

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – December 11, 2018
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate>

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4 **PRESENT:** Aktan, Andreopoulos, Brillante, Crick, De Young, Diamond, Duffy, Ellis, Flores-
5 Marti, Griswold, Harris, Helldobler, Inserra, Kearney, Kecojevic, Kollia, Kothandaraman,
6 Levitan, Makarec, Najarian, Natrajan, Nyaboga, O'Donnell, Orr, Potacco, Pozzi, Ranjan, Rebe,
7 Rosar, Scala, Schwartz, Snyder, Spagna, Steinhart, Suess, Swanson, Tardi, Vega, Verdicchio,
8 Vishio, Wallace, Weisberg

9
10 **ABSENT:** Chung, Guedes, Owusu, Perez, Russell, Watad

11
12 **GUESTS:** Andrew, Adeniran, Astarita, Bannister, Bolyai, Boucher-Jarvis, Brenenson,
13 Cammarata, Chabayta, Corso, DeDeo, DeLoatch, Escobar, Fuentes, Ginsberg, Goldstein,
14 Griffin, Hill, Johnson, Liautaud, Lincoln, Marshall, McMahan, Moore, Murad, Ortiz, Pinkston,
15 Rabbitt, Refsland, Ross, Schneider, Seal, Stanfield, Tiernan, Torres, Vasquez,

16
17 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Scala called the Senate meeting to order at 12:37pm. Scala
18 and Najarian moved the Agenda which was approved unanimously. The Draft Minutes of the
19 November 27th meeting, moved and seconded by Aktan and Najarian, were also approved
20 unanimously.

21
22 Duffy distributed cards announcing the Library's usual "Open 24/7 during Pre-Exam and Exam
23 Week." As in past years, the AFT will donate food for our student scholars.

24
25 Bartle handed out flyers from the Technology Across the Curriculum Committee regarding
26 Harris' November 29th workshop in Atrium 125: A Hands-on Approach to Open Educational
27 Resources.

28
29 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Scala announced that the Senate will sponsor a campus-wide forum
30 dealing with the panoply of issues raised recently regarding WPU students: race, costs, their
31 complex and rich lives, etc. It will be held on March 21. Details to follow.

32
33 **PRESIDENT HELLDOLBLER ON FIRST YEAR ISSUES:** The Pioneer Success Seminar will
34 be transformed into a Student Success Seminar. Freshmen will be block-scheduled in cohorts
35 with a Pioneer Success Coach assigned to each cohort. The coaches will work with the faculty on
36 administrative and other student tracking issues. There will be some three days a week courses.

37
38 Aktan asked about Fall 2019 scheduling. Astarita clarified the timelines: January 4th for Summer
39 Session and February 15th for the Fall semester.

40
41 Wallace inquired about how Alcohol Wise, race and diversity training and similar issues will
42 handled. Helldobler replied that DeYoung discuss these later.

43
44 In response to Simon's and Griswold's questions about the ability of incoming students to
45 choose courses, Helldobler said that they will all be packaged initially. He hopes to do this for
46 two semesters, since the data demonstrate that this contributes significantly to improved
47 retention.

48

49 Tardi stated that, as Union President, she is concerned that three day class schedules be assigned
50 equitably. Helldobler agreed that such courses should be rotated among faculty.

51
52 Andreopoulos retorted that such scheduling is inimical to doing serious research. Indeed, she
53 would like to have the flexibility teaching consecutive days with longer stretches of time for
54 research.

55
56 Natrajan asked about UCC scheduling and advising issues. Helldobler said that these matters are
57 under discussion.

58
59 Verdicchio questioned the transparency of the changes. How much have faculty been involved in
60 the decision-making? Helldobler noted that faculty will be brought in soon, but Verdicchio
61 responded that they should have had a role all along. Helldobler said that he's garnered faculty
62 input during his many listening sessions.

63
64 Steinhart raised philosophical and practical questions about the three-day schedules. Astarita and
65 Helldobler noted that languages and other applied courses are preferable that way. Research
66 supports moving to this model.

67
68 Potacco stated that students need to learn specific skills during the right windows of opportunity.

69
70 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Nothing to report this time.

71
72 **PROPOSAL FOR CENTRALIZING TRAVEL FUNDS:**

73 De Young introduced a proposal [archived in the Packet for this meeting] for removing travel
74 from departmental budgets and centralizing it with the deans, thereby simplifying the process.
75 Scala noted that the majority of departments that had reported their departmental votes to her
76 were against this proposal. A number of speakers addressed various aspects of the issue
77 (Steinhart, Makarec, Pozzi, O'Donnell, Spagna, Ranjan, Aktan, Diamond, Kecojevic,
78 Andreopoulos, Snyder, Tardi, Weisberg, Crick, Kothandaraman and Helldobler. Consistency,
79 equity, fairness, transparency, simplicity, large-vs- small departments, disciplinary differences,
80 an unrealistic timetable and other requirements for applications and the time faculty spend on the
81 process were the primary topics raised. Snyder and Schwartz moved that there be further
82 discussion in the Spring, and Scala agreed to return to the topic on a future Agenda.

83
84 **MIDDLE STATES:** Lincoln and Hill announced that the University is preparing for the 2020-
85 2021 visit by the Middle States Accreditation Team. WPU will engage in its self-study, and he
86 encouraged campus constituents to volunteer for one of the seven working groups:

87 <https://www.wpunj.edu/middle-states-self-study/>

88
89 **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION:** Ross and Schneider appeared to continue
90 the discussion from the last Senate meeting, but there were no further questions at this time.

91
92 **BLACK AND LATINO MALE STUDENTS:** Marshall and Fuentes returned to update the
93 progress of their committee. They will meet with Helldobler to discuss the proposed Multi-
94 Cultural Center, ways to lessen racial tensions on campus, etc. Simon noted that most majority
95 faculty are unaware of possible microaggressions. Flores-Marti said faculty must leave their

96 offices and get out on campus and meet students in the spaces they occupy. Scala said the issues
97 will be addressed again next semester.

98 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate adjourned at 1:47pm.

99

100 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate, the first of the new year, was scheduled for Tuesday,
101 January 22nd. Due to the presence of a Provost candidate on campus that day, that meeting will
102 be **postponed until Thursday, January 31st in the VRB Auditorium.**

103

104 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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106 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

107 www.wpunj.edu/senate

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