

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES –January 17, 2013
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --
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4 **PRESENT:** Andreopoulos, Barrow, Bernstein, Bhat, Bliss, Chabayta, D’Haem, Diamond, Dinan, Duffy, Ellis,
5 Falk-Romaine, Finnegan, Garfinkel, Godar, Hong, Kearney, Kelly, Kim, Korgen, Lee, Levitan, Martus,
6 Mathew, Mbogoni, McNeal, Natrajan, Ndjatou, Nyaboga, Nyamwange, Parras, Perez, Rosar, Sabogal,
7 Schwartz, Sheffield, Slaymaker, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Verdicchio, Waldron, Walsh, Weil, Wagner, Wicke

8 **ABSENT:** Cruz Paul, Healy, McNeal, Pavese, Snyder

9 **GUESTS:** Bolyai, Burns, Cohen, Daniel-Robinson, DeDeo, Ferguson, Flint, Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Gritsch,
10 Hahn, Kashyap, Liautaud, Martone, Nauta, Noonan, Olaye, Rabbitt, Refsland, Schrader, Teirnan, Treliksy,
11 Wolf

12 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Parras called the Senate to order at 12:35 PM. Martus and Sheffield moved
13 acceptance of the Agenda. Parras said that the Executive Committee wished to remove Item VIII, the
14 Resolution Against *Ad Hominem* Arguments. The amendment was seconded and accepted by general applause.
15 The amended Agenda was then approved unanimously.

16 The draft minutes of the December 11, 2012 meeting was moved and seconded by Martus and Tardi. Martus
17 suggested several editorial changes, after which the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

18 Godar urged faculty to encourage students to study abroad and noted that there are \$5,000 scholarships
19 available for that purpose. The deadline for Gilman Scholarships for students receiving Pell grants is near.
20 Godar can be contacted for more information.

21 **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Parras reminded the body of the Council Chairs Luncheon to be held on Thursday,
22 February 14th. The UCC Forum will be held on Thursday, March 14th. A Graduate Council Forum will be held
23 on Thursday, March 28th. The end-of-the-year Senate Appreciation Lunch will be held on Thursday, April 25th.
24 Details to follow.

25 Associate Provost Schrader gave a brief update regarding the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Advising. They are
26 compiling a list of issues and are working on a shared vision statement of what advising should be at WPU to
27 best support student success.

28 Parras noted that the latest Minutes posted for the Strategic Plan entities are from September 2012; he urged that
29 the page be updated. He also suggested that Senate representatives on the various task forces could get floor
30 time to give updates.

31 He outlined upcoming reports by administrators: Marketing (1/29), NSSE (1/29 and/or 2/12), Institutional
32 Advancement (later in February) and Information Technology (in March).

33 Finnegan reported that the History Department is concerned about frequent breakdowns in the Student
34 Information System. CIO Rosenberg reviewed the downtime logs, concluding that the system was down for
35 only about four hours. Both agreed that better communication to faculty of system problems is essential, and
36 Rosenberg foresees a “current system status” link. Barrow noted that even a few hours can create major
37 problems for faculty attempting to input grades, etc.

38 Finnegan asked the President for an update on the Provost Search. Waldron replied that an offer was made to
39 one candidate, who initially accepted, but then withdrew. In light of feedback from the campus community and
40 her own observations, she decided not to go forward with the other three candidates. She asked Dean Ciliberti to
41 reconvene the Search Committee to work to identify new candidates.

42 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Falk-Romaine urged all Senate councils to continue meeting in the
43 Spring and to get proposals to the Senate as quickly as possible. She noted that written reports are due
44 to her from each council chair by March 29th.

45 She said that there is an opening on the Assessment Council for a Professional Staff member.

46 She noted that the Ad Hoc Committee would be discussed in detail later in the meeting, but said that
47 only one person had so far volunteered to serve on the Committee.

48 Levitan asked that council chairs be sent rosters indicating the terms of office of the council members.

49 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES LIAISON REPORT:** Finnegan, the Senate's representative to the Finance, Audit
50 and Institutional Development Committee summarized VP Ferguson's report to the Board on Institutional
51 Advancement. Hurricane Sandy slowed things down, but overall things are going well. In December, for
52 example, over \$450,000 was raised. The division is upbeat about its efforts to involve alumni via social media.
53 He reminded the community that the major annual fundraiser, the Legacy Dinner, will be held on April 4th.

54 He also briefly mentioned bid waivers, the new Will Power marketing tag, and efforts to assure that WPU
55 receives its fair share of the Bond Issue.

