

William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – September 14, 2021  
FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate>

**PRESENT:** Alford, Andreopoulos, Brillante, Christensen, Diamond, Duffy, Elleithy, Fuentes, Gazzillo, Gonzalez, Diaz, Hack, Hill, Hong, Jurado, Kaur, Kecojevic, Kollia, Marshall, McDonald, McMahon (for O'Donnell), Monroe, Natrajan, Nyaboga, Orr, Powers, Rosar, Simon, Snyder, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Tosh, Vega, Verdicchio, Wallace, Watad, M. Williams, S. Williams, Wright

**ABSENT:** Crick, Helldobler, Natrajan, Schwartz,

**GUESTS:** Boucher, Cammarata, Cannon, Davis, DeLoatch, De Veyga, Diaz, Ginsberg, Griffin, Kashyap, Lincoln, Lubeck, McLaughlin-Vignier, Milanes, Miles, Milling, Noonan, Ortiz, Refsland, Ricupero, Rosenberg, Ross, Salvesen, Schneider, Sharma, Vasquez, Weiland, Weiner, Zeman

**N.B.** The names of all the senators and guests who attended the meeting via Teams did not get reported. If you were in attendance and your name does not appear above, please e-mail the Secretary directly ([duffy@wpunj.edu](mailto:duffy@wpunj.edu) )

**PROCEDURAL NOTE:** Only senators and presenters should attend the meeting live in the Library Auditorium. Everyone else should join via Teams. When someone viewing remotely wishes to speak s/he should type SPEAK in the Chat box. Duffy and Ricupero will keep track of those desiring to speak, and the Secretary will recognize each in order. When recognized, the speaker will then unmute the microphone. Only the Chair's screen will be visible. The session will be recorded, but only the Secretary will have access to the recording.

**PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Wallace called the meeting to order at 12:36pm. Snyder and Jurado moved acceptance of the Agenda, which was adopted without objection. Orr and Hong moved acceptance of the Minutes of the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, which were approved unanimously.

**VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** [All three documents are archived in the Packet of this meeting]

Christensen moved to approve the rosters of the 2021-2022 Senate councils; Kecojevic seconded. The council rosters were approved unanimously.

Christensen then moved (Orr seconded) to approve the UCC Review Panels, which were approved unanimously.

Christensen moved (Kaur seconded) to approve the charges for 2021-2022 Senate councils, which were approved unanimously.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** Wallace welcomed everyone to the 2021-2022 Faculty Senate. In her own words she introduced the new Executive Committee and described what it has been doing since May. [Her PowerPoint is archived in the Packet of this meeting.]

As I begin, I would like to preface this by saying that I know that I have very big shoes to fill. My predecessor was quite the storyteller, and unfortunately, I do not have his breadth of knowledge when it comes to parables and imagery, nor can I draw on my history as a young sailor to inspire you. However, I will do my best to get my point across in the way I know how.

Welcome to the first faculty Senate meeting of the 2021-22 academic year. It is my distinct pleasure to welcome new members of the university community, and new and returning senators back on campus. I would also like to extend an enthusiastic welcome to our Student Government Association representatives, Anisa Kamara and Genesis Gonzalez. Student members of the Senate provide valuable and necessary insight. We are happy to have you as members of this body, and we encourage your participation and feedback. Welcome!

Before we continue, I ask that we take a moment to pause in recognition of our collective losses as a campus and a community over the last eighteen months. I would like to honor the lives of those we lost to COVID-19 and the life of Shakiya Williams, the William Paterson student who passed last week. Although Shakiya was a member of our community for a short time, her loss is still felt significantly. She was someone who loved and was loved – she was someone’s family member and friend. In our own way and in silence, let us take a moment to honor these lives, gone too soon. (15-30 seconds) Thank you.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that our return to campus does not take place under ideal circumstances, for we return as a community due to lose some of its most valuable members in a few short months. I extend my sincere sympathies to our colleagues impacted by layoffs. We are truly saddened by the decision to lay off faculty, staff and administrators, and hope that we can provide one another comfort during this time. And, because we know that supporting faculty helps also supports students, the Senate Executive Committee and Senate continue to stand in solidarity with the AFT, and we pledge to support and work with the Union in the coming year to protect jobs and the curricular mission of this institution.

