

William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – February 25, 2020
FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate>

PRESENT: Andreopoulos, Baumgartner, Brillante, Crick, Diamond, Duffy, Finn, Griswold, Hack, D. Hill, Jurado, Kalaramadam, Kaur, Kecojevic, Liu, Magaldi, Marks, Martin (for Gazzillo Diaz), Mwaura, Natrajan, O'Donnell, Orr, Potacco, Powers, Pozzi, Ramos, Rebe, Rosar, Ramos, Rebe, Shekari, Silva, Simon, Snyder, Spagna, Steinhart, Tardi, Vega, Verdicchio, Vishio, Wallace, Watad, Weisberg,

ABSENT: Chung, Hack, Helldobler, Janos, Kearney, Owusu, Ranjan, Swanson, Watad

GUESTS: Bannister, Boucher-Jarvis, Brenenson, Cannon, Choi, Corso, Davis, Decker, Demsey, Diaz, Gill, Ginsberg, Godar, Hertzog, Jackson, Jones, Lim, Lincoln, Makarec, Mankiw, McNeal, Moore, Ndjatou, Owusu-Ansah, Refsland, Richardson, Ricupero, Rosenberg, Ross, Scardena, Schneider, Sharma, Tiernan, Vasquez, Williams, Zito

PRELIMINARIES: Chairperson Natrajan called the meeting to order at 12:31pm. Orr and Kaur moved acceptance of the Agenda. Potacco asked if Item #6 had gone to the Governance Council; Natrajan said yes. Duffy and Natrajan moved to delete Item 5c (since the relevant document was inadvertently omitted from the Packet. That motion and the revised Agenda were both approved unanimously. The Draft Minutes of the February 11th meeting, moved and seconded by Aktan and Pozzi, were approved unanimously.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT: Andreopoulos and Duffy nominated Menon (Biology) to serve on Chauhan's (Chemistry) DAC; she was approved unanimously.

Andreopoulos and Duffy nominated Miles (Languages and Cultures) to serve on the Technology Intensive Review Panel; he was approved unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT: We discussed the following issues at our SEPP meeting last week [SLIDE archived in the Packet]

1. On **students:**

- a. The President shared some data on "Students Enrolled in Fall 2019 as of Fall Census Date who did not Graduate and did not Re-enroll in Spring 2020." The data is disaggregated by College and Department. We have the permission to share this data with all faculty. I will place it on our website.
- b. The Provost updated us on the work underway in preparing a time-data of students dropping (over one semester). We hope this will further help us identify the bottlenecks and stressors to trace the retention process in detail at WPU.
- c. The Provost in concert Academic Success and the technology teams have put in place a set of email alerts for faculty advisors to help track student advisees post-

advisement. I had forwarded senators the email with details sent out by Linda Refsland on this matter.

- d. The matter of a **letter received by the Senate Exec** committee on 2/13 from three faculty-run organizations on campus – the Gandhian Forum for Peace and Justice, the Social Justice Project (previously known as the Race and Gender project) and the Committee for Immigrant Justice. The letter was about faculty-student relations and the need to build an understanding of “**classroom community**” at WPU. The letter requested the Senate to discuss these issues with a view to constructively enabling concrete practices and forums for dialogue in our university.
2. **On WPU Online:** The SEC had asked for the tuition resolutions for the WPU Online offerings commencing Summer 2020. The Provost shared with the SEC the resolution of the Board of Trustees on the same. We had a discussion on how and if the tuition varied for WPU online vis-à-vis face-to-face teaching, and if this would have an adverse impact on the latter. We were assured that as of now no adverse impact on face-to-face enrollment is anticipated.
3. **The issue of Senate representation** that was raised on the Senate floor last semester in the context of the reorganization underway. The President emphasized that he would like to see the Senate have a “substantive discussion” on this issue and perhaps come up with a short-term and long-term engagement with this question as we move forward.
4. The issue (raised by the President) who wishes the Senate to discuss what could be “**guiding principles**” for **international partnerships** between WPUNJ and other universities around the world.
5. Yesterday, the SEC sent in our recommendation to the Provost for the grade submission deadline. Based on all the inputs we received from various departments, we recommended 7 working days from the last day of exams. The Provost has assured us that any change would only come into effect next semester onwards.
6. Finally, just a brief update on the RTP process that is underway. The committee is working hard on putting together a robust and fair document for the Senate’s consideration. Please keep a lookout for an email from the RTP committee to all faculty highlighting input opportunities (focus group meetings and online inputs) starting next week.

