

1 William Paterson University – **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES** – April 26, 2011

2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> -- Email discussion: [facultysenate@list.wpunj.edu](mailto:facultysenate@list.wpunj.edu)

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4 **PRESENT:** Aktan (for Donaghy), Andreopoulos, Bernstein, Bhat, Boroznoff, Cunningham, Davis, D’Haem,  
5 Diamond, Diaz, Ellis, Falk-Romaine, Ferris, Finnegan, Gardner, Godar, Granoff (for Wong), Healy, Kearney  
6 (for Wagner), Kelly, Knaus, Korgen (for Weisberg), Ku, Levitan, Martus, McNeal, Nyamwange, Overdorf,  
7 Parras, Potacco, Quicke, Rady (for Rehberg) Refsland, Rosar, Scala, Schwartz, Snyder, Steinhart, Tardi,  
8 Verdicchio, Waldron, Walsh, Watad (for Kim), Weil, Weiner (for Duffy)

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10 **ABSENT:** Lindsey, Pardi, Pavese

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12 **GUESTS:** Barnes, Bolyai, Burns, Cai, Chabayta, Cohen, Daniel-Robinson, De Young, Fallace, Felson,  
13 Gritsch (for Basu & Kashyap), Goldstein, Hahn, Hilberg, Hill, Hong, Jemmott, Kaplan, Kowalsky, Liautaud,  
14 Malanga, Martinez, Martone, Mason, McCoy, Miller, Olaye, Rabbitt, Ranjan, Rosengart, Schaeffer, Seal,  
15 T. Snyder, Torres-Santos, Trelisky, Wolk

16 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Verdicchio called the Senate to order at 12:38pm. The Agenda, moved and  
17 seconded by Martus and Falk-Romaine, was approved unanimously. The Draft Minutes of the April 12<sup>th</sup>  
18 meeting, moved and seconded by Ferris and Martus, were accepted unanimously.

19 **VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT:** Ellis noted that there are 13 Senate Councils and not all have been able to report  
20 at Senate meetings during the current session. Ellis reported that he asked chairs of each of the Senate  
21 Councils to prepare brief summaries of their council’s major activities during the past year. The following  
22 are highlights from each council as presented at today’s meeting. Ellis noted that all reports will be  
23 made available on the Senate web page.

24 **Academic Standards Council:** Chair Kearney noted that the Senate approved the council’s Recording in  
25 Class policy earlier this year and that two additional proposals from the council were on today’s agenda.  
26 Kearney also reported that the council intends to provide an elaboration of academic standards for  
27 online courses and develop liaison relations with relevant campus offices.

28 **Admissions & Enrollment Management:** Chair Wolk reported the council met eight times during the  
29 academic year and noted that transfer students were a major topic of discussion. Wolk noted the  
30 council recommended that a maximum of 66 transfer credits be allowed to be accepted and that more  
31 information needs to be shared with transfer students. Other suggestions from the council include  
32 better promotion of the summer institutes by the Admissions Office, having departments develop two  
33 year plans of required courses so students can see when they will graduate and possibly having students  
34 fulfill basic skills requirements during the summer.

35 **Advisement & Registration:** Co-chairs Fallace and Martinez noted the Advisement Survey, with a 70%  
36 response rate, as one of the council’s major accomplishments during the past year. Fallace and Martinez  
37 also reported that the council has met with a variety of campus representatives in relevant areas to  
38 clarify questions and concerns that impact students. The co-chairs also announced that the council  
39 would be meeting with VP Martone and VP Sherman on Thursday, April 28 at 10:30am in the Amy Job  
40 Classroom in Cheng Library.

41 **Assessment:** Co-chair Hilberg reported the council met four times during the past year and also  
42 conducted business via email. Hilberg also noted the council has been working with the UCC Assessment  
43 group, IR& A and Student Development. Hilberg reported there is a lot of assessment going on and that  
44 while college assessment coordinators provide reports to the Deans, this information has not been  
45 widely shared. Hilberg noted that Middle States gave us high marks on our assessment activities and the  
46 council will conduct an in-depth review of the data. Co-chair Felson announced that the council is  
47 organizing a book club, in conjunction with the Center for Teaching Excellence, to discuss the book  
48 *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses* by Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa. It is  
49 expected that discussion of the book will further enhance assessment efforts. The council will provide  
50 details about meetings, etc. as they become available.

51 **Budget & Planning:** Chair Godar reported the major activity of the council was planning and hosting the  
52 Budget and Planning Town Meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Godar also announced there will be another Budget  
53 Forum scheduled some time during the week of final exams. Date, time and location will be announced  
54 upon confirmation. Godar also noted the council is working on gathering information for the strategic  
55 plan, ensuring faculty and staff input during the strategic planning process.

