

1 WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY – **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES** – October 25, 2005

2 SENATE WEBPAGE – <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> -- E-mail discussion: facultySenate@list.wpunj.edu

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4 **PRESENT:** Agard-Jones, Barnes, Betances, Bhat, Bone, Cunningham, De Young, Diaz, Duffy, Ekmekjian (for Godar), Ferris,
5 Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Gulbranson, S. Hahn, Haines, Heluk, Jemmott, Kalish, Kaplan, Kaufman, Kovaleski, Kim, Korgen,
6 Leung, Levitan, Makarec, Martus, Mukherjee, Nag, Overdorf, Pavese, Pollak, Potacco, Romero (SGA), Rothman, Scala,
7 Stroppel, K. Swanson, P. Swanson, Tardi, Thiuri, Thompson, Tracy, Wagner, Weisberg, Xu, Yildiz

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9 **ABSENT:** Davis, Liautaud, Plank, Rivela, Wahrman, Weltman

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11 **GUESTS:** Bambrick, Beal, Boucher, Daniel-Robinson, Ellis, Feldmann, B. Mason, Schmidt, Seal, Vicari

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13 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Duffy called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM. Levitan moved and Overdorf seconded
14 approval of the proposed agenda, and this passed unanimously. Martus moved and Overdorf seconded approval of the
15 minutes of the October 11 meeting, and this too passed unanimously.

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17 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Duffy asked for a moment of silence in commemoration of the death of civil rights icon Rosa
18 Parks. Duffy welcomed Overdorf and Ferris as substitute Parliamentarians in the absence of Weltman. Duffy said
19 that three committees need Senate approval. The first, for the Department of Education Leadership retention
20 committee was requested by Chirichello; to be comprised of himself, Verdicchio and Russell, all of whom have
21 agreed to serve. This was approved unanimously. The second, a promotion committee for Cunningham, AAACS,
22 to be comprised of Pollak, McClean, and Flint, all of whom have agreed to serve. This was approved unanimously.
23 The third is a promotion committee for Gundling, Anthropology, to be comprised of Pollak, Villar, and Vail. This
24 was approved unanimously. Duffy reminded everyone that the chairs of Senate Councils and Committees will
25 meet with the Executive Committee on November 10 at 12:30 at Hobart Manor's Green Room. Duffy announced
26 that Ray Schwartz, of the Library, is chairing the Elections Council and that all nominations for University
27 Promotion Committee and University Faculty Range Adjustment Committee elections should be sent to him at
28 schwartzr2@wpunj.edu. Elections will run from November 14 to November 21 and will make use of the usual
29 online balloting method. Duffy announced a workshop to be presented by the TAC Committee and IRT entitled
30 "Low Tech/High Tech Applications: Tips, Tricks and More from IRT" to be held Thursday, October 27 from 12:30
31 to 1:45 at Hobart Hall rooms 142-5-6. Duffy reported that representatives from Disney will conduct an
32 information session on their College Internship Program on Thursday, November 3 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM in
33 Science 200A. Duffy announced that Brian O'Broin and The English Club will present A Reading of Ghost and
34 Horror Stories on Wednesday, October 26 at 7:00 PM, upstairs in Hobart Manor. Duffy reminded everyone of the
35 upcoming performance of The Bill Cosby Dream Band featuring Clark Terry and Jimmy Heath on November 8 at 8
36 PM. Duffy announced that Donaldo Garcia will perform with Harold Jones on Tuesday, November 1 at 8 PM at St.
37 Peter's Church, Lexington Ave. at 54th St. in New York City. Duffy announced that the AFT is sponsoring four
38 \$500 student scholarships, applications for which are available at the Cheng Library, Valley Road Information
39 Desk or the AFT office, Hunziker Room 100. Applications must be submitted by November 28. Duffy encouraged
40 everyone to support the fundraising efforts for the Annual Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner. He said that
41 Assistant VP for Academic Affairs Pedro Martinez will be happy to collect donations. Pavese reported that the
42 music department's Midday Artist Series presented a special 150th Anniversary Alumni Concert on October 20th
43 which was highly successful and attended by President Arnold Speert and Associate Dean Bruce Gulbranson.
44 Eight of WPUNJ's most distinguished alumni classical performers were featured. Pavese said that the event was
45 the idea of adjunct Professor Elka Kirkpatrick and noted that not only were the majority of the performers taught
46 by adjunct faculty on there major instruments but that they also have taught here as adjunct professors.
47 Chairman Bill Duffy commented on the importance of recognizing the contributions of our excellent adjunct
48 faculty. Duffy concluded his announcements by encouraging everyone to attend the play "The Shape of Things"
49 directed by Elizabeth Stroppel, which runs from October 27 to November 6 at the Hunziker Black Box Theatre.