Moving forward here are my thoughts as chair of the Senate:

As we continue to celebrate Black history month, it is useful to reflect on how our histories are intimately linked even as our biographies are different, and how our strength is really our diversity. Inspired by Audre Lorde, I would say that it is diversity that gives us the tools to retool ourselves and even change the house we live in when necessary. A strong faculty senate is good for everybody. It needs to be a core part of university life. To me, a strong senate means one that is **highly participatory** (one that is inclusive and engaging – not unlike our desired classrooms), **deliberative** (one that is purposive and democratic rather than bureaucratic), and **effective** (one

that delivers on our function which is to act as a recommending body on policy). At our closed meeting on December 10, 2019, I had asked: “What, according to you, ought to be our top priority concerns?” You responded enthusiastically by flagging the following 6 key issues. As you will see, some of our priorities overlap with the above-mentioned discussions in the SEPP [SLIDE archived in the Packet]

- a. Students (a slew of issues including motivation, quality of students and its relation to recruitment and reputation, appropriate behavior, faculty orientation to our students, and health & wellness of students).

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL: MINOR IN TEACHER OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Mankiw and Brillante moved acceptance of the Council’s resolution. Griswold spoke in support of the program, after which it was approved unanimously.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL: 4+1 B.M/M.M.: JAZZ STUDIES CONCENTRATION (ARRANGING TRACK): Mankiw and Vishio moved acceptance of the Council’s resolution. It was approved unanimously without discussion.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL: B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE: Mankiw and Duffy moved acceptance of the Council’s resolution. Rosar pointed out that one course was incorrectly listed: Math 2020. With that editorial change, the program was approved unanimously.

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL: Mankiw and Orr moved acceptance of the Council’s resolution. Rosar noted that Math 1160 is a three credit course, not a four credit course. With that editorial correction, the program was approved unanimously.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL: On behalf of the Council, Andreopoulos and Natrajan moved acceptance of the Council’s recommendation to change its name from Research and Scholarship Council to Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression Council. The change was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS ON 1000 LEVEL COURSES: Helldobler and Natrajan moved acceptance of the President’s resolutions. Helldobler presented data that indicate that the procedures called for in these three motions help colleges to improve retention and student success. Duffy and Diamond moved to divide the question in order to discuss and vote upon each resolution separately; the motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution #1: Attendance must be taken every class period and entered into Blackboard weekly. Attendance must count in the final grade. Simon and Tardi moved to table the motion until Simon can consult with the Adjunct faculty cohort (who teach the majority of the 1000 level courses). The motion was approved with two negative votes and two abstentions.

Resolution #2: One graded assessment must be given and entered into Blackboard by the end of the fourth week of classes. Simon and Snyder moved to table the motion for the same reasons given for Resolution #1. The motion was approved with eight negative votes and five abstentions.

Resolution #3: One assignment must require all students to visit a learning support center (e.g, Academic Success Center, Writing Center, etc.) before the end of mid-terms. Simon moved to table this motion as well. The motion was defeated by a vote of 16 yes, 21 no and 2 abstentions.

Debate on Resolution #3 opened with Potacco asking how a “visit” will be defined. Wallace, Duffy, Helldobler, Andreopoulos, Jurado, Vega, Mwaura, Kaur, Magaldi, Verdicchio, Baumgartner, Simon, Pozzi, Ellis, Tardi, Griswold, Snyder and Powers addressed various aspects of the issue, including: pedagogy is a faculty issue and this should be determined by the faculty; different disciplines require different approaches to handling these topics; not all students need to visit the centers; doubts that the support centers could accommodate such huge influxes of students; performance in the classroom should determine the need for tutoring; possible threats to academic freedom; the need for intensive one-on-one assistance in some subject areas; how visits would be verified; how this would be operationalized; the need for quality tutors; the problems some adjuncts have using Blackboard, etc. Davis asserted that this is not an academic freedom issue, but a student success issue, to which Ellis agreed. Helldobler assured the body that the administration would operationalize it. Tardi noted that in her role as the Union President and in order to protect faculty rights, she contacted the Council (CNJSCL) attorney to make sure that academic freedom was not being violated. According to the attorney, the President has the right to mandate these practices. Tardi further noted that in her opinion, faculty buy-in is always preferable.

Duffy and Weisberg moved that discussion on Resolution #3 be continued at the next Senate meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at 1:49pm.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate, will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 12:30pm in Ballroom C.

Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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www.wpunj.edu/senate