56 **Elections:** Chair Hong reported that the council conducted several elections during the fall and that  
57 elections for Faculty Senate concluded yesterday. Hong also noted that the council will be researching  
58 other web based voting systems since the one currently in use is a bit cumbersome to administer and  
59 there may be more user friendly systems available. Hong also noted the council had some issues with  
60 information pertaining to committees not being in the Senate Constitution and Bylaws and will share  
61 their concerns with the Governance Council.

62 **Governance:** Chair Kowalsky noted that the council received 10 emeritus/a applications this year and  
63 that the council expects to have the last two submitted to the Senate before the end of the semester.  
64 Kowalsky thanked departments for submitting information about their colleagues in support of  
65 applications. Reviewing the Senate Bylaws and Constitution are part of the council's standing charges  
66 but the council also considered a request from the Senate to amend the bylaws to allow for occasional  
67 closed sessions of the Senate this year as well and this is under consideration.

68 **Graduate Policies & Standards:** Chair Kaplan noted that as a new council, much of the past year was  
69 spent reviewing charges for both councils and working on charges for the upcoming year. One of the  
70 council's major activities this past year included co-sponsorship, with the Graduate Programs Councils,  
71 of a Graduate Studies Forum on March 31<sup>st</sup> that attracted 45 attendees. It was a successful program and  
72 members of both councils are summarizing results of the forum.

73 **Graduate Programs:** Chair Cai noted this council remains responsible for reviewing proposals for new  
74 graduate programs. Only a few programs were submitted this past year and while the Graduate Council  
75 recommended both, only one was approved by the Senate.

76 **Research & Scholarship:** Co-chair Martus reported that this past Research & Scholarship Day was one of  
77 the most successful, with 95 presentations/poster sessions and 125 presenters participating. Martus  
78 acknowledged the efforts of co-chair Ranjan and all council members, along with Martin Williams and

79 the Office of Sponsored Programs and thanked them for all their hard work which made the day a huge  
80 success. Martus also reported that the cover for the program was designed by students in one of Tom  
81 Uehlin's classes and it was well received by all. Co-chair Ranjan noted the council met for a debriefing  
82 after the day's programs. Some recommendations include standardizing the AV setups/equipment in all  
83 rooms, and improving attendance at each session by possibly scheduling programs to coincide with class  
84 times and developing lesson plans around presentations that may attract entire classes. Martus  
85 announced that Research & Scholarship Day is scheduled for April 5, 2012 and he urged faculty to  
86 consider having at least one section of a class attend a program.

87 **Undergraduate Council:** Chair T.Snyder reported the council reviewed and recommended numerous  
88 proposals during the past year and that three more proposals are on the way. The council expects to  
89 meet once more this semester and it also expects to review numerous proposals in the fall. The council  
90 is also working on revising the submission form.

91 **University Core Curriculum:** Co-chair Malanga reported that the council approved 134 courses and that  
92 seven more are on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Malanga noted that she and co-  
93 chair Levitan scheduled and conducted eight orientation sessions over the course of the year and have  
94 met with staff from Advisement, the Registrar's Office and other departments to discuss  
95 implementation of the new UCC. There is also a three day UCC Institute scheduled for May that is being  
96 coordinated by Levitan and UCC Director Natrajan. In addition to approving courses, members of the  
97 council also met with representatives from Middle States and council members are also working with  
98 assessment coordinators and members of the assessment council to have an assessment plan ready for  
99 fall. The council is also reviewing recommendations for revising outcomes. Co-chair Levitan reported  
100 that there is a real commitment by those who are currently serving on Review Panels with only one  
101 individual stepping down from a panel thus far. Levitan expects to report to the Senate on the review  
102 panels in the fall.

103 Ellis thanked all for their reports and opened the floor to questions. Kelly asked the dates of the May  
104 program. Levitan indicated that it has been scheduled for May 23, 24 & 25. The program will be an all  
105 day event Monday and Tuesday and conclude on Wednesday morning and details on compensation for  
106 attending are being finalized. Jim Hauser and Donna Perry will be featured during the writing intensive  
107 focus and members of the Race & Gender Project and American Democracy Project will participate in  
108 discussions focused on courses for Areas 4 and Areas 5, respectively. On another note, Kelly suggested  
109 that the UCC council may want to consider working with the Governance Council to develop a process to  
110 revise existing learning outcomes for the UCC.

111 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Chair Verdicchio returned discussion to the Advisement Plan for Incoming  
112 Students. Verdicchio noted he first became aware of the plan at a Board of Trustees Educational Policy  
113 and Student Affairs Committee meeting back in February and he shared his notes with members of the  
114 Senate Executive Council. Details of the plan were conveyed to the university community in a memo  
115 dated March 25 from Provost Weil and VP of Student Development Martone. Initially discussed at the  
116 April 12 meeting, Verdicchio opened the floor for comments and discussion.

