

1 WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY -- **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES** – September 28, 2010

2 FACULTY SENATE WEBPAGE: <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> -- Email discussion: [facultysenate@list.wpunj.edu](mailto:facultysenate@list.wpunj.edu)  
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4 **Present:** Andreopoulos, Boroznoff, Cunningham, D’Haem, Davis, Diamond, Diaz, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Ferris, Finnegan,  
5 Gardner, Godar, Harris, Healy, Kelly, Kim, Knaus, Levitan, Louie (for Donaghy), Martinez, Martus, McNeal, Parras, Pavese,  
6 Peterman (for Steinhart), Potacco, Quicke, Refsland, Rehbert, Ricks, Rosar, Scala, Schwartz, Snyder, Tardi Thiuri, Verdicchio,  
7 Wagner, Walsh, Weil, Weisberg, Wong

8 **Absent:** Cho, Ku, Lindsey, Robb, Waldron

9 **Guests:** Barnes, Basu, Bliss, Burns, Chabayta, Daniel-Robinson, Diaz, Fuller-Stanley, Goldstein, Hahn, Jemmott, Kashyap, Korgen,  
10 Kowalsky, Liautaud, Martone, Miller, Noonan, Olaye, Rabbitt, Rosengart, Seal, Sherman, Torres-Santos, Trelisky, Watts, Zeman

11 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Verdicchio called the Senate to order at 12:35 PM. The Agenda, moved  
12 and seconded by Martus and Godar, was approved unanimously. The Draft Minutes of the September  
13 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were moved and seconded by Wagner and Martus. There were three minor corrections.  
14 Levitan wished to strike “half-rhetorically” in line 112. Scala gave her department’s full name: Women’s  
15 and Gender Studies on line 104. Martinez sought clarification on line 121: did the 225-250 refer to the  
16 number of courses or the number of sections of UCC courses that will be required. Levitan responded  
17 that these are sections. After these corrections were noted, the amended Minutes were then accepted  
18 unanimously. The Draft Minutes will be corrected and posted as the Minutes of the September 14<sup>th</sup>  
19 Senate meeting on the Senate homepage.

20 **CHAIR’S REPORT:** Verdicchio congratulated the First Year Experience staff, in particular Kim Daniel-  
21 Robinson and Mark Ellis, for organizing a dignified and successful Convocation. He also praised the  
22 speaker for holding the students’ attention – and the students for their excellent department.

23 **Evaluation of Administrators:** Verdicchio announced that the long-delayed evaluations of the upper  
24 administrators had been sent to the individuals evaluated, to their supervisors, to the President and to  
25 the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Duffy advised the body that the evaluations would be available on  
26 WP Connect on the Employee page, and that the written comments would be available in the Senate  
27 Office. Tardi objected that this was in violation of past practice and that these evaluations should have  
28 been reviewed by the Senate before being sent to the Board. Knaus questioned why these were being  
29 made public at all. He sees them as ways to help individuals change and strongly disapproves of them  
30 being open to the public. Verdicchio, while agreeing that the purpose is to improve performance,  
31 responded that the evaluations involved the entire community, which needs to know the results, and  
32 that information empowers people. Kim asked for clarification of the Senate’s role in the process.  
33 Verdicchio outlined the process from conducting the surveys, through analyzing the data, writing a  
34 narrative report, and then forward the results to the appropriate individuals and to the Senate. Kim  
35 asked in there were an easier way to do this (short of hiring someone). Godar note that the evaluations  
36 have been done at no cost.

37 Duffy discussed the ad hoc committees that have conducted the evaluations in the past. Tardi  
38 elaborated, noting improvements that have been made over time. She developed Verdicchio’s point  
39 that the purpose of the evaluations is to provide a measure of accountability for the administration and

40 to express the perspective of the WPU community. Knaus agreed that the community should be  
41 involved in the data collection process, but that the results should not be shared openly. He compared  
42 this to posting student evaluations of teachers. Finnegan said it is not a personnel matter since the  
43 Senate does not supervise the administrators and its assessment does not impact anyone's job. We  
44 don't know exactly what the Board of Trustees does with these evaluations. If we do the surveys we  
45 should know the results. Martinez asked if there had been a deviation from previous years. Had the  
46 prior reports been voted on by the entire body? Tardi suggested that past Minutes be checked. Martus  
47 suggested that a new committee or, perhaps, the Governance Council, outline what should be done in  
48 the future before the results are sent to the Board. He and Parras moved that the Governance Council  
49 look into the procedures for the assessment of administrators. This motion passed unanimously

