

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES –September 23, 2014
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --
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4 **PRESENT:** Aktan, Alon, Andreopoulos, Avdeev, Betts (for Perez), Broome, Cano, Decker,
5 Diamond, Dinan, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Furst, Gazzillo-Diaz, Griswold, Gundling (for
6 Cunningham), Kearney, Kim, Kothandaraman, Ku, Levitan, Lum, Maduro, Magaldi, Makarec,
7 Martin, Martus, McNeal, O'Donnell, Owusu, Polchak, Rosar, Sabogal, Sandmann, Robin
8 Schwartz, Sheffield, Smith, Snyder, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Tirado, Verdicchio, K. Wagner,
9 Waldron, Wallace, Wicke

10
11 **ABSENT:** Swanson

12
13 **GUESTS:** Adeniran, Bone, Brenenson, Burns, Chabayta, Colley, Corsetto, Corso, Daniel-
14 Robinson, Darby, DeDeo, DeLoatch, Diaz, DiNoia, Escobar, Ferguson, Flint, Fuller-Stanley,
15 Glassman, Godar, Goldstein, Gritsch, Hahn, Harris, Huckvale, Kernan, Kollia, Liautaud, Louie,
16 Noonan, Olaye, Potacco, Rabbitt, Refsland, Robb, Rosenberg, Sandford, Scala, Schneider, Ray
17 Schwartz, Sherman, Shojai, Stanfield, Suess, Tiernan, Trelisky, Vasquez, V. Wagner, Weiland,
18 Williams, Wolf, Zeff

19
20 **PRELIMINARIES:** Levitan called the Senate to order at 12:33PM. The Agenda, moved by
21 Martus and Dinan, was approved unanimously. The Minutes of the 5/1/2014 meeting, moved by
22 Martus and Sheffield, were also approved unanimously with minor corrections.

23
24 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** The Nursing Department's request that Linda Gazzillo-Diaz be added to
25 its Promotion Committee, moved and seconded by Duffy and Martus, was approved
26 unanimously.

27
28 Levitan asked senators to send recommendations to the Senate Office for the Honorary Degree
29 Committee by 9/30/2014.

30
31 Following up on the successful AFT-Senate sponsored Student Success Conference held during
32 the summer, there will be an ongoing series of events held throughout the coming year. The first
33 will be on Friday 10/17 (moved from 9/27). The Senate will add a representative from each of
34 the colleges to the planning committee. Please volunteer or recommend a colleague from your
35 college as soon as possible – and please attend the session (details to follow).

36
37 Levitan noted that the early fall Senate meetings are often filled with reports since most councils
38 have not yet met and none has sent any resolutions forward. VP Ross will discuss enrollment
39 data (which will be included in the next Packet) at the 10/14 Senate meeting.

40
41 Martus and Levitan reminded attendees to print their names on the attendance sheet.

42
43 **VICE CHAIRS REPORT:** Dinan announced that Makarec will continue to serve on the Board
44 of Trustees Educational Policy and Student Development Committee. Finnegan will be on
45 sabbatical, so the Senate needs a new representative to the Finance, Audit and Institutional
46 Development Committee. Self-nominations and recommendations should be sent to her as soon
47 as possible. She moved (Martus seconded) the appointment of Van Riper to the Admissions and
48 Academic Standards Council, and Lee to Budgeting and Planning; and two Professional Staff

49 representatives to two UCC Panels: Cano to Community and Civic Engagement, and Matos to
50 Diversity and Justice. All were approved unanimously. Many adjunct positions are still open.

51
52 **CAMPUS LABS:** Due to technical problems, Martin’s presentation on Campus Labs had to be
53 aborted. He will come back later in the semester.

54
55 **STUDENT SUCCESS PROPOSAL: WITHDRAWAL WITH ADVISEMENT:** Senators
56 were invited to present their comments on this topic. Members of the Advisement and
57 Registration Council were in attendance to capture the sense of the Senate on the issue before
58 drafting a resolution. Tardi stated that students need to communicate with faculty before going
59 to their advisors or dropping classes. Snyder, Dinan and Martus agreed. Alon noted that financial
60 issues are often not completed by Add/Drop. Trelisky responded that the problem is that some
61 students haven’t made arrangements for payment plans (even after multiple outreach efforts).
62 Robin Schwartz pointed out that Add/Drop is very early which is more of a reason for students to
63 consult with their classroom faculty before speaking with advisors. Diamond asked for data on
64 why courses are dropped. Sandmann said that the data are very preliminary.

