PRESENT: Andreopoulos, Barrow, Bernstein, Bhat, Bliss, Chabayta, Cruz Paul, D’Haem, Diamond, Dinan, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Finnegan, Garfinkel, Godar, Grodner (for Levitan), Healy, Kearney, Kim, Korgen, Lee, Martus, Mathew, McNeal, Natrajian, Ndjatou, Nyaboga, Nyamwange, Parras, Pavese, Perez, Rosar, Sabogal, Schwartz, Sheffield, Slaymaker, Snyder, Swanson, Tardi, Verdicchio, Wagner, Waldron, Walsh, Weil, Wicke

ABSENT: Kelly, Mbogoni, Steinhart

GUESTS: Adeniran, Beal, Broome, Cauthen, Ciliberti, Cohen, Daniel-Robinson, DeDeo, Ferguson, Fuller-Stanley, Gilley, Gritsch, Hahn, Hong, Ku, Liautaud, Malu, Martinez, Martone, Miller, Najarian, Olaye, Rabbitt, Refsland, Rosengart, Sandford, Schwartz, Seal, Teirnan, Trelisky

PRELIMINARIES: Chairperson Parras called the Senate to order at 12:33 PM. Sheffield and Pavese moved acceptance of the Agenda. Martus asked that approval of the Minutes be done before announcements, and Parras agreed. The Agenda was then approved unanimously.

The draft minutes of the October 9, 2012 meeting, moved and seconded by Martus and Wicke, were accepted unanimously.

CHAIR’S REPORT: Parras welcomed the body back to normal agendas, and hoped that the acrimony over the May 3\textsuperscript{rd} election would be put behind us so the entire Senate could work for the good of the students and the University.

He stated that there are two huge issues that the Senate will need to address in the upcoming months: Graduate education and the Strategic Plan implementation (which is about a half-semester behind schedule). The rosters of the various Strategic Plan teams are being updated and will be available online soon. The Plan calls for all programs to be strengthened, but the Senate must help to identify the programs of excellence that will receive strategic funding. He reminded the community that there are many steps at which new programs can be commented upon, and that a new process is needed to coordinate the Strategic Plan and Program Review.

McNeal said there was little faculty representation on the Strategic Plan Implementation Teams, and would like to see the Senate councils to work with them. Parras noted that the chairs of many of the Senate councils are already on some of the Implementation Teams, and that after the updated rosters are available we can see how well the Senate is represented. McNeal warned that the Teams could be circumventing the councils. Falk-Romaine noted that every council has as one of its charges for the year to align its work with the relevant Team(s). Martus gave an historical word of caution: Comprehensive Analysis led to some departments being rewarded while others were eliminated. Parras reiterated that the Strategic Plan calls for all programs to be strengthened.

VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT: Falk-Romaine moved (Sheffield seconding) S. Lawrence for a place on the Graduate Policies Council and D. Sheffield for the UCC Review Panel 3C. Both were approved unanimously.

Duffy and Martus moved that D. Joslin join the Nursing Department’s Promotion Committee; the nomination was approved unanimously.

ELECTION FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Elections Council Chair Hong reviewed the procedures for nominations to the Executive Committee. Parras and Bliss nominated Rosar. There were no other nominations, so the Secretary cast one vote for Rosar, who was declared elected.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON TRANSFER CREDITS INTO MAJORS:
Bliss and Sheffi moved the Council’s proposal that no more than half the credits be accepted in the major as defined by the department. In response to Pavese’s question regarding the number of credits that, by law, must be accepted from community college transfers, Parras and Weil noted that the 60 credit requirement applies only to general education credit and not credit applied to majors. Lee asked what happens when a department does not accept certain credits. A number of senators (Gilley, McNeal, Godar, Martus, Snyder) discussed problems that could and do arise in these cases. Trelisky noted that Banner has equivalencies built into it, but many senators (Parras, Bliss, Gilley, McNeal, Wicke) reiterated that the definition of the major must be responsible for defining the major. Garfinkel asked if the Registrar and the departments will work together on this. Parras said yes, and Weil added that, while all Senate actions are recommendations to the Administration, the definition of the major must be approved by the department. Perez and Andreopoulous moved to amend the motion by adding “by the college and the department.” After brief discussion, the motion failed and the question was called. The Academic Standards Council resolution on transfer credits into majors passed by voice vote with one objection.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS: Garfinkel and Dinan moved the Undergraduate Council’s recommendation of the B.A in Computer Information Technology. Perez suggested several points to clarify things for students, and Kim said that this program would improve retention rates. Dinan, Cruz Paul, Ku, Barrow and Ellis spoke in support. Snyder asked if this program would detract from the existing ones, and Ku replied that the new program also requires programming, but appeals to a different audience. Bernstein asked what other colleges already have this sort of program, to which Najarian replied: Montclair, Kean, NJIT and Rutgers. He also maintained that there is a pressing need for IT programs that have a broader focus than just programming. Ellis suggested including intercultural communication as a topic, and Najarian agreed. The question was called and the B.A. in Computer Information Technology was approved unanimously.

Martus and Perez moved the council’s recommendation of the program revision in Liberal Studies in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. After a brief comment by Dean Rabbitt, the revision was approved unanimously.

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL: EMERITA NOMINATION FOR BARBARA PARKER: Martus and Andreopoulous moved acceptance of the resolution. Andreopoulous felt that nominees for emeritus/a status should have their fields of study emphasized more, noting that Parker is renowned for her studies of Shakespeare. Garfinkel added that he took her courses and that she was a great professor. The resolution was approved unanimously.

ADVISEMENT: Parras opened the discussion by noting that the Senate needs to be more actively involved with advisement issues, and that the Administration should engage in less unilateral decision making. Tardi said that there is a Senate council on Advisement that reports to the Senate. The Blue Ribbon Task Force will report to the President, which circumvents shared governance. She also questioned the validity of a number of the points made in the Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee report on the Status of Advisement at William Paterson University and in the President’s memo of September 25, 2012. Verdicchio recalled that the Senate has not been allowed to participate in discussions of advisement going back several years, and asked how we got to the new arrangement without Senate input. Parras said that the current situation is an opportunity to roll things back and that the Senate should use the Task Force to its advantage. Lee said that students are not well served by cookie cutter models, and that departments must advise and connect with students. Sheffield seconded Tardi and Lee’s comments, adding that it is essential to bond with students in the discipline, which goes far beyond mere course scheduling. Finnegan declared that recent actions concerning advisement call into question the Administration’s commitment to shared governance. The Senate has been ignored; messages are sent to deans and not the entire faculty – and those messages are simply directives without rationales. Natrajan called for a special meeting of the Senate to deal exclusively with advisement.
President Waldron replied that what she wants from the Task Force is a broader discussion. The problems with advisement go back at least ten years: she has a number of reports detailing the issues that she will make available to the Task Force and the campus community. She apologized for less shared governance in the initial decisions regarding freshmen advisement, but does not have plans for a centralized advisement system through senior year. She wants all faculty to advise students (only about half advise now). There are a variety of interests on campus, not just the Faculty Senate, so the Task Force, which has strong faculty representation, will be a valuable instrument for information gathering, discussion and making recommendations.

Parras added that there will be further discussion of advisement in the Senate, perhaps even a special extra session.

ADJOURNMENT: The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:51 PM.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday November 13th at 12:30 PM in the Valley Road Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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