

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – April 13, 2021
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate>

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4 **PRESENT:** Abraham, Aktan, Andreopoulos, Brillante, Christensen Crick, Diamond, Duffy,
5 Ellis, Fuentes, Gazzillo Diaz, Hack, Helldobler, Hill, Jurado, Kaur, Kearney, Kecojevic,
6 Kollia, Liu, MacDonald, Marks, B. Marshall, Martus, Monroe, Natrajan, Nyaboga, O'Donnell,
7 Owusu, Powers, Pozzi, Rebe, Rosar, Sabogal, Schwartz, Shekari, Silva, Simon, Snyder,
8 Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Tosh, Vega, Verdicchio, Wallace, Watad, Weisberg, M. Williams

9
10 **ABSENT:** Jubran

11
12 **GUESTS:** Andrew, Bannister, Bolyai, Boucher, Bowrin, Broome, Brown, Cammarata, Cannon,
13 Cauthen, Chauhan, Chen, Corso, DaSilva, Datchi, Davi, Davis, Decker, De Laura, DeLoatch, De
14 Veyga, Diaz, Dobrick, Fanning, Fattal, Felson, Feola, Francera, Galetz, Gelfer, Gill, C.
15 Ginsberg, Goldstein, Gramoccioli, Greene, Griffin, Gritsch, Gundling, Guzman, Harris, Hong,
16 Jackson, Jian, Jones, Keane, Kendrick, Kromidas, Kuran, Lauby, Lever, Liautaud, Lincoln,
17 Lockhart, Lowe, Lubeck, Mandik, Magaldi, Mankiw, I. Marshall, Martin, Matthew, Mattison,
18 McLaughlin-Vignier, McMahan, McNeal, Milanese, Miles, Mohamed, Mongillo, Moore,
19 Nassiripour, Ndjatou, Nesenjuk, Newman, Nobler, Noonan, Nyulassy, Ortiz, Owusu-Ansah,
20 Panayides, Peek, Phillips, Plaskow, Potacco, Prado, Rabbitt, Razzore, Reardon, Rees, Refsland,
21 Ricupero, Rosen, Rosenberg, Ross, Ryblewski, Salvesen, Scardena, Schneider, Shalom, Sharma,
22 Sheffield, Sherman, Silva, Skoloda,, Spero, Stanfield, Suess, Tajes, Tiernan, Tormino, Vasquez,
23 Verzani, Warner, Watanabe, Weiland, Weiner, Whelan, B. Williams, Wilson, Yoo, Zeleke,
24 Zeman, Zhang, Zito

25
26 **PROCEDURAL NOTE:** All senator's microphones should be muted. When one wishes to
27 speak s/he should type SPEAK in the Chat box. Duffy and Ricupero will keep track of those
28 desiring to speak, and the Secretary will recognize each in order. When recognized, the
29 speaker will then unmute the microphone. Only the Chair's screen will be visible. The session
30 will be recorded, but only the Secretary will have access to the recording.

31
32 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Natrajan called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. He called for
33 a moment of silence in honor of all those who have been killed in hate crimes and police
34 brutality. Nyaboga and Martus moved acceptance of the Agenda, which was adopted without
35 objection. B. Marshall and Kaur moved acceptance of the Minutes of the March 23rd meeting,
36 which were approved unanimously.

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38 **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL: BS IN SPORTS MEDICINE PROGRAM CHANGE:**
39 Wallace and Duffy moved acceptance of the Council's resolution, which was approved
40 unanimously.

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42 **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: SUSTAINABILITY**
43 **AND CLIMATE PROGRAM:** Wallace and Natrajan moved acceptance of the Council's
44 resolution, which was approved unanimously.

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47 **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

48 We have a packed agenda and therefore I will restrict myself to very brief comments. The SEC
49 has been consistently engaging both President and Provost on a number of issues related to the
50 ongoing university-wide transformations. All of them relate to shared governance and the future
51 of the Senate. Here are some of key issues we have raised with the administration:

- 52
- 53 1. **The meaning of what ‘consultation’ would look like, if done well:** At our last SEPP
54 meeting, the question of what consultation is came up. The SEC made a strong case about the
55 need for consultation to include faculty right from the start, before parameters have been
56 determined, before the problem has been framed, and before preliminary decisions have
57 already been taken. Three instances in this regard are already in operation:
- 58 a. As you will recall, the Senate resolved on February 23, 2021 to “not participate in
59 developing criteria for program elimination, finding that it does not offer us a
60 meaningful or morally acceptable role in shared governance.” Consequently, we have
61 labeled our agenda item for today as “Senate Hearing on Program Closure” to signal
62 that this is NOT a consultation with the Senate. It is, however, an opportunity for the
63 administration to listen to what faculty – under threat of Program closures - have to
64 say about the Programs within which we teach, which we direct, and with which we
65 serve our students needs in the spirit of our University’s Mission and Core Values.
- 66 b. The SEC has also asked the President to clarify on the work of the EAB and whether
67 he would – as promised – involve the Senate Executive from the start of their work
68 which will be to externally assess WPU Programs. We have been assured of this, but
69 it is not clear whether EAB has already begun their work or not.
- 70 c. The SEC has also firmly emphasized the need for more engagement by the Faculty
71 Senate on the Budget. As a result, the President agreed and the Senate Budget &
72 Planning Council and members of the SEC have submitted a number of questions on
73 the budget and suggestions for alternatives to the VP. We will have occasion to hear
74 about this in detail at our next Senate meeting on April 27th.
- 75 2. **The importance of grasping student needs and demands:** The SEC participated with the
76 Provost in multiple meetings with the SGA. Having faculty, students, supporting professional
77 staff, and management on the same page about student needs and demands is critical for any
78 university to function well. We hope these efforts are sustained as we move forward into the
79 next academic year.
- 80 3. **The need to attend to issues of representation, diversity, decolonization in terms of**
81 **Senate structure and form, and curricular content:** The SEC has been proactive in this
82 regard, taking charge of framing the issues in consultation with the Governance Council and
83 working with the administration and other relevant bodies on campus. The Senate now has a
84 concept document prepared by the SEC, that will be the basis of deeper discussions and
85 decision-making about the models put forth by the Governance Council. We also realize that
86 this will need more comprehensive attention bringing in all Colleges and curricular
87 committees including Senate Councils to a shared way of thinking about these issues.

