

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES –April 14, 2015
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --
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4 **PRESENT:** Aktan, Andreopolous, Broome, Cano, Decker, Diamond, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-
5 Romaine, Furst, Gazzillo-Diaz, Griswold, Kearney, Kim, Kothandaraman, Ku, Levitan, Lum,
6 Maduro, Magaldi, Makarec, Martin, Martus, McNeal, O'Donnell, Owusu, Perez, Rosar, Sabogal,
7 Sandmann, Schwartz, Sheffield, Simon, Snyder, Steinhart, Tardi, Tirado, Verdicchio, K.Wagner,
8 Waldron, Wallace, Wicke
9

10 **ABSENT:** Alon, Avdeev, Dinan, Phelps, Polchak, Smith, Swanson, Villar
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12 **GUESTS:** Arevalo, Bambrick, Baron, Berg, Bolyai, Burns, Chabayta, Ciliberti, Crick, Daniel-
13 Robinson, Davis, Feola, Gardner, Gilley, Godar, Goldstein, Hahn, Jones, Malindretos,
14 McLaughlin-Vignier, McMahan, Miller, Mongillo, Moore, Nagaraj, Onaivi, Refsland, Ross,
15 Sandford, Seal, Theus, Trelisky, Vovchuk, V.Wagner, Warner, Weiland, Williams, Wolf, Zhang,
16 and one unintelligible
17

18 **PRELIMINARIES:** Levitan called the Senate to order at 12:35PM. The Agenda, moved by
19 Martus and Perez, was approved unanimously. The Minutes of the 3/24/2015 meeting, moved by
20 Wagner and Martus, were also approved unanimously.
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22 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Levitan noted that this is the last regular meeting of the 2014-2015 Senate,
23 and that the new Senate will convene (and elect a new Executive Committee) on 4/28.
24

25 On Thursday, 4/16, a Faculty and Professional Staff (closed) meeting will be held in Science
26 East 3002 to discuss the Administrator Evaluations. Tardi inquired about the distribution of the
27 reports to those evaluated prior to receipt by the senators. She also noted that some modifications
28 of prior procedures were made by the Ad Hoc Committee without discussion and approval by the
29 full Senate, as well. She objected to these actions. Wicke and Levitan replied that nothing was
30 done that was inconsistent with what was done during the previous round last year.
31

32 Levitan reminded the body of important upcoming events: 4/17, the next Student Success Forum
33 in Ballroom C, the Senate Appreciation Lunch on 4/23 in the Student Center, room 211, the
34 Honors Convocation on 5/11 and Commencement on 5/13.
35

36 **VICE CHAIRS REPORT:** In Dinan's absence, Makarec moved (Martus seconded) the
37 proposed membership grid for next year's Senate councils (archived in the Packet for this
38 meeting). She pointed out that there are vacancies for Arts & Comm, Professional Staff and
39 Adjuncts. The nominees were approved unanimously.

40 **GOVERNANCE COUNCIL: EMERITUS STATUS FOR ROBERT CHESNEY:** Nagaraj
41 moved (Sheffield seconded) and read the Council's nomination. Gardner and Onaivi spoke
42 warmly about Chesney. The resolution was approved unanimously.
43

44 **GOVERNANCE COUNCIL: EMERITA STATUS FOR DAPHNE JOSLIN:** Levitan
45 moved (Sheffield seconded) and read the Council's nomination, which was approved
46 unanimously.
47

48 **GRADUATE POLICY COUNCIL:** Diamond and Martus moved acceptance of the Principles
49 and Practices for Online Graduate Courses report (archived in this meeting's Packet), which was
50 approved without discussion.

51
52 Diamond and Martus also moved the Council's resolution calling for a change in the maximum
53 time for completion of a graduate degree. The current policy allows six years to complete a
54 masters degree. After debate including remarks by Kim, Diamond, Martus, Wicke and
55 Kothandaraman, a slightly revised motion was approved unanimously: *The maximum time for*
56 *the completion of a doctoral degree will be ten years.*

57
58 **RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL: SURVEY RESULTS:** Arevalo and Gilley
59 moved acceptance (Sheffield seconded) of the Council's reports. Instead of postponing the
60 presentation until the next meeting, they gave a very abbreviated synopsis of the reports (which
61 are archived in today's Packet).

62
63 **ACADEMIC STANDARDS COUNCIL: COURSE REPEAT POLICY:** Sandford
64 introduced a slightly modified version of the policy presented at prior meetings. The major
65 change is that the repeat option can be exercised no more than five times. The earlier wording
66 could be interpreted as saying that every course could be repeated five times. Sheffield noted
67 that her motion (*A student can repeat any course with a grade below C*) had been approved at an
68 earlier Senate meeting, and she spoke against this motion. Magaldi asked why there should be
69 five repeats, since this could result in pumped-up GPAs. Simon noted that if students use all five
70 WDs for personal or health problems, they'd have none to use for academic reasons. Sandford
71 noted that there are already exceptions available for such circumstances. Verdicchio reported that
72 his department had discussed the earlier version, and thought that the revised version might
73 engender different opinions. He further suggested that perhaps there should be two policies: one
74 for grade repeats and another for WDs. Steinhart stated that the Philosophy Department opposes
75 this policy since the number five seems arbitrary and the deans can always override in specific
76 situations. Diamond agreed with much of what Magaldi and Verdicchio said.

77
78 Martin noted that Biology was concerned about the overuse of repeats, and he moved (Martus
79 seconded) an amendment: *This policy will not affect any program policy that puts additional*
80 *restrictions on the ability of students to retake courses.* [Debate on the amendment filled the
81 remainder of the meeting, which adjourned without a vote on the amendment.]

82
83 Tardi pointed out that this is a university policy and that departments should not establish their
84 own policies. Aktan, Gazzillo-Diaz and Snyder countered that programs need flexibility in this
85 regard. McNeal questioned whether this would interfere with academic standards and agreed
86 with Tardi that there must be only one University policy, as did Makarec. Trelisky asked that if a
87 policy like this were geared to individual majors, which policy would apply when a student
88 changes majors?

89
90 Andreopoulos supported the motion and noted that students sometimes need to raise their GPAs
91 in order to obtain internships, etc. Malindretos said that the freedom to repeat courses enhances
92 retention and the quality of the system. Levitan's department doesn't want students to retake
93 their internships. She also suggested that next year's Executive Committee make this issue of a
94 single university-wide policy vs programmatic needs and individual departmental policies a top
95 priority item.

96

97 **ADJOURNMENT:** Upon Martus and Maduro's motion, the Senate adjourned at 1:45pm.

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99 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate – the first meeting of the 2015-2016 Senate – will be on
100 Tuesday, April, 28th in Ballroom C. Elections for next year's Executive Committee will be the
101 first major item of business.

102

103 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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105 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

106 www.wpunj.edu/senate