, Basu, Bolyai, Brown, Daniel-Robinson, Ellis, Fornorotto, Fuller-Stanley, Hahn, Hamalian, Jemmott, Kashyap, Lee, Makarec,
11 Miller, Olaye, Orr, Overdorf, Parillo, Refsland, Robb, Schaeffer, Seal, Tirado, Trelisky, Torres-Santos, Zeff, Zeman
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13 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Godar called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM. The proposed agenda was moved
14 and seconded by Duffy and Martus and unanimously approved. Approval of the minutes of the February 24th meeting
15 was moved and seconded by Martus and Duffy. Stroppel asked to amend the minutes, line 18, to reflect that there was
16 one objection to the approval of the February 10th minutes. Stroppel also asked that line 69 be amended to reflect that
17 the amendment to the resolution calling for the addition of “one year prior to implementation” was not approved.
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19 **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Godar reported that at the recent Board of Trustees meeting the question of adding a non-voting
20 faculty liaison to the board was discussed and remanded to the Committee on Trustees and Nominations for further
21 consideration. She stated that this would be significant recognition of the importance of the faculty. It would also
22 eliminate the need for indirect communication of faculty inputs to strategic and other Board planning efforts. Godar
23 thanked Tardi for the joint resolution signed by Dr. Speert and the AFT and Senate chairs asking the Governor to
24 provide adequate financial support to the institution. VP Bolyai spoke of New Jersey state budget forecasts of a 5% cut
25 coupled with no funding for regular salary increases. He said that salary freezes and furloughs are being discussed and
26 that the Governor’s budget should be available for viewing later in the day. He said that, all told, we should anticipate
27 an overall 6.5% budget shortage. Tardi reiterated the Union position that employee contracts must be respected and
28 that employees fulfill a crucial role in education. Seal distributed an amended Fall 2009 academic calendar. Pavese
29 distributed a flyer promoting a Beethoven Celebration concert to be held on March 12th. Godar reminded everyone that
30 March is Women's History month and that there were many notable events scheduled. Ferris announced that the
31 results of the FSSE would be discussed on March 26. Duffy reminded everyone that the Library Book Sale runs March
32 10, 11 and 12 in the University Commons Multipurpose Room. He distributed “buy three, get one free” coupons.
33 Godar announced that a faculty satisfaction survey will be released shortly. Hahn reported that a steering committee
34 for the upcoming Middle States assessment is being formed with representatives from the faculty and professional
35 staff. He said that more information will be coming to the Senate shortly.
36

37 **VICE CHAIR’S REPORT:** Finnegan reported that the Executive Committee will have a luncheon meeting with the
38 Council Chairs on Thursday, March 12 at 12:30 PM in University Commons 171B.
39

40 **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS – GRADUATE – MA IN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**

41 **(TABLED FROM 2/10/09):** Godar said that the Departments of Communication and English had met and worked
42 through their issues and that the Communication Department’s proposal through the Graduate Council could resume
43 its Senate discussion. Martus called for the departments to report on their discussion. Godar said that the perceived
44 overlap in the topic area of “professional writing” has been resolved. The proposal was unanimously approved.
45

46 **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS – GRADUATE – SOCIOLOGY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN**

47 **ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF RESEARCH SKILLS:** Sociology Graduate Director Vince Parillo said
48 that the program consists of 12 credits of applied statistics, quantitative methods, qualitative methods, GIS and a
49 program evaluation course. Levitan asked if there was overlap with existing GIS courses and Parillo said that while the
50 tools were similar, the perspectives and applications were not. Ferris asked if there was a precedent for
51 implementation. Hahn said that this would be implemented using the same processes by which academic minors are
52 done. Scala asked whether such a program needed to be connected to a graduate program. Hahn said that these
53 programs, often interdisciplinary, draw from sometimes multiple departments. He clarified that this is distinct from a
54 certification program from an accrediting association. Tardi said that in an economic crisis, this program is very
55 practical and should attract students. Davis called the question, which was approved and the proposal passed
56 unanimously.
57

58 **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS – UNDERGRADUATE – PSYCHOLOGY MINOR:** Psychology
 59 Department Chair Kate Makarec said that this proposal consists of a revision of the existing minor, making it more
 60 flexible and useful to students in other major programs. Martus asked if the five courses required in addition to Psy110
 61 were required to be at or above the 200 level. Makarec said that they would be. Martus suggested an amendment
 62 requiring that the additional courses be at or above the 200 level. With four ayes the motion to amend failed. With one
 63 nay the proposal passed.