65
66 Liautaud added that after Add/Drop there are over 1800 adjustments to schedules; a voluntary
67 survey is being planned to find out why students are doing this. Sherman said that approximately
68 60 responses have been received so far. Financial and personal issues seem to be the
69 predominant reasons. Corso stated that students often lose financial aid if they drop too many
70 courses. Tardi suggested that the survey be made mandatory. Sheffield asked about the survey.
71 Sherman responded that it is very simple and urges students to think twice. Steinhart would
72 prefer that data be gathered from students themselves rather than from registration data.
73 Kothandaraman pointed out that some of this can be automated. Polchak would prefer requiring
74 the students to respond.

75
76 **STUDENT EXPERIENCES OFFICES:** Liautaud noted that the Academic Support Center has
77 been renamed Student Success Center, the First Year Experience has been renamed the New
78 Student Experience to include transfer students. Her PowerPoint presentation will be posted in
79 this meeting’s Packet.

80
81 Daniel-Robinson briefly discussed the New Student Experience program, and pointed out a
82 number of things her office is doing and assessing.

83
84 Jonnine DeLoatch, the new head of the Sophomore/Junior Experience program, emphasized
85 retention, personal development and the importance of faculty to student success.

86
87 Amanda Vasquez, Director of the Transfer Experience Office, deals with transfers and readmits.
88 She stresses “intentional outreach,” with probing questions regarding a student’s degree
89 evaluation, academic achievement, etc.

90
91 Kim wants to know why there is no program for foreign students, noting that FDU has one.
92 Liautaud said that there are more than 100 international students on campus at present and that a
93 search is underway for an Associate Provost for Curriculum and International Studies.

94
95 **CLASS CAPS:** Levitan clarified that the Provost’s letter corrected an earlier listing of proposed
96 changes in caps for online courses in the winter session. The deans and the Provost reviewed the

97 situation and agreed that the caps for the upcoming winter session will remain at 20. He wants
98 class caps to be a discussion between department chairs and the deans. Sheffield reiterated her
99 question: What is a good number, and asked for guidelines. Sandmann responded that the
100 average class size has gone down from 21 five years ago to 17 now. While he realizes that some
101 classes must be capped at lower numbers, the average class size must rise. McNeal questioned
102 the focus on class size, especially when student success and graduation rates are such vital
103 concerns. Academic quality must be maintained. Since so many of ours students have difficulty
104 with reading and writing – and most online courses require a great deal of reading and writing –
105 it makes no sense to raise online caps.

106
107 Sandmann stated that the Registrar did not cause this situation; he, not the Registrar, changed the
108 caps. Since neither the original nor the recently approved Online Course Policy includes any
109 mention of caps, the entire issue of caps – for both online and in person courses – is open for
110 discussion. For some online courses 20 may be the right number, for others 25 might be
111 appropriate. Tardi recognizes that the Administration has the legal authority to set cap sizes, but
112 if we want to provide quality education it is disingenuous to impose them. To maintain academic
113 integrity there needs to be serious discussion with faculty. Indeed, faculty have an obligation to
114 refuse to teach courses in which academic standards and integrity are lowered.

115
116 Verdicchio asked about courses that, of necessity, require low enrollments (e.g., clinical, student
117 teaching) and how they affect the overall average. Martus said this is an enrollment issue.
118 McNeal asked how chairs and deans were to decide. Sandmann said that until discussions are
119 held, we will default to past practice. Steinhart requested that data, the more finely ground the
120 better, be provided. Sandmann replied that 75% of that sort of data is available in the Fact Book.
121 Andreopoulos noted that an increase in class size from 20-24 would benefit the University's
122 bottom line, but asked what would be the plus for the students? Sandmann denied proposing a
123 cap of 40, but contends that it depends on what the faculty member is trying to do in a specific
124 class. The University must live within its means and some increase in the caps is necessary.

125
126 Sheffield warned that major increases in the caps could devastate smaller departments.
127 Kothandaraman pointed out that class size can be strategic (managerial) as well as tactical
128 (operational), and we must deal with both. O'Donnell said that to equate online caps with face-
129 to-face caps would be a huge error. An increase in online caps might discourage faculty from
130 teaching online, thus causing a loss in a modality students greatly like.

131
132 Levitan assured the body that the discussion would be continued.

133
134 **ADJOURNMENT:** Ku moved for adjournment, which occurred at 1:47pm.

135
136 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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138 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
139 www.wpunj.edu/senate