

1 William Paterson University – FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – September 13, 2016  
2 FACULTY SENATE WEB PAGE <http://www.wpunj.edu/senate> --  
3

4 **PRESENT:** Aktan, Avdeev, Basch, Clarke, Decker, Diamond, Duffy, Ellis, Falk-Romaine,  
5 Fallace, Flint, Griswold, Guerrieri, Harris, Hong, Kearney, Kromidas, Levitan, Maduro,  
6 Magaldi, Makarec, Martin, Martus, Najarian, O'Donnell, Owusu, Potacco, Refsland, Rosar,  
7 Sandmann, Scala, Schwartz, Simon, Snyder, Steinhart, Swanson, Tardi, Tesfaye, Verdicchio,  
8 Vishio, Waldron, Wallace, Watad, Weisberg, Wicke  
9

10 **ABSENT:** Andreopolous, Cook, Helena, Kothandaraman, Owusu, Steinhart,  
11

12 **GUESTS:** Bolyai, Brenenson, Brillante, Burns, Cammarata, Chabayta, Corso, Cupo, Daniel-  
13 Robinson, Dean, Diaz, DiBartolomeo, Ferguson, Gilley, Hahn, McCoy, McLaughlin-Vignier,  
14 Liautaud, Noonan, Owusu-Ansah, Rabbitt, Ross, Schneider, Seal, Sherman, Theus, Tiernan,  
15 Trelisky, Williams  
16

17 **PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson Makarec called the Senate to order at 12:34pm. The Agenda,  
18 moved by Najarian and Martus, was approved unanimously. The Minutes of the April 26<sup>th</sup>  
19 meeting, moved by Martus and Wicke, were also approved unanimously.  
20

21 **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Makarec welcomed the newly elected senators and thanked Falk-  
22 Romaine who will serve as Parliamentarian this year.  
23

24 Tesfaye's motion that the Senate support the LIU faculty and adjuncts passed unanimously.  
25

26 Duffy and Aktan moved the appointment of Levitan to serve on Kalaramadan's Women's and  
27 Gender Studies Promotion Committee. It was approved unanimously.  
28

29 Levitan and Snyder moved the appointment of Aktan to serve on Kernan's Public Health  
30 Promotion Committee. It was approved unanimously.  
31

32 Aktan and Swanson moved the appointment of Peek and Chauhan to serve on Griffiths'  
33 Environmental Science Promotion Committee. It was approved unanimously.  
34

35 Tardi and Tesfaye moved the appointment of Chauhan and Martus to serve on Davi's  
36 Environmental Science Promotion Committee. It was approved unanimously.  
37

38 Duffy reminded the faculty that ART applications are now available. Applications must be in the  
39 dean's office no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>. They must be in the Provost's Office no later than  
40 Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.  
41

42 **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT:** Magaldi briefly reviewed the accomplishments of last year's  
43 councils and outlined the major issues on each council's agenda for this year. Tardi inquired  
44 about the status of the Governance Council's work on the Emeritus policy. Duffy replied that the  
45 Council will be coming forth with a revised resolution very soon.  
46

47 **PROVOST SANDMANN:** Sandmann briefly reviewed a number of new tools for handling  
48 academic matters. Degree Works will soon cover all students. The Starfish program will be used

49 of Early Alert. Digart will keep the Catalog up to date. Digital Measures will provide year end  
50 reports.

51  
52 Learning Communities, which will eventually replace Clusters, will start with ten communities  
53 this year. Levitan asked if they will be structured in such a way to allow commuting students to  
54 participate, and Sandmann said yes.

55  
56 Scala asked when the newly promulgated Course Repeat Policy would take effect. Sandmann  
57 said that this fall's entering class will be governed by it. Previously admitted students will follow  
58 the old policy.

59  
60 Diamond asked about the policy restricting graduate students from transferring in no more  
61 than 49% of their credits. Sandmann said that Lincoln would look into the matter and get back to  
62 the Senate.

63  
64 Sandmann announced that Associate Provost Hahn will be returning to the English faculty in  
65 January 2018.

66  
67 **RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL: REPORT ON INDEPENDENT**  
68 **STUDIES:** Gilley reported on the results of the Council's survey (archived in the Packet for this  
69 meeting). There has been a 54% decline in independent studies over the past two years. While  
70 none have been disapproved by deans, it seems that department chairs are discouraging them.

71  
72 Weisberg said that the deans are pressuring the chairs to refuse independent studies. Gilley said  
73 that there were fewer applications, but he couldn't say why.

74  
75 Hong and Fallace pointed out that there should be a clear distinction between independent  
76 studies that replace cancelled classes and those run for other reasons.

77  
78 Flint and Kromidas asked why they have declined. Gilley said the survey only collected the  
79 numbers and didn't go into reasons.

80  
81 Tardi stated that during one semester deans were told by the Administration not to permit any  
82 independent studies. Scala said that they were discouraged in HSS. Snyder and Hong called for  
83 clear, streamlined, revised guidelines.

84  
85 Tardi noted that independent studies were originally intended to support advanced research by  
86 students under faculty guidance, not replacing cancelled classes.

87  
88 Magaldi, Diamond and Snyder called for further study into the entire issue, including the criteria  
89 for approving independent studies. Sandmann said there is a need for further clarification of the  
90 matter. Griswold said that independent studies enable some students to complete their degrees in  
91 a timely matter.

92  
93 **REORGANIZATION OF ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Liautaud described how closely  
94 related departments (e.g., First Year Experience and Transfer Experience) have been relocated in  
95 adjacent offices.

96

97 **PIONEER SUCCESS SEMINAR:** Ellis and Daniel-Robinson presented a PowerPoint  
98 (archived in the Packet for this meeting) describing how the new Pioneer Success Seminar  
99 differs from the older First Year Seminar (formerly Freshman Seminar). It is now a one-credit  
100 course, meeting for 50 minutes for fifteen weeks. The New Student Welcome (just before school  
101 started) replaced Convocation.

102  
103 Among the new features of the PSS are two mandatory assignments: a Personal Success Plan (in  
104 which students project their academic, financial and personal goals for the upcoming years) and  
105 an Exit assignment in which student collect work they've done during the course of the semester.  
106 These projects allow students to take ownership of their lives at WPU. In response to Tardi's  
107 question, Ellis said that the Personal Plan would be housed in the Advisor's Notes.

108  
109 Levitan asked about exemptions. Ellis replied that the same exemptions exist as before:

- 110 1. The student is 25 years old
- 111 2. The student has served in the armed forces
- 112 3. The student has transferred into WPU with more than 12 credits
- 113 4. The student has successfully completed a similar course at another institution

114  
115 **ADJOURNMENT:** There was no New nor Old Business, so the Senate adjourned at 1:38pm.

116  
117 The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 in Ballroom C.

118  
119 Respectfully Submitted: Bill Duffy, Secretary

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