

1 WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY – **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES** – March 29, 2005

2 Senate Web Page – <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> -- E-mail discussion – faculty senate@list.wpunj.edu

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4 **PRESENT:** Agard-Jones, Bhat, Bone, Chung (for Charlebois), Cunningham, Deller, De Young, Diaz, Duffy, Ferris, Godar,
5 Gulbranson, Gundling, S. Hahn, Heluk, Kalish, Kaplan, Kaufman, Kovaleski, Kim, Korgen, Levitan, Martus, Newton, Northington,
6 Overdorf, Pagano, Pavese, Plank, Principe, Rivela, Robb, Sesay, Speert, Stern, Stoppel, Swanson, Swingle, Tardi, Thompson,
7 Torres-DiMaio, Wagner, Wahrman, Weisberg, Weltman, W. Xu (for L. Xu)

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9 **ABSENT:** Mukherjee, Rothman, Scala

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11 **GUESTS:** Blonna, Boucher, Evangelista, Griswold, S. Miller, Nemeth, Schaeffer, Slaymaker, Snyder, Terraneo, Weiner, Zeman

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13 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Wahrman called the meeting to order at 12:36 PM. Duffy moved and
14 Principe seconded adoption of the agenda, and this passed unanimously. Duffy moved acceptance of
15 the minutes of the March 8, 2005 meeting. Wagner said that the on line 23 of the minutes, the date of
16 the Senate Appreciation Luncheon needs to be changed from April 28 to April 21. Principe seconded
17 acceptance of the corrected minutes and this passed unanimously.

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19 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Wahrman reported that the Senate elections are coming soon and that the
20 nomination cycle is complete. She said that electronic balloting will run from April 4 to 11 and to
21 remind everyone to vote. Wahrman called attention to the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 Senate meeting
22 schedule in the packet. Godar moved and Duffy seconded acceptance of the calendar, which passed
23 unanimously. Wahrman reminded everyone to attend the Appreciation Luncheon on April 21, and also
24 noted that the Provost & Senate sponsored Quality of Life forum will be held on April 28. She said that
25 Commencement will be held on May 17, with the Undergraduate ceremony in the morning, a faculty
26 luncheon at 1pm, and the Graduate ceremony in the afternoon. Wahrman said that nominations for
27 emeritus awards should be sent to the Governance Council as soon as possible. Wahrman noted that
28 Susan Dinan has been hired as Director of the Honors College and said that she is eager to work with
29 her. Wahrman announced that the latest Assessment Matters newsletter has been published and
30 praised Ginny Overdorf and the Assessment Committee for their ongoing work.

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32 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Principe encouraged all members of Senate Councils and Committees to
33 attend the April 21 Appreciation Luncheon. He thanked everyone for their hard work in these groups.

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35 **GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:** (resumption of tabled item from March 8th meeting).
36 Griswold reported on results of a survey distributed to some GE students to assess how they felt the
37 courses emphasized the 21 learning outcomes that are foci of the GE Program. Griswold pointed out
38 that four areas: Using the library to research information, using information technology, speaking
39 clearly and effectively in front of a group, and citing information properly were selected by students as
40 having notably low emphasis. Griswold said that the Committee is partnering with the Library to
41 address the library-related issues. He added that the recent assessment from the College of Humanities
42 and Social Sciences has been useful in the assessment of GE. Griswold opened further discussion of the
43 resolution at hand: that 300 level GE electives have appropriate 100 or 200 level prerequisites and that
44 these prerequisites could include courses in departments other than the elective course. Griswold
45 described how a number of 300 level electives need prerequisites, and how they could come from a
46 number of departments, bringing different perspectives to a student's growing body of knowledge.
47 Levitan asked if this can be implemented using the current online registration system – can the system
48 keep track of all possible prerequisite combinations? Evangelista replied that this will be studied but
49 that the system will likely not be able to handle it completely. Weisberg said that he understands the
50 goals of this resolution, but said that it should be worded as a strong recommendation rather than a
51 requirement, since in the case of some music courses it is not practical to have out-of-department
52 prerequisites. Weltman said that there could be an exception clause that accommodates the situation
53 Weisberg describes. Tardi remarked that students often take inappropriate courses because they fit
54 their schedules at the time, without regard to future consequences. Evangelista said that these are all
55 valid concerns, and that some of this has to be settled on a case-by-case basis. He said that the
56 addition of even more cross-coding of prerequisites will likely bog the system down still further.

57 Kaufman said that the system should keep track of student grades and ensure that a course is passed
58 before it is counted as a prerequisite. Wahrman said that class standing, such as "Junior," could serve
59 as satisfaction of a prerequisite. Tardi said that it is ultimately the duty of the advisor to discuss course
60 selection with the student and make sure appropriate choices are made. Bhat said that not all students
61 meet with advisors, and this complicates things greatly. Weltman said that some departments
62 artificially inflate 200 level courses to 300 level, that there needs to be a more firm policy regarding the
63 content of 300 level courses, and that the notion of what constitutes a prerequisite for these courses
64 needs broadening. Griswold said that about 10 300 level courses were examined by the GE Committee
65 and that there are between 200 and 300 such courses, so some sort of policy is needed. Wahrman said
66 that this guiding principle is what the Senate should help define. Hahn pointed out that the last two
67 Middle States reviews pointed out deficits in the sequence and structure of the GE program. Weisberg
68 moved that the discussion be tabled while more information is gathered. Rivela seconded, and the
69 motion passed.

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71 **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ONLINE AND HYBRID/BLENDED COURSES:** Rich Blonna discussed
72 the draft policy that defines these courses, describes the development and approval process, lists
73 faculty responsibilities, and suggests evaluation practices. Blonna said that the draft was created by a
74 committee of representatives from each College, Associate Deans, and representatives from the Library,
75 IRT and other campus constituencies. He thanked Sandie Miller of IRT for her hard work on this and
76 said that we are one of the few institutions to move towards implementation of such a policy. Levitan
77 asked whether a blended course has to be 50-50. Blonna said that to make it easier to assess, a near
78 50-50 structure is needed. Godar asked why there is a limit on the number of online courses that a
79 faculty member can teach in a semester. Provost Sesay replied that it is needed to ensure that faculty
80 continue to have a campus presence. Korgen praised the document, but said that during the summer
81 faculty should be allowed to teach two courses in each summer session. The Provost said that the
82 Senate should approve the policy so that it can be implemented by Fall 2005. Tardi commended the
83 document and asked the Executive Committee if it was really the role of the full Senate to review this
84 or should it be reviewed by a Senate Committee. Northington asked about approval of these courses
85 and whether it differed from the usual process. Blonna said that approval follows existing policies.
86 Weltman suggested that the policy be reviewed by the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils. Sesay
87 said that the policy should be approved without delay. Tardi said that the Union had decided that this is
88 a Senate issue. Levitan moved that the policy be sent to the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils for
89 review by the next Senate meeting. Duffy seconded and the motion passed.

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91 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate was adjourned at 1:45 PM. The next Senate meeting will be held on
92 Tuesday, April 12 in Raubinger 101 at 12:30 PM.

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94 Respectfully submitted: K. Wagner, Secretary