64
 65 **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS – UNDERGRADUATE – PHILOSOPHY MAJOR:** Eric Steinhart,
 66 representing his department, spoke for the proposal to revise its existing program. He said that the revision reflects new
 67 and updated approaches to the study of philosophy as well as the expectations of a new generation of faculty and
 68 students. He said that it puts the program in line with national norms as well. The proposal passed unanimously.
 69

70 **INFORMAL CONVERSATION – CHANGE IN CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION (128 TO**
 71 **120):** Junior Class President (and SGA representative) Tiffany Rice spoke in favor of the change. She said that the
 72 SGA and students in general think that this is a good plan. Tardi voiced concern that the Undergraduate Council has
 73 not provided a compelling rationale for this move. She said that it is being conflated with the GE reform process.
 74 Godar said that the Senate Executive Committee specifically asked the Undergraduate Council not to come forward
 75 with a credit change recommendation that would interfere with the GE Council’s work. McCallum laid out a rationale
 76 for having a 122 credit requirement that matched the totals accumulated by students with lab courses and said that 122
 77 is a “natural number.” He added that we should not act on this matter until the GE Council concludes its current work.
 78 Godar said that the Senate asked Institutional Research & Assessment for information on how many credits our
 79 students accumulate upon graduation. IRA Director, Jane Zeff provided the following:
 80

Average Number of College Credits Earned at the Time of Graduation for May 2008 Undergraduates			
College	Number of Graduates	Average # of Credits	% of students with 128-130 credits
Arts & Communication	163	135.79	66.87%
Business	140	141.68	19.28%
Education	151	151.84	1.98%
Humanities & Soc’l Sciences	256	133.77	80.23%
Science and Health	170	141.92	30.0%

81
 82 Levitan said that students choose a college based on, in part, by the flexibility and selection of courses offered. She
 83 said that reducing the requirement to 120 would help our competitiveness. Kim asked why many students graduate
 84 with so many credits. Zeff said that students who transfer in sometimes accumulate additional credits. Godar said that
 85 new transfer agreements should help ameliorate this. Steinhart said that this sounds reasonable. Scala suggested
 86 revisiting the question after the GE proposal is considered. She also asked if there was any research behind the
 87 proposal to reduce credit requirements other than to stay in line with our competition. Lawrence said that it’s important
 88 that GE credits remain flexible so that we can comply with state and other accrediting agency requirements. Finnegan
 89 said that the competitiveness rationale is not strong and that most students do not look at our credit requirements when
 90 choosing a college. Martus said that our foreign language requirement has a negative effect on our competitiveness. He
 91 suggested that this be a requirement in majors, not for graduation. Duffy said that we should resist lowering our
 92 requirements. Martinez said that we should not consider 120 credits until we see what the new GE program looks like.
 93 She said that if we eliminate foreign language from our requirements then we will need to revise the University’s
 94 mission statement with regards to globalization. Natrajan said that we should not call other languages “foreign” and
 95 that learning other languages has an important role in overall intellectual growth. Andreopoulos said that students are
 96 interested in the quality of their education and its cost. She said that they can save thousands by taking their first two
 97 years at a community college. Davis said that such a significant discussion requires more than just anecdotal evidence.
 98 She asked for hard evidence that 120 is an advantageous number and that the Undergraduate Council should provide
 99 this information. Orr said that transfer students are interested in our credit requirements. Gardner said that the key is to
 100 modify our GE curriculum, since our students spend two full years fulfilling its requirements. Bliss said that our
 101 students cannot complete many of our programs in four years and we should reduce our requirements. Ekmekjian said
 102 that she does not know of formal studies on this but has heard young people discussing credit requirements. In
 103 response to Kim’s question of whether reduced requirements would reduce our revenue, Bolyai said that we might lose
 104 some from summer enrollment.
 105

106 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:45 PM. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24 at 12:30
107 PM in University Commons Ballroom A.

108

109 Respectfully submitted: K. Wagner, Secretary

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