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51 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Korgen discussed a new procedure for applying for membership on Senate councils
52 and committees. She said that an online form will shortly be posted that will be able to collect applicant
53 information, first, second and third choices, ones not desired, plus a statement of why the applicant would be a
54 good fit for the council or committee. Korgen noted that having this uniform way of collecting information should
55 make for a better procedure and avoid instances where one is either overlooked or placed on council that they
56 don't want. Levitan noted that it might be useful to have a field that asks how long a person has been with the
57 University. Korgen asked everyone to email feedback on the new application form to her. Duffy distributed new
58 binders containing Bylaws, Constitution, roster and meeting schedule to the Senators. He commended Potacco
59 and Wagner for pulling together various sets of changes and updates made over the recent years to produce the
60 updated Bylaws. Duffy said that the Governance Council is working on revisions to the Constitution.

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FIRST YEAR SEMINAR – MARK ELLIS: Ellis thanked Duffy for the invitation to speak at the Senate. He thanked the Administration and the members of the First-Year Seminar Advisory Committee for their ongoing efforts. He said that today's discussion is meant as a review of the current state of the program and potentials for future development and improvement. Ellis said that research shows that first year programs support academic success by promoting acclimatization to college life and study. Ellis reviewed the key elements of the program: an introduction to academics, student development, how to make healthy choices, and participation in campus activities. He acknowledged the challenge of doing this in 14 weeks. Ellis said that there are more than 60 sections being taught to about 1350 students. He said that there is tension between the focus on academics and that on student services and development. He said that the program relies heavily on professional staff as there are not enough faculty to teach the sections. He said that FYS instructors serve as advisors to students who have yet to declare a major. Ellis said that ongoing advisement training is being provided to FYS instructors who require it. He said that FYS instructors participated in forums last year to discuss the program, effective methods of instruction and directions for further development. He reported that there were concerns about the focus on participation in extracurricular activities; the difficulties in requiring such attendance, especially of commuter students. Ellis cited research that indicates a positive relationship between such participation now and competitive engagement in later life. Ellis reported a common perception of the FYS course as being "mickey mouse" and "make work". He said that a 3 credit course that included a portfolio would have more meaning. Ellis reported that instructors feel like students are being overwhelmed with too much information in too short a time. He said that he is working with the Advisory Committee to find ways to improve the focus of FYS and link it more directly to GE and major course. Ellis discussed the pros and cons of various FYS course models, including two 3 credit versions. Ellis asked for input on how to improve the program, how to include service learning concepts, what could be done differently, and better ways to achieve the program's goals. Kaplan suggested stronger links to the cluster program or using a theme-based approach. Ellis responded that this might be more effective with older or honors students. Feldmann said that several cluster courses include FYS sections. Makarec said that this integration is effective but that there are registrar issues. Kim asked what incentive is there for students to take a 1.5 credit course. Ellis replied that it is a graduation requirement for most students. Pavese said that in the Music Department students are required to attend performances, and in the end they are glad to attend – and that FYS might at first seem a burden but eventually its merits emerge. Levitan said that cluster courses are great for group work and bonding but only if a section has no more than 25 students. She also voiced concern that if FYS grows to 3 credits it will limit students' free elective options. Romero offered a student perspective saying that a 3 credit course will be taken more seriously and that transfer students are especially well served by FYS by getting them involved and oriented to WP. Ellis said that it is also important to encourage upper division students to attend events. Potacco said that getting faculty to teach a 3 credit FYS course might be a challenge. Weisberg asked how this would affect students with no free electives. Ellis answered that in such cases a student might graduate with 131 credits. Tardi asked what the literature says about FYS and Ellis replied that FYS programs have been shown to correlate with higher retention rates. Ferris commented that more staff than faculty teach FYS now and that many teach on overload. Ellis acknowledged the staffing issue. Xu said that the departments should provide the academic instruction required by the program and that students must be challenged by assignments and projects, but to keep it at 1.5 credits for now. Thompson said that we do not adequately challenge lower division students by asking them to think theoretically, rather we teach them that college is a bureaucracy that must be navigated, which soon bores them. Ellis spoke of the program as a boot camp, teaching college survival skills. Goldstein pointed out that transfer students often get lost here. Ellis said that the program should be adapted to meet the needs of such students. Overdorf said that we need to be careful not to waive as many transfers out of FYS. Duffy thanked Ellis for his report.

ATHLETICS COUNCIL – JERRY BEAL AND GORDON SCHMIDT: Beal, Schmidt and Bambrick reported that the Council was without any members from previous years, and has had to regain momentum. They said that the lack of a Director of Athletics and a Director of Campus Activities at the end of 2004 hampered their efforts. They noted that no one from Athletics is in attendance today. They said that there were about 369 athletes on campus last year (40% women) and no large increase this year. On behalf of the Council they recommended that: they obtain current academic policies from Club Sports and Varsity Athletics, review current recruitment policies, review the Athletics Department and SGA websites, report regularly to the Senate, investigate participation in club sports, and discuss GPA requirements of club sports. They said that they need to fully research Title IX to learn more about compliance issues. Kim asked if students receive any incentive to participate. Schmidt said that since we are Division 3, there is no funding available as incentives. He said that all of our athletic programs lose money, since there is no mechanism to realize a profit. Scala said that campus athletics should not be thought of as a for profit enterprise.

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120 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:44 PM. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 8 at
121 12:30 PM in Raubinger 101.
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123 Respectfully submitted: K. Wagner, Secretary