

4 **FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEETING**
5

6 **PRESENT:** Aktan, Andreopolous, Avdeev, Basch, Broome, K. Decker, Diamond, Duffy, Ellis,
7 Falk-Romaine, Fallace, Flint, Griswold, Guerrieri, Harris, Kearney, Kromidas, Levitan, Magaldi,
8 Makarec, Martin, Martus, Najarian, O'Donnell, Owusu, Potacco, Pozzi, Rosar, Scala, Simon,
9 Snyder, Steinhart, Tardi, Tesfaye, Verdicchio, Vishio, Wallace, Watad, Weisberg, Wicke
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11 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Makarec called the Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting to
12 order at 12:34pm. After technical difficulties caused the meeting to be moved to the auditorium,
13 the meeting resumed at 12:42pm. Parliamentarian Falk-Romaine briefly outlined the rules
14 governing the meeting.
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16 Tardi distributed two documents [archived in the Packet for this meeting]. One, dated April 2,
17 2017 is entitled: 3=1. The second, dated April 11, 2017, contains statistics on admission and
18 enrollment at WPU and Montclair State.
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20 Watad presented a detailed PowerPoint [archived in the Packet of the meeting] presenting
21 comparative data regarding WPU and the other state colleges. After a while several members
22 noted that much of the information, while useful, was not leading to recommendations on how to
23 fix the admissions and enrollment problems at WPU.
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25 There was significant discussion of the realities and dangers of the 3+1 proposals being
26 considered in the NJ Legislature. Once a few of the four-year institutions buy into the idea, it
27 will no longer be a matter of “being permitted to do it.” The rest will have to follow. Rowan is
28 already doing it, and Rutgers can accept 2+2 or 3+1. Some of the two year colleges want to
29 expand their mission to offer four-year degrees. Twenty-one states already permit this. Some
30 fields, like Nursing, are moving in this direction. Some articulation agreements also tend to do
31 this. The obvious problems – lack of facilities, lack of appropriately credentialed faculty, the
32 eventual duplication of expensive facilities already existing in the four-year institutions, etc. –
33 were mentioned. A member stated that legislators actually don't care about data.
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35 A member's department thinks that more graduate programs are needed, but that undergraduate
36 programs also must be strengthened. Some universities are purchasing insurance to help students
37 cover their college loans (which now exceed \$1.3 trillion). Reputation is a key factor that must
38 be improved.
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40 Another member said that WPU must not only look at external data, but consider the internal
41 factors that we can more easily control: advisement, improving the skill sets of our students, etc.
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43 Another member noted that their Dean has stated that the University is not going to grow
44 expensive programs. Another member pointed out that some graduate programs have tuition a
45 third higher than other graduate programs, yet those programs don't get the additional support
46 they need. Those programs are among our strongest and help improve the reputation of the
47 University.
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49 A member stated that we need ideas for affordability. We used to be a bargain; now we're too
50 expensive. There really isn't any extra money in the State to solve our problems. Another
51 member noted that the community colleges are supported by property taxes and taxpayers want
52 to get more from their money. This member also suggested allying with civil rights groups to
53 prevent segregation of minority students, as well as better assessing students' strengths and
54 weaknesses. Another member said this was being done in the Pioneer Success Seminars.

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56 A member noted that the statistics presented didn't focus on outcome data and how initiatives
57 affect retention, and also suggested that we minimize the impact of SAT scores and focus on
58 recruiting the top students at each high school.

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60 Another member pointed out that when one Googles WPU it takes many clicks to get to easily
61 find what courses are available for UCC, for example, while the Montclair State's pages lead you
62 to the right places with one click. Our pages are not student friendly. All our courses should be
63 writing and tech intensive.

64
65 A member pointed to fundamental problems: campus safety, transportation to campus, the
66 attitudes of some campus staff that turn students off, the quality of teaching of some instructors,
67 etc.

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69 Several members suggested forming an Ad Hoc Action Committee of, perhaps, seven volunteers
70 with different perspectives to investigate the issues discussed today further and come up with
71 concrete proposals for solutions. The Parliamentarian reminded the body that no motions could
72 be made at this meeting, but should be presented at the next Senate meeting. Another senator
73 recommended that this Action Committee collaborate with the Chairs Council.

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75 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

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77 The next regular meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 in
78 Ballroom C.

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80 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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