

1 WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY – **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES** – October 10, 2006

2 SENATE WEB PAGE: <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> -- E-mail discussion: faculty senate@list.wpunj.edu

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4 **PRESENT:** Adeniran (for Liautaud), Andreopoulos, Bliss, Bhat, Bolyai, Boroznoff, Cho, Claros (SGA), Davis, De Young,
5 Diaz, Duffy, Fengya, Ferris, Finnegan, Goldstein, Gulbranson, Hahn, Jemmott, Kalish, Kaufman, Kim, Korgen, Levitan,
6 McCallum (for Rivela), Marcone, Marshall (for Barnes), Mbogoni, Martinez, Martus, Pagano, Pavese, Pollak, Potacco,
7 Rothman, Singh, Stroppel, P. Swanson, Swingle, Tardi, Tesfaye, Thompson, Thiuri, Verdicchio, Wagner, Wahrman, Weil,
8 Weisberg, Xu, Yildiz

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10 **ABSENT:** Grodner, Peterson, K. Swanson

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12 **GUESTS:** Boucher, Ciliberti, Ginsberg, Goldstein, Leung, Miller, Orr, Schaeffer, Scala, Seal, Williams

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14 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Duffy called the meeting to order at 12:38 PM. The proposed agenda,
15 moved and seconded by Potacco and Kim was amended to include an emeritus resolution as a new item
16 F, preceding the Learning Literacy report. The amended agenda was approved unanimously. Martinez
17 moved approval of the minutes of the September 26, 2006 meeting with a correction on line 111,
18 removal of a redundant “that”. Bliss asked for an explanation of the C.A.R.E.S. program discussed by
19 Bolyai on line 97. Boucher defined the acronym, which stands for comprehension, attitude, relationship,
20 effort, and skills. Pavese said that at line 108 it is unclear what the difference is between a proposal and a
21 resolution, in reference to the adjunct voting in departments discussion. Tardi said that a proposal is
22 when a new policy or procedure is presented along with discussion points and rationale. With one
23 abstention the minutes were approved.

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25 **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Duffy welcomed new at-large members Giuliana Camponile-Andreopoulos and
26 Donna Fengya to the Senate. He also welcomed Emma Claros, SGA President and said that SGA
27 representation at the Faculty Senate is appreciated. Duffy said that faculty have asked a number of
28 questions about late class cancellations and Hahn responded by saying that the process of examining this
29 is ongoing and that 120 fewer credits than last year were submitted for Board approval. He said that
30 most reductions had occurred prior to the beginning of the semester. Hahn said that six or seven classes
31 were cancelled due to low enrollment and that a numerical analysis will be available soon. Goldstein
32 said that it was her understanding that the late cancellations were mandated by President Speert and that
33 this has negative effects on students’ perceptions of the university and might cause them to leave. Duffy
34 announced that Danielle Liautaud is now Director of Graduate Admissions and a professional staff
35 election is needed to fill this vacancy in the Senate. Duffy said that the Elections Council will commence
36 with this soon. Duffy asked the Senate to confirm representatives to the Board of Trustees committees:
37 Raza Mir to Finance & Audit, Pixy Ferris to Minority Affairs, Miryam Wahrman and Ginny Overdorf to
38 Education Policy, Roja Singh to Student Affairs and Bill Duffy to Institutional Development and WPU
39 Foundation. These were unanimously approved. Sandi Miller reported on the recent IRT focus groups,
40 thanking those who participated and saying that an executive summary of the findings will be posted
41 shortly. She said that faculty did not seem as interested in having a faculty information commons as they
42 were in having a student information commons. She said that faculty seem interested in having a
43 distributed model of faculty technology assistance, akin to the library’s departmental liaison program.
44 Miller reported that the new Blackboard Content Management System pilot tests have been a success
45 and the system will enable students to construct e-portfolios that can be used in capstone courses, to
46 show to potential employers, or for their own use. Miller said that there will be training in the use of this
47 system and this will be available through the faculty technology curriculum offered by IRT. Duffy
48 commented on the recent town hall meeting to discuss Banner issues. He said that it looked like about
49 60 people attended and that many topics were covered. Duffy said that the Provost has made a strong
50 commitment to address the concerns surrounding Banner and that a set of training sessions for faculty
51 advisors using Banner has been established. Sessions will be held in the Library Auditorium and Nina
52 Treisky can be contacted for further information. On behalf of the Senate, Ferris thanked the Provost for
53 addressing these faculty concerns promptly.

