

Draft

Minutes of the Governance Council of the Faculty Senate
of William Paterson University
Thursday, October 25, 2007
3:30 P.M.
Reference Conference Room #2, Library

Present: Bill Duffy (Chair), Esther M. Martínez, Tim Newman, Eshwar Phadia, Donna Potacco, Isabel Tirado, Milda Yildez, Mahmoud Watad

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M.

1. Motion to approve the minutes of September 24th: Dr. Tirado moved; Dr. Newman seconded. Minutes approved.

2. Review of Standing Charges:

Council members reviewed the list of standing and additional charges. It was agreed that the *Constitution* and *Bylaws* do not need to be re-done for the next two years, since they have been revised over the previous two years. The Council can suggest items for the list of charges. It was also noted that #2 of the Standing Charges related to #2 of the Additional Charges. Not many items relating to #4 of the Standing Charges (review of the Policy Manual) came to the attention of the Governance Council last year. Reviewing applications for Emeritus/a Status (#5) occurs mostly in the Spring. The Council reviewed a couple of unusual Emeritus applications of the previous year.

3. Additional Charges for 2007-2008:

The Council cannot act on the first additional charge (developing a proposal to add a Planning and Budgeting Council to the Senate Constitution) until the Ad Hoc Committee is formed. Ms. Potacco has asked to be the Staff Representative on that Committee. Increased faculty involvement in planning and budgeting was suggested by Middle States. The original suggestion for such a committee came from Dr. Mel Edelstein about eight or nine years ago.

Article III of the Constitution was drafted some years ago by Dr. Lois Wolfe and Mr. Duffy. The Council needs to see if it can be made to work, or if not, recommend changes.

The third Additional Charge asks for a review, with the Elections Council, of the current Senate procedures on substitute attendees and proxy votes. A case of several years ago involving an abuse of the proxy vote was cited. This led to a discussion of eligibility for Senate membership and whether it would be advantageous for the efficacy of the Senate to limit membership to tenured faculty. Such a limitation would encourage greater autonomy and assertiveness for the Senate, make the senior faculty more responsible on governance issues, and allow more time for research for untenured faculty. Some concern was expressed as to whether this would hurt untenured faculty in achieving tenure, since they are now encouraged to seek Senate membership to demonstrate involvement in university life for their resumé. Another member pointed out that if no junior faculty were allowed to be a Senate representative, Senate membership would be removed as an advantage for any untenured person. Other members suggested that untenured faculty be encouraged to volunteer for Councils and Committees before tenure in order to demonstrate involvement in university-wide issues and gain experience and knowledge which would serve them well when they were tenured and could become Senate representatives. The Council asked Dr. Phadia to draft a resolution limiting Faculty Senate membership to tenured faculty for consideration at the next Council meeting of November 15th.

The Council returned to a discussion of problems with proxy voting. Up to now the process has been fairly informal, with the substitute representative simply stating her/his status at the meeting. It was

suggested that a Senator naming a proxy for a Senate meeting should notify the Chair of the Senate in an e-mail prior to the Senate meeting and that the e-mail should be cc'd to the Chair of the Senator's department. Dr. Tirado noted that Senators should be reminded that they are entrusted with relating department news and opinions *from* their departments and also reporting Senate proceedings *to* their home departments. It was further suggested that a limit of three proxies per Senator per semester be set. And it was noted that there is currently no list of roles and responsibilities for Senators in the *By-laws*. Dr. Watad noted that the Senate does not have a Mission Statement; he volunteered to work on a draft of a Senate Mission Statement for the next Council meeting. Dr. Potacco noted that last year the Elections Council had been slated to submit some proposed changes to the Governance Council for consideration, but we did not hear from them before the end of the academic year.

Re #5 of the Additional Charges: Ms. Potacco reported that the Research Council did not submit a year-end report last year. A discussion of Council and Committee year-end reports led to the suggestion that all Councils be required to post their year-end reports online on the Senate page. (The Governance Council's report is currently online.)

Re #6 of the Additional Charges: The Governance Council worked on the differences between Councils and Committees last year. The Council worked with language for a while, then asked Ms. Potacco and Dr. Martínez to draft a resolution on the matter for the next Council meeting.

The next meeting of the Governance Council will be held on Thursday, November 15 2007, at 3:30 P.M. in the Paterson Room of the Library.

The meeting adjourned at 5 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther M. Martínez