50 Tardi then moved (Martus seconded) that the individuals responsible for the reports discuss them with  
51 the Senate. Godar said that she wrote the final reports. The motion passed with one abstention, and  
52 Godar will take questions at the next Senate meeting, after senators have had a chance to read the  
53 documents. Martus then moved (Potacco seconded) that the links to the evaluations be deactivated.  
54 After brief discussion on how the senators might obtain the documents, Potacco called the question.  
55 After a voice vote, Verdicchio called for a show of hands to assure certainty. The motion gained six yea  
56 votes; the negative votes were not counted completely, but were far in excess of six. The motion was  
57 defeated.

58 **New documents:** Verdicchio announced that the Executive Committee has received two documents  
59 from the administration – one on Budgeting and one on a Strategic Plan – which will both be posted.  
60 Tardi asked if the President had asked for input only from the Executive Committee. Verdicchio said yes.

61 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Ellis briefly reported on his ongoing series visits to council meetings. He moved  
62 (Duffy seconded) acceptance of the Executive Committee's nominees to an ad hoc Honorary Degree  
63 Committee: Marcone, Nyaboga, Mongillo, O'Broin, Aktan and Joachim. All were approved unanimously.  
64 He then presented a long list of volunteers to fill various vacancies on Senate councils. Rosar and Martus  
65 moved the list and all were approved. (The rosters of all Senate councils are on the Senate homepage.)

#### 66 **NEW BUSINESS:**

67 **Graduate Council:** Duffy and Tardi moved the Graduate Council's resolution supporting the changes in  
68 the Masters Program in Nursing. Louie and Bliss explained the rationale and fielded questions, after  
69 which the program was approved unanimously.

#### 70 **Reports from the Senate liaisons to the Board of Trustees committees:**

71 Godar reported on two meetings of the newly combined Finance and Audit & Institutional Development  
72 committee. In 2001 the state provided 41.4 million dollars in aid to WPU; in 2009 it was 32.7 million. The  
73 salary portion of WPU's budget increased from 58 million to 98 million, while non-salary spending  
74 increased from 14.2 to 14.6 million. Scholarship and financial aid went from 4.7 to 9 million. Overall, the  
75 total WPU budget grew from 73 to 113 million dollars.

76 She noted an anomalous statistic: that WPU resident students graduate at a lower rate than non-  
77 resident students. Using housing to attract better students is being considered. Weisberg asked how  
78 much money was raised last year, to which Godar responded: 3.2 million. In 2007 it was 4.4 million; in  
79 2008, 5.2 million; in 2009 3.2 million. The estimate for this year is approximately 3.1 million. She also  
80 pointed out that the majority of all money raised is restricted by donors to specific purposes.

81 Korgen is the liaison to the newly combined Educational Policy and Student Development Committee.  
82 She briefly reported on enrollment trends. [A fuller report will be presented to the Senate at an  
83 upcoming meeting.] Graduate enrollments are down by about 10% -- in line with national trends -- even  
84 though we have increased graduate programs from 14-22 in recent years. A non-returning student  
85 survey revealed that many students simply could not afford to continue their education right now. Kim  
86 declared that WPU needs at least 1000 new students a year. Kelly reiterated the point that decreased  
87 funding leads to lower retention rates. Godar added that our annual tuition and fees are \$21,000, which  
88 puts us sixth among our NJ state college peers.

89 **Presentation on student activities:** In light of the late hour, Davis suggested that the presentation by  
90 Francisco Diaz and Jeff Wakeman on student activities be postponed until the next Senate meeting.

91 **Brief notes:** Finnegan inquired about a new course numbering system. Trelisky said that all new UCC  
92 courses will have four digit course numbers. Existing offerings will have a zero added at the end of each  
93 number. Finnegan asked about renumbering courses. Trelisky has no problem with that idea, but wants  
94 to wait until after the new UCC courses are in place. Levitan asked about the genesis of the Honorary  
95 Degree document, and Seal responded that it was drafted by the President.

96 **OLD BUSINESS:** None

97 **ADJOURNMENT:** Upon Pavese's motion, the Senate adjourned at 1:47 PM. The next meeting of the  
98 Faculty Senate will be held on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM in the University Commons.

99 Respectfully submitted: B. Duffy, Secretary

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