I would next like to acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the Munsee Lenape people, past and present. To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory on which we work and reside, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long history that has brought us to reside on the land, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in the past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation in that process. To acknowledge the traditional territory is to recognize its longer history reaching beyond colonization and displacement, as well as its significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived and continue to live upon this territory. I hope that this year, as we embark on the important work of thinking about decolonizing space and place, we will embrace the practice of land acknowledgements so that it becomes second nature and a regular part of this institution.

We have a new Senate Executive Committee - an enthusiastic group that hit the ground running in May. Here is what we accomplished this summer:

1. We met with Provost Powers and Vice Provost Lincoln to discuss the program closures named in Spring 2021. In particular, focusing on the meaning of the three categories (closure, hiatus and probation) and the steps that will be taken to help programs that were put on hiatus and probation thrive and grow.
2. At the Provost's invitation, three members of the SEC Attended the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' 2021 Academic Affairs Summer Meeting which was dedicated to envisioning and leading the "post-2020" university with a special focus on student success/enrollment, curriculum/pedagogy, planning and budget.
3. I attended the USC Equity Institute along with nineteen other members of the campus community. This was a valuable and welcome learning experience. It is our hope that you see the impact of what we learned this year, and in years to come.
4. We met with VP of Enrollment Reginald Ross to discuss the impact of federal HEERF funding and the university vaccine policy on enrollment.
5. We provided suggestions and strategies for mitigating enrollment losses resulting from deregistration, including the suggestion to continue offering expanded modalities such as synchronous online options, additional asynchronous courses, and extending vaccine deadlines to allow students more time to register.

6. We attended a presentation of the EAB reports on the market prospects of 30 undergraduate programs. This information will be presented to the senate in October for discussion and engagement.

Regarding what we have planned for this year, in addition to our usual tasks approving and reviewing academic programs and policies, our work in the Senate will focus on the following matters:

1. *Finalizing the discussion on senate representation.* In Spring 2021, the Governance Council was charged with holding campus forums to gather input from faculty and staff about representation in the senate. We look forward to hearing what they learn and voting on a new senate structure this year.
2. *Curricular future of the university.* As we are faced with the prospect of program closures and curricular changes, the Senate has the task of helping to guide the direction of the curricular future of the university. President Helldobler presented us with his vision in his state of the university address, something which we will discuss at the next senate meeting. Coupled with the data from the EAB report, we will need to embark on an important conversation about the direction we take on curriculum, including the pedagogical issues raised by any serious changes to our institutional mission and brand.
3. *Decolonization.* Over the past year, we have had general discussion about decolonization, primarily among the faculty in relation to pedagogy. It is time that we bring the Senate into this conversation by addressing the ways in which the Senate can help facilitate the long process of decolonizing the curriculum.

Lastly, as a SEC, we meet twice a month with the President and Provost. At our first meeting of the year, we discussed the following:

1. EAB is conducting a Health Check for all academic programs at the university. The preliminary information has been presented to the Deans, who have been asked to share this data with department chairs. Ultimately, this data will be used to look at marketability and program enrollments. There have been no decisions about how this information will be used yet.
2. How the various divisions in the university can better work together to support our curricular mission as an educational institution.

**ENROLLMENT UPDATE:** VP Ross presented a PowerPoint [archived in the Packet of this meeting] detailing the challenges WPU faces regarding enrollment and retention.

**UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM:** Orr presented a PowerPoint [archived in the Packet of this meeting] as she described the Spring 2020 assessment of Areas 2b, 3e and 5.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Time ran short, so Lubeck will present her report on health protocols and student support at the next Senate meeting.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm in the Library Auditorium.

Since seating is limited to around 100 persons – fewer with social distancing – **only senators and presenters will be permitted in the Auditorium.** The meeting will also be livestreamed. The Teams link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Please “check in” as early as possible (ideally, before 12:30 so the secretaries can confirm attendance). Those attending remotely should “check in” via the Chat.

Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary