

**WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
MAY 12, 1998**

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**PRESENT:** Bhat, Chesney, Ciliberti, De Young, Duffy, Dye, M. Edelstein, Garcia, Goldstein, Grier, Grodner, Hayden, Hirstein, Kim-Yoon, Maheshwari, McCallum, Ferris, Murphy, Mwaura, Ndjatou, Overdorf, Pope, Scala, DeLaura, Sesay, Speert, Swanson, Vardiman, Wagner, Weltman, Wolf.

**ABSENT:** Boroznoff, Coomes, Ghosh, Kim, McClean, Nack, Parker, Din, Tardi, Weidenaar.

**GUESTS:** Agard-Jones, Bolyai, Gaboury, N. Grant, S. Hahn, Jable, Jemott, Lesikin, Martinez, Pardi, Perry, Peterman, Phadia, Rabbitt, Reiss, Rivela, Rosa, Schaeffer, Seal, Wahrman.

**PRELIMINARIES:** Newly elected chair V. Overdorf called the supplementary and final meeting of the Spring 1998 semester to order at 11:06am in Science 319. The agenda (moved and seconded by Duffy and Edelstein) was approved unanimously. The minutes of the May 5, 1998 meeting (moved by Wagner, seconded by Ciliberti) were amended to correct several typographical errors and then approved unanimously.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Overdorf thanked the members of the Senate for her election to Chair. She announced that the Senate Executive Committee would conduct an orientation session for newly elected senators early in the Fall semester. Professor Donna Perry reported on Writing Across the Curriculum activities. Wolf encouraged all to attend the Retirement Dinner on Tuesday, May 19, 1998 at 6:30 pm at the Tides in North Haledon. Cost is \$25/person. Overdorf thanked outgoing Chair Sandy De Young for her service to the Senate and presented her with a gift on the Senate's behalf.

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON/SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Newly elected Vice-Chair Duffy placed Kurt Wagner into nomination for the vacant office of secretary. There were no other nominees, Wagner was elected unanimously, and assumed minute-taking duties immediately.

**RESOLUTION ON CAPSTONE COURSES:** M. Wahrman, chair of the General Education committee led a discussion. Thanks were given Provost Sesay and VP S. Hahn for their support, and to the members of the GE committee, the Assessment committee, Undergraduate council and Freshman Year Experience for their ideas, cooperation and support. Wahrman reiterated some themes: that capstone courses be a part of each student's experience at William Paterson, that capstones be a part of all programs of study, and that all programs provide an opportunity for the student to write or otherwise

demonstrate proficiencies and a grasp of the material taught. Vardiman expressed concern that predetermined class size cutoffs for capstones may need to be decreased. Wolf commented that capstone course names and content should be understood to be in the purview of individual departments. Edelstein commended Wahrman and the work of the GE committee and noted its synchrony with the Boyer Commission Report, which specifies capstone-type courses and being integral to research university curricula. In response to several questions about the rationale behind GE, Wahrman defined a capstone course as being a summative experience demonstrating the student's ability to work in the particular discipline and/or write coherently in its vocabulary. Grier questioned institutional review of departmental course offerings (whether they met the criteria of "capstone"). Wahrman countered, saying that capstones have a certain uniformity of concept despite program or major. Hayden observed that many programs currently have capstones in place and that GE committee approval of them is not appropriate. Goldstein pointed out that state certification requirements of some programs are in conflict with GE recommendations. Murphy moved and Duffy seconded amendments to the proposal substituting the phrase "recommend to Senate" for "approved". Provost Sesay commented that his office will not determine suitability of individual capstone courses – that they must meet faculty/GE -determined standards. In response to questions posed by Ndjatou and Dye about assessment of GE as a part of capstone courses, Wahrman reviewed the role of assessment as it applies to these courses. Proposal passed with amendments 19/5/3. Follow-up discussion ensued which focused on the differences between "whereas" and "resolved" in proposals – that the discussion and vote concerns the resolution itself, not the preceding "whereas" discussion.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:**

Wahrman thanked Njatou for his role in revising the committee's report "Information Technology Across the Curriculum". Wahrman distributed copies of a brief NYT article (4/19/98) describing NJIT's emphasis on online technologies and urged emulation of this. Vardiman commented that the "work effectively with others" objective was more appropriate to other initiatives. Murphy pointed out that the recent reorganization of Media Services and Instruction & Research Technology units might have implications on this report, such as the Teaching, Learning Technology Roundtable (TLTR) programs. Murphy suggested a dialog between the GE committee and IRT in reviewing this report prior to final submission. A general discussion of the report ensued. Edelstein pointed out that the report has merit, despite further considerations and should not be delayed. Njatou emphasized the critical nature of Computer Science concepts in the report. Weltman supported the idea that the Senate back this report, but that language specifying the mechanism for implementation be left out. Gaboury spoke in support of the report and said that there will be significant growth and additions in this area: TLTR initiatives and

hardware/software/connectivity upgrades. It was moved by Murphy and seconded by McCallum that the report be returned to the GE committee for further consultations with IRT. The motion passed with two nays.

**NUTRITION CONCENTRATION AND MINOR:** Overdorf moved and Duffy seconded the adoption of this program change resolution, which was commented upon by Grodner. Passed unanimously.

**PROGRAM CHANGE FOR FRENCH MINOR:** Overdorf moved and Duffy seconded the adoption of this resolution. Prof. K. Rabbitt described the program, which will require a second faculty line for Fall, 1999. The resolution passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION FROM ATHLETICS COUNCIL:** Duffy moved and Ciliberti seconded the postponement of this discussion until the next Senate meeting in the Fall 1998 semester. McCallum asked to have this discussion placed on that meeting's agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION FOR CAMPAIGN FOR WPU:** Edelstein proposed a \$5 million fundraising drive for the University with a completion goal of 2005. He spoke of the fundraising efforts at Montclair State University. Rick Reiss, VP for Institutional Advancement reported a \$1.5 million "mini-campaign" for the Fall 1998 semester and work towards securing other endowments. Dye spoke in favor of the work of Reiss's office and that additional Senate resolutions could work in contrempts to these efforts. Edelstein agreed and in support of Reiss withdrew his resolution.

**PROPOSAL ACADEMIC ESL PROGRAM:** Overdorf moved and Duffy seconded the adoption of this proposal. Prof. Joan Lesikin spoke in support of the program. Maheshwari questioned the merits of credits that would not apply toward graduation. Mwaura questioned how students would be placed in the program. Lesikin clarified the credit structure and placement by pretesting. Goldstein challenged the course numberings – that 400 level course numbers for classes that were prerequisite to 100 level English courses were not appropriate. McCallum recommended that the proposal be accepted but with the proviso that the course numberings be revised. Ciliberti called the question and it was passed unanimously.

**PROGRAM CHANGE IN EXERCISE & MOVEMENT SCIENCE:** Duffy moved and Overdorf seconded the adoption of this program change. Prof. Tom Jable spoke in support. Ciliberti called the question and the proposal passed unanimously.

**PROGRAM CHANGES IN CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS:** /Overdorf moved and Duffy seconded this resolution, which passed the vote

unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm. The next meeting of the Senate will be on September 8, 1998 at 12:30, Student Center 203,4 & 5.

Respectfully submitted, [Kurt W. Wagner](#), Secretary

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