88 I now turn to the Provost to set the ball rolling on the Senate Hearing on Program Closures.

90 **SENATE HEARING ON PROGRAM CLOSURE:** Powers gave a short explanation of the
91 rationale behind the decisions made regarding program closures. Natrajan then introduced a
92 series of faculty members from programs targeted for closure. Each speaker presented clear,
93 cogent, and sometimes passionate arguments opposing closure.

94
95 Powers spoke of the fiscal realities and the changes in what students want.

96
97 Schwartz and M. Williams spoke about the Art History Major and Minor.

98
99 Kaur and MacDonald spoke about the Asian Studies program and world music.

100
101 Owusu spoke about Geography.

102
103 Rebe spoke about the Masters in Public Policy.

104
105 **[The complete text of each speaker’s exposition is archived in the Packet of this meeting.]**

106
107 Jurado (Nursing), Pozzi (Education) and O’Donnell (History) expressed support for Asian
108 Studies. Nyaboga spoke for Geography. (There were many comments in the Chat in support of
109 all the speakers.)

110
111 Natrajan questioned Powers’ comments about how the administration would determine what
112 “students really need” from what “we believe they need” and would like to have a deeper
113 conversation about that. Powers thanked all the speakers for their remarks and said that he and
114 the President will consider them. Powers thinks some of the issues are union and layoff topics,
115 while Natrajan thinks that discussions about programs belong in the Senate. We need a genuine
116 consultative dialogue.

117
118 Christensen and Kaur moved *that the administration end all program closures until a thorough*
119 *academic assessment can take place within a meaningful shared governance process.* **[The full**
120 **text of the resolution is archived in the Packet of this meeting.]**

121
122 Snyder noted that some of the targeted programs synergize with other programs and fill specific
123 niches that we can use to market ourselves.

124
125 Verdicchio said that this is what WPU is about. He respects the strong and passionate academic
126 support that has been given to these programs. Natrajan echoed Verdicchio’s remarks.

127
128 The resolution was approved unanimously.

129
130 **STRATEGIC PLAN:** Helldobler noted that Middle States advised (but did not require) WPU
131 to revise its Mission Statement. In 2022 our current Strategic Plan ends. We need to plan for a
132 new one. He is proposing two options. Option #1 would be a traditional formal one, five years in
133 length rather than ten. Option #2 would be an issue-focused three-year plan. He will be sending
134 out an anonymous Qualtrics survey to gauge support for Option #1 or Option #2 – or if one has
135

136 Pozzi asked what the advantage of Option #2 is. Helldobler responded that it would allow us to
137 focus on key issues. Other universities are also taking a non-traditional approach.

138

139 Ellis asked if the State has an educational strategic plan. Helldobler said it does have a very
140 generic one that appears on the Secretary of Higher Education's webpage.

141

142 **[Helldobler's slides and articles are archived in the Packet of this meeting.]**

143

144 **GOVERNANCE COUNCIL: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (SECOND**
145 **READING):**

146

147 Steinhart and Hill moved to vote on all four resolutions at once. Martus stated his intention to
148 move to separate the items. Simon noted that any senator can move to vote separately, and since
149 Martus has expressed that, the motion is rendered moot.

150

151 Galetz and Wallace moved the Amendment regarding the use of the current edition of Roberts
152 Rules. The Amendment was approved unanimously.

153

154 Galetz and Wallace moved the Amendment requiring a simple majority vote to activate
155 emergency meeting procedures. The Amendment was approved with one negative vote.

156

157 Galetz and B. Marshall moved the Amendment allowing the presiding officer to allow non-
158 senators to speak at meetings. The Amendment was approved unanimously.

159

160 Galetz and Duffy moved the Amendment requiring Constitutional amendments be discussed at
161 two consecutive meetings. The Amendment was approved unanimously.

162

163 **[The complete texts of the amendments are archived in the Packet of this meeting.]**

164

165 **ADJOURNMENT:** Upon Wallace's motion, the Senate adjourned at 1:43pm

166

167 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate (the last meeting of the 2020-2021 Senate) will be held
168 on Tuesday, April 27th at 12:30pm.

169

170 The first meeting of the 2021-2022 Senate will be on **Thursday, May 6th.**

171

172 **Both will be ONLINE meetings.**

173

174 **Please "check in" as early as possible (ideally, before 12:30 so the secretaries can confirm**
175 **attendance).**

176

177 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary