

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES –November 13, 2012
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --
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4 **PRESENT:** Andreopoulos, Barrow, Bhat, Bliss, Chabayta, Cruz Paul, D’Haem, Diamond, Dinan, Duffy, Ellis,
5 Falk-Romaine, Finnegan, Garfinkel, Godar, Healy, Hong (for Walsh), Kearney, Kelly, Kernan (for Levitan),
6 Kim, Korgen, Lee, Martus, Mathew, Mbogoni, McNeal, Natrajan, Nyaboga, Nyamwange, Parras, Pavese,
7 Perez, Rosar, Sabogal, Schwartz, Sheffield, Slaymaker, Snyder, Tardi, Verdicchio, Waldron, Weil, Weiner (for
8 Wagner)

9 **ABSENT:** Bernstein, Ndjatou, Swanson, Wicke

10 **GUESTS:** Bolyai, Cohen, Daniel-Robinson, DeDeo, Ferguson, Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Gritsch, Hahn,
11 Kashyap, Liautaud, Malu, Miller, Noonan, Olaye, Rabbitt, Refsland, Rosengart, Schrader, Seal, Sherman,
12 Teirnan, Wolf

13 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Parras called the Senate to order at 12:36 PM. Sheffield and Pavese moved
14 acceptance of the Agenda. Godar and Perez’s motion that a new Item VI be added for discussion of Registration
15 was accepted unanimously. The amended Agenda was then approved unanimously.

16 The draft minutes of the October 23, 2012 meeting, moved and seconded by Slaymaker and Garfinkel, were
17 accepted unanimously.

18 **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Parras called for a moment of silence in memory of Fletcher Fish, long-time member of
19 the University’s Board of Trustees and Foundation Board, who was killed in hurricane Sandy. Pavese warmly
20 recalled his financial contributions, his support of the High Mountain Symphony and the competition he
21 established for young musicians.

22 Associate Dean Kashyap announced that WPU students are in the finals of the National Sales
23 Challenge Competition to be held on Friday. Kim said that the competition needed better press
24 coverage, to which Kashyap replied that Goldstein had sent press releases to all the media. [Peter
25 Malvasi won three individual awards competing against students from across the country and abroad.]
26 He also invited the community to attend Cotsakos College’s Leadership Forum on Thursday at 11AM
27 in the Valley Road Building; David Steele, VP for Global Strategy at Samsung will be the featured
28 speaker.

29 Dinan requested donations of used or new coats for the Honors College’s annual clothing drive for
30 families with children attending Passaic County Head Start.

31 Ellis reminded the campus that DRIVE Week was ending with a Poetry Slam on Friday night at 7PM
32 in the Multipurpose room.

33 There will be a Graduate Open House on December 2nd.

34 President Waldron thanked the many WPU staff who worked to put the campus back in working order
35 after hurricane Sandy. She thanked faculty for the flexibility that they have shown to students, and
36 noted that most of the e-mails she’s received from students have been complimentary. She expressed
37 appreciation for all the support – from the Senate, from the Union, from the American Democracy
38 Project, etc. – for the bond issue (that was approved by 62% of the electorate). This will enable WPU
39 to move on facilities projects sooner than planned, and will contribute to the renovation of the core
40 corridor buildings.

41 Parras announced that the Senate website has been updated to include the Implementation Team
42 rosters, and that the Strategic Plan is linked to the homepage as well. He is pleased by the large
43 number of senators serving on various teams.

44 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Falk-Romaine reported that due to time constraints, the Executive Committee had
45 approved the following members for the Geography and Urban Studies Promotion Committee: B. Liu, C. Flint
46 and M. Ellis.

47 **REGISTRATION:** A number of senators presented specific instances of serious problems with registration:
48 Bhat (the system not recognizing three digit prerequisites and the necessity for many permits); Perez (the
49 permit problem and the fact that business students weren't being allowed to register for business courses);
50 Kelly (the prerequisite issue); Godar (priority registration not permitted); Dinan (faculty need to have
51 schedules and PINs earlier); Korgen (problems with degree audits; she also wondered if the Registrar's Office
52 has enough staff); McNeal (the main campus doesn't realize the all education students require permits); Ellis
53 (a dozen incorrect degree audits); Finnegan (illegible print-outs of degree audits); Godar and Martus (priority
54 registration needs to be extended for another day or two). Cohen said that she would address the priority
55 registration immediately [and in an e-mail to the faculty on November 14th she mentioned some other
56 corrections]. Tardi stated that these problems lead to the Advisement issue. She noted that Policy 28 requires
57 that PINs be given to faculty four weeks ahead of time.

