

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – September 8, 2015
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --
3

4 **PRESENT:** Aktan, Avdeev, Broome, Cano, Cook, Decker, Diamond, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-
5 Romaine, Fengya (for Tardi), Flint, Gazzillo-Diaz, Griswold, Harris, Helena, Hong, Kim,
6 Kothandaraman, Levitan, Magaldi, Makarec, Martin, Martus, McNeal, Najarian, Natrajan,
7 O'Donnell, Owusu, Polanco, Rosar, Sabogal, Sandmann, Simon, Snyder, Steinhart, Swanson,
8 Tesfaye, Verdicchio, Wagner, Waldron, Wallace, Watad. Weisberg, Wicke
9

10 **ABSENT:** Andreopolous, Lum, Maduro, Nobler
11

12 **GUESTS:** Bolyai, Brenenson, Burns, Chabayta, Daniel-Robinson, Diaz, Escobar, Fattal,
13 Ferguson, Hahn, Jackson, Kearney, Liautaud, Lincoln, McCoy, McLaughlin-Vignier, Miller,
14 Moore, Owusu-Ansah, Rabbitt, Refsland, Rosenberg, Ross, Schneider, Seal, Sherman, Shojai,
15 Tiernan, Trelicky, Vovchuk, Wolf
16

17 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Falk-Romaine called the Senate to order at 12:35PM. The
18 Agenda, moved by Martus and Aktan, was approved unanimously. The Minutes of the 4/28/2015
19 meeting, moved by Najarian and Levitan, were also approved unanimously.
20

21 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Falk-Romaine greeted new senators and thanked Levitan and other
22 members of last year's Executive Committee for their service. She introduced the new SGA
23 representatives: Esaul Helena and Ana Polanco. Two new administrators were also introduced:
24 Jonathan Lincoln, Associate Provost for Curriculum and International Education, and Edward
25 Owusu-Ansah, Dean of the Cheng Library.
26

27 She noted that the Repeat Grade Policy took nearly two years to complete, and she hoped that the
28 new Senate will be productive and able to get things done more quickly. She urged senators to
29 take issues back and forth to and from their departments, giving the full Senate the benefit of the
30 information and advice thereby gained.
31

32 The Senate needs a new Parliamentarian. Richard Kearney was thanked for his years of service
33 in that position. If anyone is interested, please contact the Falk-Romaine.
34

35 She noted that this year the Registrar will be checking student attendance on a regular basis, not
36 just once as in the past. The first time will be by September 22.
37

38 **PRESIDENT WALDRON:** Waldron also wants a productive Senate.
39

40 She noted that WPU is continuing to accept Syrian refugee students from the University of
41 Aleppo.
42

43 She stated that despite the lack of a new contract with the AFT, she intends to go forward with
44 sabbaticals, ART and promotions. There are things that she can do on her own and things that
45 she is constrained by the State from doing.
46

47 She congratulated all grant winners, but gave special recognition to the \$4,000,000 grant won by
48 the Colleges of Education and Science and Health for STEM teaching in disadvantaged areas.
49 This further recognizes WPU's leadership in STEM education.

50
51 University Hall (the new health sciences building) will open in January 2016. Wing will then
52 close for remodeling.

53
54 Fall enrollments seem strong and a full report will be presented after the closing date.

55
56 **PROVOST SANDMANN:** Sandmann reported that he had met with Falk-Romaine and
57 Magaldi during the summer. He reminded the campus that his Provost's Meeting will be held on
58 Tuesday, September 29th (a Monday schedule).

59
60 VP Bolyai will discuss budget issues with the colleges and departments.

61
62 The First Year Seminar is being redesigned in line with Student Success initiatives.

63
64 The Middle States Mid-Cycle Review is upcoming with significant changes: institutions can no
65 longer simply state that they are in compliance with various standards – they must document it.

66
67 He also discussed the five electric auto charging stations that PSE&G has provided at no cost to
68 the University. They are located in the bay adjacent to the Library. Charging is free.

69
70 **VICE CHAIRS REPORT:** Magaldi moved acceptance of the roster of council memberships
71 (archived in today's packet and on the Senate homepage). They were approved with one
72 abstention.

73 She moved (Duffy seconded) the appointment of Kashyap to the Professional Sales Promotion
74 Committee; it was approved unanimously.

75 **ACADEMIC STANDARDS COUNCIL: COURSE REPEAT POLICY:** Discussion
76 resumed on the Martin and Martus motion that was left unresolved last semester. Martin and
77 Aktan provided a slightly revised version. McNeal asked how can we have a University policy if
78 each department can make its own policy. Falk-Romaine noted that departments can have stricter
79 standards, but they must abide by the University's minimal policies. Kothandaraman asked if
80 departments can add such restrictions by themselves or must they come to the Senate. Aktan said
81 that some things can be done by the departments while other things – significant academic
82 changes – require the full process.

83
84 Ellis and Najarian moved to add *financial aid policies* which was approved with one abstention.

85
86 Simon asked about students who change majors. Verdicchio suggested that "matriculated" makes
87 a difference. Snyder (echoed by Gazzillo-Diaz) pointed out that students who can't make it in
88 certain majors need to be advised to change majors. McNeal said that policies should be based
89 on clear-cut factors and requirements, not just we don't want those sorts of students. She further
90 noted that students who use their five repeats early on won't be able to make it in the stronger
91 programs. Diamond asked about withdrawals and Falk-Romaine responded that withdrawals will
92 be dealt with in the future.

93
94 Gazzillo-Diaz reported on her research into the policies at other institutions. She said that the
95 proposed policy is the norm. Magaldi wondered if one department's actions would negatively
96 affect another department.

97
98 McNeal (seconded by Kim) moved that *departments with more restrictive course repeat policies*
99 *must have them approved by the Senate.* Aktan, Falk-Romaine, Levitan, Gazzillo-Diaz and
100 McNeal briefly addressed the issue. The motion failed in a voice vote.

101
102 Steinhart wondered why there would be a University policy if it all goes back to individual
103 programs. Kim stated that each college should have its own policy.

104
105 Martin reiterated that if this policy passes, five will be the maximum number of repeats allowed.
106 A program could be more restrictive, but not less.

107
108 The vote on the revised Martin motion was 32 yes, 3 no with 4 abstentions.

109
110 Falk-Romaine reminded the Senate that on 10/28/2014 the Sheffield motion allowing students to
111 repeat any course with a grade *lower than a C* was approved and will be in the final motion.

112
113 Wicke and Steinhart moved to delete the words *or for which a student has formally withdrawn.*
114 Magaldi, Martus, Steinhart, Gazzillo-Diaz, Wicke, Levitan, Kothandaraman and Falk-Romaine
115 all touched upon the topic. The amendment was approved by voice vote, with 3 nays and 8
116 abstentions.

117
118 The amended proposal (archived in this packet) was approved by a vote of 31 yes, 5 no with one
119 abstention.

120
121 Aktan asked when this will be implemented. Falk-Romaine said that it now goes to the
122 Administration for approval at that level.

123
124 Wicke said that the Senate must now address withdrawals, and Falk-Romaine agreed.

125
126 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate adjourned at 1:45pm.

127
128 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Tuesday, September, 22nd in Ballroom C.

129
130 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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