117 Davis expressed concern that the Executive Council asked explicitly about the advisement plan but were  
118 asked to wait until after the Middle States visit to discuss. Davis also wanted to know what evidence  
119 exists that shows that departments do not have the same impact on student retention when advising  
120 students when compared to students who are advised by counselors? Davis also expressed concern  
121 that even with the addition of two –three additional counselors, they will be dealing with an increased  
122 number of students under the new plan. Davis concluded her remarks by noting that there was not  
123 adequate inclusion of stakeholders during the process.

124 D. Snyder also expressed concern about the new model and asked how does it correspond to best  
125 practices elsewhere? Is there a structured way of tracking advisement at the college level or school  
126 level? D.Snyder also noted that there needs to be some way to ensure that people advising students are  
127 doing it correctly. Godar expressed she has a problem with the process and also expressed concern  
128 about when the “hand-off” of students to departments would occur.

129 Tardi stated she has read responses and comments being made by the administration that faculty are  
130 being consulted and that the plan was reviewed by the Faculty Senate but this is not the case. Everyone  
131 is in favor of improving advisement to better serve our students but as noted previously, the  
132 stakeholders need to be an integral part of the process. Tardi concluded by emphasizing that shared  
133 governance needs to be respected at William Paterson University. Kelly noted that there was not  
134 enough outreach, communication or buy-in for the plan and asked how this cure addresses advisement  
135 failures? Kelly also asked that beyond undeclared students, how will this model work for our students?  
136 Where is the evidence? If we are concerned about student retention, why lead them away from  
137 departments?

138 McNeal noted we haven’t been shown any research based evidence to support the new advisement  
139 plan and indicated that the voice of the Senate needs to be heard on this matter. Kelly moved that the  
140 Faculty Senate oppose the Organization of Advisement for Incoming Students plan. Finnegan seconded  
141 the motion. Discussion followed. McNeal reiterated that our voices need to be heard.

142 Martus noted that we are also tweaking Basic Skills at this time and that we need to consider the impact  
143 changes to advisement will have on students and that we need to further analyze the situation. Ferris  
144 indicated opposition to the motion and the plan, but noted that big departments may be pleased to  
145 have professional counseling available to their students. Scala indicated support for the motion and  
146 expressed concern about shared governance. Scala also noted that the best work is often done when  
147 those involved are impacted. Boroznoff, with all due respect, noted that the Registrar’s Office is  
148 currently responsible for registering, counseling and selecting courses for every incoming student and  
149 that the Registrar’s Office is the contact point for students and not departments.

150 Chair Verdicchio noted the Order of the Day for New Business and asked for a motion to continue  
151 discussion. Boroznoff and Parras moved and seconded to extend discussion; motion passed to continue  
152 discussion. Gardner acknowledged the work of Borozonoff in terms of first year packaging, but if  
153 students declare a major, they are turned over to the department. Gardner noted that many students  
154 are misadvised and there has to be specific training and that advising should be housed in the students

155 major. Finnegan expressed support for the motion and asserted that the major debate shows there is  
156 something wrong with the process and concerns with the wisdom of the plan. Steinhardt noted that  
157 there are two separate issues, one is the process and one is the plan and that they need to be viewed  
158 separately. One may oppose the process, but we also need to carefully consider the plan.

159 Parras expressed support for McNeal's motion and offered two friendly amendments. The first would  
160 amend the original to include the line: "and we recommend that departments can opt in or opt out of  
161 the advisement plan". The second friendly amendment would add: "students who declare a major will  
162 meet at least once with an academic advisor in the department and at least once with a professional  
163 advisor". Parliamentarian Overdorf indicated that only the first friendly amendment was on the floor.  
164 Ferris seconded the amendment and McNeal accepted.

165 Discussion continued. Levitan spoke as an advisor and First Year Seminar Instructor and expressed  
166 concern with issuing of alternate pin numbers if some departments will be advising first year students  
167 and some will not. Diaz and Godar moved to call the question on the amendment to the motion.  
168 Amendment accepted with one abstention. The motion, as amended, reads as follows: The Faculty  
169 Senate opposes the Administration's Organization of Advisement for Incoming Students (March 25  
170 2011) and recommends that departments can opt in or opt out of the advisement plan. Steinhardt and  
171 Godar moved to call the question on the motion. The motion carried with five abstentions.

172 **ADJOURNMENT:** Upon Finnegan's motion, the Senate adjourned at 1:50pm. The next meeting of the  
173 Faculty Senate will be held on **Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** at 12:30pm in University Commons Ballroom A.

174 Respectfully submitted: N. Weiner (substituting for B. Duffy)

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176 THIS AND OTHER SENATE DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: [www.wpunj.edu/senate](http://www.wpunj.edu/senate)

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