56 **ADMINISTRATIVE EVALUATIONS:** Falk-Romaine reviewed the course of last year's attempt at
57 conducting the Administrative Evaluations: there was a great deal of contention; large amounts of valuable data
58 were lost by the company running the surveys; and the Senate finally voted to void the entire process. She
59 summarized key points in the Memo from the Ad Hoc Committee to the Senate in three headings: the survey
60 instruments, their administration and associated trust and anonymity issues; the cost; and the timing of
61 administering them.

62 She reiterated her call for volunteers to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee, noting that individuals skilled in
63 quantitative and qualitative data are especially needed.

64 She declared that the Senate must avoid glitches this time, and that the process should not go forward unless it
65 is 100% solid. She distributed a tentative calendar for the year-long process, with the distribution of the surveys
66 in the Fall of 2013, and the analysis and reporting of the results before the end of the academic year in 2014.

67 She noted that previous final report varied greatly: some provide little more than the statistics, while other
68 presented detailed analyses. She asked the Senate what sort of report it wants. She pointed out that in the past
69 the written comments have not been made public; what is the Senate's pleasure now?

70 She moved acceptance of the calendar (seconded by Sheffield). Ellis called for an item 6a where the data would
71 be checked before the statistical analysis would commence. Natrajan similarly suggested that Item 5d, the
72 determination of which administrators should be evaluated in a given cycle, be moved up to Item 1. Neither
73 item was formally moved nor voted upon, but Falk-Romaine agreed to make the changes. While most of the
74 ensuing discussion dealt with other aspects of the process, the calendar itself was approved unanimously.

75 When Natrajan asked, in the name of senators who were not involved in the previous process, for further
76 information, he was referred to last year's Minutes.

77 Tardi said that the Senate needs to decide on the purpose of the evaluations. She said that it is to establish
78 accountability. She also thinks the evaluation should be done prior to each administrator's contract renewal, so
79 the Board of Trustees can benefit from the campus community's input. Falk-Romaine added that AAUP
80 documents also recommend the same thing.

81 Martus posed the question: If these are going to be annual events, should there be a standing committee or a
82 council to do them? Andreopolous asked if non-WPU faculty should be on the Ad Hoc Committee, even if it

83 involved costs. Kelly said that this is a WPU faculty and staff volunteer process, and that some of last year's
84 problems were related to costs. She further noted that there is no institutional hook since the Board has no
85 official policy regarding such faculty input. Parras stated that the Provost's Office and the Senate split the cost
86 of Elections Council processes, and that there are significant savings if a good, economical system can be used
87 both for elections and for administrative evaluations; the Provost's Office, however, does not pay for any costs
88 specifically related to the evaluations--all such costs are covered entirely by the Faculty Senate.

89 **FACILITIES UPDATE:** VP Bolyai discussed and took questions about the PowerPoint that was included in
90 the Senate Packet. He said that Perkins Eastman, a noted master planning and architectural firm, was working
91 with WPU. Due to the Bond's passing, we are moving ahead immediately with work on the Core Academic
92 Zone and, specifically, the new academic building on the Coach House site that will house the departments
93 currently in the Wing. This should take between eighteen months to two years. There is a more comprehensive
94 Ten Year Master Plan as well. Among the building in line for upgrading: Shea, Raubinger, Wightman Gym and
95 the residence halls. The later phases of the Master Plan are contingent on funding.

96 Korgen listed a number of routine maintenance problems in Raubinger that need to be addressed. Sheffield
97 stated that the air in the building is toxic, and that faculty often feel sick. Bolyai agreed that there is no excuse
98 for those issues and he will pursue solutions. He also outlined some upgrades that are scheduled to occur in
99 Raubinger, but HVAC is not to be done immediately.

100 Kelly raised the issue of differences among the dorms that might result in racial or socioeconomic segregation.
101 Bolyai responded that all the dorms cost the same, but that the very differently arranged apartments do cost
102 more. Kelly urged that environmentally friendly issues be considered, and that urban gardens and teaching
103 spaces be provided. Barrow urged the University to enforce its warranties on building, to which Bolyai
104 responded that if his staff is made aware of problems in newer buildings, they will follow up on them. Steinhart
105 expressed a strong preference for non-fixed seating; Bolyai said that all the new classrooms will have flexible
106 seating. Levitan reminded him that while WPU is ADA compliant, there are still places that are difficult or
107 dangerous for disabled persons. Schwartz noted that there are parts of the campus – like Power Arts – that are
108 not included in any of this planning.

109 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:41 PM.

110 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, January 29th at 12:30 PM in the **VALLEY**
111 **ROAD BUILDING.**

112 Respectfully submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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