55 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Weisberg said that a few openings on the Councils and Committees still
56 exist: College of Education representative to the Admissions & Academic Standards Council and to the
57 Undergraduate Council, College of Arts & Communication representative to the Athletic Activities
58 Council, and College of Science & Health representative to the Elections Council.

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60 **EMERITUS RESOLUTION – GOVERNANCE COUNCIL:** On behalf of the Governance Council,
61 Donna Potacco read a resolution nominating Dr. J. Thomas Jable of the College of Science and Health,
62 Department of Exercise and Movement Science, for Emeritus Status. She moved that the resolution be
63 accepted and offered kind and positive words regarding Jable's contributions to the institution. The
64 motion passed unanimously and the recommendation of the Senate will be sent to the administration for
65 further action.

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67 **LEARNING LITERACY – M. WAHRMAN AND PIXY FERRIS:** Wahrman and Ferris distributed
68 a set of handouts pertaining to learning literacy assessment. Wahrman provided some context for the
69 assessment pilot project, saying that it derives from work done on assessment of general education done
70 several years ago by the GE Committee. She said that the work has been aided by similar efforts by the
71 College of Humanities and Social Sciences, whose self-assessment has been excellent. Wahrman said
72 that students in GE courses responded that emphasis on library research, using technology, and citing
73 information properly were not emphasized in their courses. Wahrman said that Anne Ciliberti convened
74 a group to look at information literacy across campus. She recognized the other members of the
75 Learning Literacies Strategies Team: Mark Ellis, Pixy Ferris, Marge Ginsberg, Sue Godar, Elanor
76 Goldstein, Dewar MacLeod, Kathy Malanga, Sandie Miller, Jean Sabatini, Linnie Weiland, Nancy
77 Weiner, Hilary Wilder and Jane Zeff. Wahrman invited input from the faculty and said that last fall's
78 forum had a good turnout and positive response. Wahrman said that the Learning Literacies Strategies
79 Team has identified student learning outcomes in four categories: information literacy, technology
80 literacy, critical thinking and numeric/quantitative and is interested in mapping these competencies to
81 GE outcomes. Wahrman said that the team had developed a logo that incorporates the symbol for
82 infinity (∞) to signify that assessment is a continuous, iterative process. Wahrman reported that a group
83 of WPUNJ faculty attended a Middle States workshop in June and have worked to develop rubrics to
84 help assess learning literacies. She said that all competencies are not assessed in each course, but rather
85 at the end of the program all competencies must have had emphasis. Ferris said that the pilot project will
86 consist of selection of a stratified random sample of GE courses and the deployment of an assessment
87 tool to measure literacy outcomes. Ferris said that they will invite faculty participation and that
88 participants would complete an online survey for each participating course. Ferris distributed a handout
89 that announced a Provost's All-Faculty Forum on Learning Literacies to be held on Thursday, October
90 26 from 12:30 to 1:45 PM in the Atrium Auditorium. She said that more information will be available
91 then and faculty will have a chance to ask questions. Diaz asked how faculty members will remain
92 anonymous when completing the online survey. Ferris said that the results will not be associated with
93 the participant. Miller also said that the survey will be anonymous. Duffy said that some details have yet
94 to be worked out.

