

William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – February 11,
2020

FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate>

PRESENT: Andreopoulos, Baumgartner (for Ranjan), Bhat (for Kollia), Brillante, Christensen (for Ellis), Crick, Diamond, Duffy, Finn, Gazzillo Diaz, Griswold, Hack, Jurado, Kalaramadam, Kaur, Kearney, Kecojevic, Liu, Marks, Mohammed (for Aktan), Natrajan, O'Donnell, Orr, Potacco, Powers, Pozzi, Ramos, Rebe, Rosar, Ramos, Shekari, Silva, Simon, Snyder, Spagna, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Vega, Verdicchio, Vishio, Wallace, Watad, Weisberg,

ABSENT: Chung, Helldobler, D. Hill, Janos, Mwaura, Owusu

GUESTS: An, Andrew, Bannister, Bolyai, Boucher-Jarvis, Cammarata, Cannon, Choi, Corso, Davis, DeDeo, Diaz, Fancera, Fuller-Stanley, Ginsberg, Godar, Goldstein, Gritsch, Harkins, Harris, S. Hill, Hinkle, Jones, Liautaud, Lincoln, Northington-Purdie, McNeal, Mongillo, Noonan, Owusu-Ansah, Refsland, Richardson, Ricupero, Rosenberg, Ross, Schneider, Sharma

PRELIMINARIES: Chairperson Natrajan called the meeting to order at 12:32pm. Wallace and Duffy moved acceptance of the Agenda. After Parliamentarian Marks pointed out that since Item 6A is a By-Laws amendment, it can't be voted upon today and should simply be seen as first notice, the Agenda was approved unanimously. The Draft Minutes of the January 28th meeting were moved and seconded by Pozzi and XXXXX. Griswold asked that his remarks during the enrollment discussion be clarified: "Griswold asked which of the WPU colleges have enjoyed rising enrollments and high retention so that the other colleges can adopt their strategies." The amended Minutes were then approved unanimously.

Natrajan introduced David Jones, the new Employment, Equity and Diversity Officer.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT: Andreopoulos and Tardi nominated Potacco to serve on the UCC Council; she was approved unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT: The SEC met with the President and Provost at our SEPP last week and discussed the following:

1. Enrollment: The President had shared some of the figures at the last Senate meeting. The SEC noted faculty concerns raised about the numbers and the need to get the explanatory narrative right. There will be a university-wide presentation by VP Dr. Ross on Enrollment on March 12, which will be a post-census presentation. The President assured us that we will have a better picture by then. In the interim, we do have a dynamic number especially for the budget deficit, which was (as of 2/5) about \$800K (reduced from the \$1.5M on 1/28).

2. 1000-level courses: There was a brief discussion on WP101 and all 1000-level courses with reference to their impact on FY retention. While we did not yet get a sound idea of how WP101 is doing, we discussed the need to tighten the flow of information between the instructors teaching cohorts of students and the advisors. In some of the latest numbers that have been shared by the President, it was pointed out that our fall to spring retention rates increased in four important student population areas – EOF students, First Gen students, Black and Hispanic students. In this context, the President acknowledged the good work done by faculty attending to the best practices recommended in the Senate on Nov 26 (the EASy option Early assessment, Attendance, and Syllabus with clear office hours and other info on student success). We also had a brief discussion about making this mandatory for all faculty in 1000-level courses. The SEC position was that this was an administrative call since the Senate had already made the recommendation urging all faculty to do these things in class within the first 3-4 weeks.

3. Starfish and related issues: The Provost shared some ideas about how to digitally strengthen our information flow to aid retention. Some ideas were about sending a prompt to advisors in case an advisee drops a class or does not register or registers differently than advised. We also discussed attendance-taking on BB or Starfish.

I now turn to our Discussion for today. The Graduate council has put together a very interesting document that speaks to the need to seriously attend to the growth of graduate studies at WPU. I call upon the chair of the council, Bruce Diamond, to introduce the document to the Senate.

GRADUATE COUNCIL: MA IN SPECIAL EDUCATION: ADVANCED PROGRAM IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS: Hinkle and Pozzi moved acceptance of the Council's resolution. Potacco and Griswold spoke in support of the program, after which it was approved unanimously.

GRADUATE COUNCIL: DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL COUNSELING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM: Hinkle and Orr moved acceptance of the Council's resolution. It was approved unanimously without discussion.

