

To: Faculty Senate
From: Sue Godar, Senate Liaison
Subj: BOT Committee Report
Date: April 11, 2012

The Board of Trustees' Educational Policy & Student Development Committee met on April 10, 2012. The following is a brief report of the actions taken and topics discussed at that meeting that may be of interest to the Senate. (Note: these are not official "minutes" of that meeting. Also, the full Board of Trustees must approve any recommendations of this committee. *My comments are in italics.*)

The committee recommended the conferral of degrees to take place at commencement in May and also the selection of Maria Otero as recipient of an honorary degree. The committee then discussed the Middle States Progress Report on Assessment of General Education. The Chair of the committee praised the content and breadth of the UCC itself. Concern was expressed about the long process in assessing the curriculum and the possibility that the University is behind in its implementation schedule for assessment. *With a deadline of the end of Spring semester 2012 for (1) establishing responsibility for UCC assessment, (2) providing an infrastructure, (3) setting a budget process, (4) developing a course review process, and (5) creating a systematic process for closing the loop, it appears that, while some could be completed, most of those items will not be finished on time. Also, at the meeting it was disheartening to hear some Trustees comment on what they perceived were the "large" number of credits that they felt were not directed at "graduates getting jobs." As you might imagine, I strongly supported our UCC as a significant foundation for developing informed citizens/voters/employees and as differentiating WPU from a trade school mentality!*

The committee then avidly discussed a report prepared by Kristin Cohen, VP for Enrollment Management, on how students finance their education at WPU with Financial Aid and asked that it be shared with the full Board. *Items from this report that may be of particular interest to Senators include the impact of grants on students (pg 5), the amount of debt with which some students may leave WPU (last line on pg. 6 & also confirmed by the Student representative to this committee), and the last 4 items under "Final Thoughts" (pg. 8-9). I believe that the Senate, with a recommendation from its Admissions & Enrollment Management Council, may want to weigh in on some items.*

When the status of the Dashboard Indicators was brought up by a Trustee, I talked about the Senate's concern that "diversity" indicators had been removed and the message that removal might send. The administration told the committee that they were working on appropriate diversity measures and would present a report to the committee soon.

Please let me know if you have any questions.