95
96 **ADJUNCTS VOTING IN DEPARTMENTS:** Duffy returned the Senate to the Committee of the
97 Whole for continued discussion of the proposal to extend departmental voting privileges to a
98 representative adjunct faculty member. Duffy said that the discussion is necessary so that Pavese can
99 create a formal proposal to be voted upon. Tardi spoke on behalf of the Department of Sociology, saying
100 that most faculty favor the idea but that they want to see the proposal itself and would like details of the
101 voting process, criteria, eligibility and a description of which issues adjuncts would be entitled to vote
102 upon, particularly excluding personnel matters. Tardi said that adjuncts may have valuable input on
103 curricular matters. Martus said that given the numbers of adjuncts that we rely on to teach significant
104 numbers of courses, we should be asking for more full time faculty lines. Tardi said that this is being
105 addressed in the next Union contract. Diaz said that the Department of Exercise and Movement Science
106 a vote was taken and the department approved adding a representative adjunct faculty member, initially

107 granting this representative a voice and deciding later before granting a vote. Thiuri said that he was not
108 able to consult with all of the faculty in the Department of Geography and Urban Studies but that of
109 those with whom he spoke there was a consensus that if the adjuncts are able to organize and select
110 representatives then their contributions to the University should entitle them to a vote on curricular
111 matters. Verdicchio said that a straw poll in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood
112 Education showed opposition to allowing adjuncts the vote. McCallum, representing the Department of
113 Chemistry and Physics, said that his department was unanimously against the adjunct vote. Stroppel said
114 that the Department of Communication did not favor the proposal. Rothman said that the Department of
115 Art was unanimous against the proposal, but favored supporting adjuncts in other ways. Wahrman said
116 that the Department of Biology had an extensive discussion of the proposal and supported their work in
117 the department but the consensus was to not extend them the vote. Kalish said that the Department of
118 Mathematics was generally opposed to the proposal. Singh said that the Department of Women's
119 Studies was consistently in favor of the proposal. Bhat said that the Department of Communication
120 Disorders was not in favor of adjunct voting. Pollak said that the Anthropology Department awaits the
121 formal proposal and does not support adjunct voting in certain areas. Potacco asked if adjuncts are to
122 receive compensation for their attendance at meetings if this passes. Xu said that he had not brought this
123 to his department yet because there is no formal proposal. He said that among those with whom he has
124 informally broached the subject there was support of having adjunct input at meetings but not as voting
125 members. Kaufman said that the Department of Computer Science was 5-3 against adjunct voting and
126 that a weighting system may be needed for departments that rely more heavily on adjuncts. Thiuri
127 reiterated a comment from the last meeting, saying that the opinion that adjuncts are not interested or
128 involved in departmental matters may be created and emphasized by us. He said that we should work to
129 change this culture. Kim said that we should set a deadline to finish this matter. Pavese asked that
130 comments be sent to Duffy so that he can receive them and complete the formal proposal. Levitan asked
131 if this is meant to be a uniform policy or can it be adopted department-by-department. Weisberg said
132 that departments have fundamental differences and suggested that the proposal be flexible enough to be
133 used by all departments. Martus asked whether this proposal includes part time instructors. Tardi said
134 that part time faculty are a distinct category of employee and that perhaps a separate proposal would be
135 needed. Martinez said that her department did not have a straw poll but that the distinction between
136 adjunct and part time faculty could cause some confusion. Pavese asked for a count of the number of
137 part time faculty at the university. Schaeffer said that there are about 19. Weil said that part time faculty
138 are a special case, usually reflecting some special expertise. Pavese asked the administration what their
139 interest is in this issue. Duffy said that Pavese will compose the formal proposal for the next Senate
140 meeting.

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142 **NEW BUSINESS:** Kim asked if there was an announcement coming of promotion and range
143 adjustment opportunities. Weil said that meetings with the Union on this topic are ongoing. Bhat said
144 that class attendance on the day before Thanksgiving is low and asked what other departments do with
145 their classes on this day. Fengya said that she holds classes until 5:15 PM that day but will not give tests
146 then. Goldstein asked if the common hour could be moved to 3:30 PM on Tuesday and Thursday. Davis
147 asked if we are going to vote on the adjunct issue at the next meeting or at the one following. She said
148 that the proposal needs to be taken back to the departments for consideration prior to a Senate vote. She
149 moved this formally, Tardi seconded and the motion passed with two nays.

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151 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:44 PM. The next meeting will be held on
152 Tuesday, October 24 at 12:30 PM, Valley Road Room 1016.

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154 Respectfully submitted: K. Wagner, Secretary

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156 THIS DOCUMENT AND ALL SENATE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate/minutes.htm>