

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.  
39

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.  
48

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.

59  
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](http://www.wpunj.edu/senate)