

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY – **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES** – October 26, 2004

**PRESENT:** Agard-Jones, Bhat, Bolyai, Bone, Charlebois, Cunningham, DeYoung, Diaz, DiMaio, Duffy, Dye, Ferris, Gehrman, Godar, Gulbranson, Gundling, Hahn, Heluk, Kalish, Kaplan, Kaufman, Kovaleski, Kim, Korgen, Lelyveld, Levitan, Martus, Nag, Newton, Northington, Overdorf, Pagano (for Hartley), Pavese, Principe, Rabbitt (for Mukherjee), Rivela, Robb, Rothman, Scala, Sesay, Snyder (for Swanson), Speert, Stern, Stroppel, Swingle, Tardi, Thompson, Tracey (for Bareford), Wahrman, Weiner (for Wagner), Weisberg, Weltman, Xu

**ABSENT:** Deller, Jemmott, Martone, Maggiore, Boronico, Garcia, Tirado

**GUESTS:** Bogdon, Daniel-Robinson, Goldstein, Horvath, Miller, Pagano, Schaeffer

**PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Wahrman called the Faculty Senate to order at 12:37PM. The Agenda, moved and seconded by Duffy and Godar, was approved unanimously. The minutes of the 9/28 and 10/12 meetings, moved by Duffy and seconded by Principe, were likewise approved unanimously.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** The Executive Committee is actively recruiting members for an Ad Hoc Committee to revise the instruments and procedures for the Evaluation of Administrators. This committee would be charged with presenting its recommendations to the Senate by Fall 2005. The evaluations would be conducted in early Spring 2006, with the results available before the end of that semester. Tardi and Godar volunteered from the floor. Others interested should contact Wahrman as soon as possible.

The Executive Committee met with the President and Provost to discuss, among other topics, the recent Administrative Evaluations. Wahrman called upon Senators to discuss the outcomes with their constituents, and to relay any constructive suggestions or comments, especially those dealing with academic issues, to the Executive Committee. Confidentiality will be maintained.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of the passing of Professor Ronald Parris, AACSB.

**VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Principe nominated (Godar seconded) the following faculty to serve: Ray Schwartz, Library, for the Athletics Council; Donna Fengya, Mathematics, for the Elections Council; Pedro Martinez to be Administrative Liaison to the Graduate Council; and Richard Bartone, Communications, for the Assessment Committee. All were approved unanimously.

Vacancies still exist for a College of Education member on the Athletics Council, and Professional Staff members for the Elections and Graduate councils.

On Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, a major Copyright and Intellectual Property program will be held from 9-12 in the Valley Road Auditorium. J. Heller, William and Mary, and R Boynton, NYU, nationally known experts on the issues, will present and participate in discussion.

**ETHICS/TEXTBOOKS:** Duffy and Principe moved that the Senate become a committee of the whole; the motion was approved unanimously. Levitan led a spirited discussion that centered around two main issues: possible conflicts of interest involved when faculty assign textbooks they have authored (from which they stand to make money) and the propriety of faculty selling examination copies to vendors.

Tardi briefly detailed the origin of the first issue (resolved when the faculty member voluntarily recused self from the textbook committee considering his/her book). Schaeffer stated that the issue arises when it is a non-trivial amount of money. Levitan noted that she got \$1.50 per copy on her last book. Kaplan and Wahrman added that few faculty authors get rich on textbooks, and that most write them to serve their students better than the books already available. Various

departments address the issue in different ways: in Biology, for example, all proceeds to into a scholarship fund.

Tardi reminded the body that academic freedom guarantees faculty the right to select the texts for their courses, and that it is not within the purview of the Senate to dictate to faculty on this issue. Martus noted the difference between individual sections and multi-section courses. Tardi responded that even if a departmental committee suggests specific texts, individual faculty members still have the right to make their own choices.

Godar turned the discussion to the issue of selling examination copies. Dye noted that these topics have be around for a long time, and advised faculty in each department to talk with colleagues who may be swimming in ethically muddy waters. Korgen, Stern and Bone described their departments' polices and New York state law on the issue. Speert noted that administrators do not accept any gifts from vendors, and that NJ law puts a \$25 cap on dinners and the like. Tardi and Speert agreed that this is a delicate issue upon which faculty should be prudent and discreet in how they express themselves. A consensus seemed to develop that this is a matter best policed by individual departments, if there actually is a problem within the department.

**GENERAL EDUCATION UPDATE:** Scala distributed a draft of a GE Assessment, and a proposed pilot test to be conducted in ten GE sections. Korgen, Overdorf and Kaplan raised questions about the methodology of the sample. Snyder observed that similar surveys are done at other universities, making this a useful tool for comparisons. Weisberg, Wahrman and Scala reiterated that not every GE course may emphasize all five or ten learning outcomes, and that this tool is intended to improve GE courses, overall, and not to evaluate individual faculty or sections. Stroppel, Swingle and Martus urged that a "not applicable" choice be added. Dye questioned the length and complexity of the instrument, and also questioned the appropriateness of including adjunct in the test group. After several senators speculated that undergraduates might not be the best judges of GE, Pavese suggested that our graduates be the ones surveyed. Scala realizes that there is not perfect instrument. She thanked the members for their thoughtful suggestions, and urged that anyone with further comments or suggestions contact her.

**IT UPDATE:** Len Bogdon, Director of Information Systems and Network Technology, distributed a chart illustrating some of the issues, benefits and next steps involved in the campus-wide upgrade of computing, specifically Windows XP. He noted that some things are mission-critical – BlackBoard, for example – and must be addressed first. Security and privacy concerns have delayed some things. In response to Stern's question about student e-mail, Bogdon admitted that things are much better than last year – recall the virus attacks that immobilized the network for days on end – and that while there are still problems, they are being addressed. Miller invited everyone to attend a BlackBoard Institute.

**PROVOST'S COMMENTS:** Sesay congratulated the College of Business on the Review Team's recommendation for accreditation without conditions. He also lauded the Nursing Department for achieving similar results in its recent evaluation. Finally, he urged everyone to vote

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate adjourned at 1:47PM. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 in the Valley Road Building.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Duffy, sometime Secretary