GRADUATE COUNCIL: TEACHING OF WRITING FOR GRADES P-12: Hinkle and Pozzi moved acceptance of the Council's resolution. In response to Potacco's question regarding a reading component, Mongillo stated that the program is tailored for teachers who want to gain more expertise in writing. The program was approved unanimously.

GRADUATE COUNCIL: STEAM CERTIFICATE: Hinkle and Pozzi moved acceptance of the Council's resolution. It was approved unanimously without discussion.

GRADUATE POLICY COUNCIL: Diamond presented the Council's report and went through the Executive Summary in detail. He noted that while the report focuses on graduate education, there is a symbiotic relationship with undergraduate education: to improve the one improves both.

Natrajan opened the floor for discussion and suggested that motions based on the report could come after forty minutes. He noted that the Senate had just approved four new graduate programs. What, he asked, is the value added from our programs? Should we be looking at a 3 + 2 programs?

Andreopoulos inquired about three points: how our programs meet societal needs (and not just what we think are important), strategies for increasing WPU's reputation; and cross-college programs. Diamond said that the prestige of the institution is embodied in all that we do. He agrees that undergraduate and graduate programs should be more closely aligned (which would also increase revenue streams). He urged the campus to attend the Graduate Forum which will be held on April 9th (details to follow).

Kaur suggested that we form a School of Graduate Studies to house and nourish smaller interdisciplinary programs. Graduate programs should have their own identity and not be incestuously connected to undergraduate programs. There should also be more internship opportunities.

Pozzi added that graduate programs feel ignored. There needs to be a vision for graduate education, and more support to increase visibility. Griswold added that most graduate programs develop from the grass roots and need more support.

Simon, who has experience at many institutions, pointed out that postgraduate programs aimed at nurses, the military, those needing computer expertise, people seeking to complete interrupted study, etc., need specialized programs that cater to their real-world needs, such as weekends. They also need to get faster responses from the University; things take too long.

Verdicchio spoke of the need for more centers and online programs that meet the needs of students such as public school teachers who often can advance on the salary scale by achieving a master degree, an MA + 30, an MA + 45, etc. This could be marketed.

Natrajan warned against going for short term savings at the expense of long term growth and the loss of a sense of the vision and mission of the University. He also supported more institutes, such as the Cannabis Institute.

Tardi said that graduate programs should be more than just institutes. The future of graduate education depends on programs that will be mostly online. The University must invest money in graduate programs.

Steinhart added that we must be proactive and move more quickly on things. Cannabis will be legal in New Jersey soon. If we wait to get the institute started we will fall behind other schools that have moved adroitly. Things languish in obscure committees and on administrative desks too long before they get approved. Sometimes things have taken five years to be approved. We must move faster.

Natrajan noted that the Senate has a page that charts the progress of proposals from approval by the Senate to eventual existence as university offerings. It is being updated and will be available on the Senate page very soon.

Potacco would like to see the creation of an education center, an ARC: Applied Research Center that would help students through the dissertation process. She also recommended that students should be given credit for previous credits earned and life experiences. This would fit the current generation's lifestyles

Jurado added that many graduate programs feel like stepchildren. He also noted that in the Fall semester all graduate Nursing programs will be online.

Powers applauded the fruitful discussion and raised several points for consideration. Think past our current structures. We have to meet the needs of society – which may not be what we think they are. The branding of graduate education must be more than just a tagline. There are nuances in graduate education that must be emphasized. He has long experience in graduate education and can be a useful resource for campus entities that need guidance in these areas. Think about academic entrepreneurship.

Watad said that the pressure to increase enrollment actually comes at the expense of our programs. The President and the Board of Trustees must support them or we will die.

Natrajan invited motions based on the Council's report. Weisberg and Crick moved that the report be sent back to the Council to develop specific, action items that can be presented in the form of resolutions upon which the Senate can vote. Diamond, Weisberg, Steinhart, Natrajan, Watad, Crick and Tardi contributed to the debate. Andreopoulos suggested to invite Robert Laud to the Senate to present his research on Current and Future Societal Needs. The Weisberg motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon Tardi's motion, the Senate adjourned at 1:39pm.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate, will be held on Tuesday, February 25th at 12:30pm in Ballroom C.

Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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