58 **ADVISEMENT:** Tardi said that there were a number of questions raised at the last Senate meeting that had
59 not been addressed, and asked if any of the administrators present would respond to them. She called,
60 specifically, for empirical evidence supporting the validity of the reports distributed two weeks ago, for
61 justification for not having multiple advisors, and for proof of the causal relation that was asserted between
62 advisement and retention. Lee stated that many of the new advisors don't know the students and the majors as
63 well as departmental advisors, for whom it is important to start bonding with students in freshman year.
64 Verdicchio questioned the Blue Ribbon Task Force's timeline, doubting that a new advisement plan could be
65 implemented by Fall 2013. He urged that some short-term actions be taken to stop the bleeding. Parras said that
66 he would ask the Task Force to come up with short-term solutions, and to address all the issues raised in the
67 Senate. Waldron said that the timeline is flexible and that no new plan would be implemented that had not been
68 vetted by the Senate first. In response to Sheffield's question about feedback, Waldron replied that the Task
69 Force would give reports. Parras said that the issue would be brought to the Senate in the Spring. Pavese
70 reiterated the need for direct contact between student and faculty.

71 Kelly asserted that study should be done before making policy. She found two assumptions embedded in the
72 Task Force's narrative: that graduation rates are due to advisement and that students receive good advisement
73 with professional advisors. She suggested that at least two other factors should be considered: the change of
74 graduation requirements to 120 credits and the implementation of the UCC. Andreopolous called for more
75 discussion and insisted that costs should be discussed when speaking on this topic. Kim called for immediate
76 action on advisement for students with two majors. Sherman said that single advisors can work and that the
77 Advisement Center has added professional advisors over the past two years. Natrajan made several points: The
78 Senate needs to hear from the Administration about whether the current model of advising is not in step with
79 other NJ institutions, and that we need to test our own models since not all trends are good to follow. He called
80 for standard data analysis of the materials distributed by the Administration and for a Retention Task Force. He
81 also distributed a graphic of two alternate advising models (Tinto and Swail), and mentioned that a 2004 EPI
82 Lumina study concluded that resources trump all other factors. Sheffield declared that there is no empirical but
83 only anecdotal evidence to support the proposed actions. She noted that small departments are harmed by some
84 of the advice given by the professional advisors.

85 Tardi and Godar moved that any document presented must be addressed by the individual presenting it. Tardi
86 stated that for two meetings documents have been discussed and questions raised, but the Senate is not getting
87 answers from the responsible parties. The Advisement Center is doing good work –faculty advisors have a
88 different role. She said that there has been no assessment of faculty advisement in years (something that she has

89 been calling for over the past 7 or 8 years), and that there is no administrative accountability. The motion was
90 approved by unanimous voice vote.

91 Kelly noted that since graduation rates have been brought into the discussion of advisement, raising the issue of
92 retention is absolutely legitimate. We need to know what's broken and how to fix it. How can we deliver the
93 best advisement for our students in a fiscally responsible way? Snyder said that students should be thinking for
94 themselves and taking a more active role. Diamond said that if new policies and procedures are going to be
95 based on data, let's see the data, the models and the methodology. He believes that what has been presented so
96 far is simplistic and wouldn't get published. Sherman said that the new model begins to connect students with
97 advisors during the summer before their freshman year, and that they keep in constant contact after orientation.
98 The students will be good advisees when they are turned over to the departments. Martus said that some
99 departments need to start working with students in freshman year.

100 Bhat and Martus moved that as soon as students declare their major they should be afforded a second advisor
101 (one in the Advisement Center and one in the major department). After a brief discussion about the ability of
102 students to see departmental faculty at any time, the question was called. By hand count the motion passed by a
103 vote of 13 Yes, 8 No, with 9 abstentions.

104 **ADJOURNMENT:** Upon Godar and Tardi's motion, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 1:48 PM.

105 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday November 27th at 12:30 PM in Ballroom C.

106 Respectfully submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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