

WCU FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Date: October 10, 2019

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Philips Conference Room

Facilitator: Bessie Lee Lawton, President

Type of meeting: Open Forum

Note Taker: Dan Forbes, Recording Secretary

Misc.

Members Present: *designated by an X*

Attendees:

Benedict, Kristopher	x	MacPhee, Graham	
Bolton, David		Major, Marci	
Brenner, James	x	Mandel, Deborah	
Burns, Michael		Moriconi, Christine	
Chang, Janet	x	Mraz, Megan	x
Cherry, Dan	x	Olejarski, Amanda	
Cooke, Laquana		Panichelli, Meg	
Daltry, Rachel	<i>Proxy Caitlin Cassidy</i>	Pierlott, Matthew	x
Forbes, Daniel	x	Raskauskas, Jenn	
Guerriero, Tara	x	Riley, Kathleen	
Haggard, Cynthia	x	Sanz-Sanchez, Israel	x
Harrison, Barbara		Schugar, Heather	x
Hill, Erin		Scythes, James	
Houser, Mary		Sestrick, Timothy	x
Junius, Premalatha	x	Tennille, Julie	
Kolasinski, Kurt		Wade, Michelle	x
Konigsberg, Lisa	x	Wilbur, Veronica	
Lawton, Bessie Lee	x	Wiest, Julie	x
Adjunct Faculty Rep: Ann Hiloski-Fowler	x	Student Govt. Assoc. Rep: Elizabeth Schultz	
Adjunct Faculty Rep: William Sawyer	x	Graduate Student Assoc. Rep: Montana Leaks	
APSCUF Rep: Cynthia Haggard	x	ROTC rep: TBA	

Guests in Attendance: Jen Bacon, Josh Auld, Chris Stangl, Melissa Cichowicz, Mahmoud Amer, Margaret Ervin, Jocelyn Manigo, Radha Pyati, Eve Atkinson

AGENDA ITEMS

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome to Senators,	President Chris Fiorentino, Deputy Provost Jeff Osgood, and Vice President for Student Affairs Zeb Davenport, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Tracey Ray (Philips Lower Level Conference	

Proxies, and Guests (B. Lawton)	Room) Bessie Lawton: The Open Forum is hosted by Faculty Senate every semester. Be on the lookout for future open forums!	
Guest 1	<p>Q: Bessie: We received the email and FAQ about the Matthew 24 visit. Thank you! Are there any other things in development?</p> <p>A: Dr. Davenport: It was a joint effort between Simon Ruchti and me, and Chris Stangl developed the FAQ. Please do not share the FAQ with students because it names Matthew 24. It explains how our hands are tied legally. We looked at every angle we could to restrict them—we could establish a limited space, and 24-hour notice requirement, but this would also restrict our own campus groups from having candlelight vigils, etc. We've been more aggressive with these groups than any other campus I've worked at. We have barricades set up and people who are there the entire time.</p> <p>A: Dr. Ray: The Campus Climate Intervention team will be galvanized this year—knowing how to respond, how to support students. More information will be forthcoming.</p> <p>Q: Bessie: Campus overcrowding in Counseling, Registration, Housing, and Dining Services is a problem. How does the university plan to support Counseling Center, which is understaffed and waitlisted. Graduate students are affected.</p> <p>A: President Fiorentino: This is under discussion in collective bargaining. Dr. Davenport: Not all of our students are on campus—some are distance ed, and some commuter. We probably need 12 counselors full time; we currently have 8, and some part-time. No college campus will be able to keep up with this. There's a fee-based model, but we'd like to respond to student needs with sending prices up too high. There are group sessions, and a counselor that is always on call. President Fiorentino: We are going to increase the number of counselors, we need to understand the rules and how to fund it.</p> <p>Q: Counseling faculty are supported by fee—how is this sort of funding decided on. Dr. Davenport: It is an auxiliary service, and fee-based. President Fiorentino: It is a system-level matter. Dr. Osgood: It is a generally accepted practice that it be paid for with fees. There are different sorts of faculty funded in different ways. President Fiorentino: I don't know exactly what the answer is. Dr. Davenport: We want to avoid raising student fees in other areas so that money can go to the health center, the counseling area. Dr. Caitlin Cassidy: I'm a postdoc at the Counseling Center. Health Center you said earlier. Dr. Davenport: Counseling Center. Dr. Cassidy: We do 15-minute triage appointment, short-term individual therapy, limited to 10-12 sessions, and we rely on case manager to facilitate off-campus resources thereafter. Dr. Davenport: We can't do long-term counseling model, that would require a lot more counselors than is sustainable.</p> <p>Q: Bessie: Our student liaison has reported overcrowding in dining halls and we understand that there are students in triples for housing as well as a waiting list for student housing. Prospective students were either turned-away or elected to attend other institutions due to no available housing. Some faculty have advisees who would like to live on-campus, but instead are commuting from Upper Darby on SEPTA. It is not conducive to 'student success' to have new students commute for long hours multiple days a week; work jobs; have to 'learn' WCU's campus; and also succeed academically. Can you share our plans to address this concern regarding overcrowding in our facilities?</p> <p>Dr. Davenport: We have limited housing spots. Dr. Fiorentino: We have a consultant. Some housing is auxiliary, some is administered by the WCU Foundation, so our model is complex. There is a demographic cliff coming in 2026, which may or may not be a factor. Other schools in the system that have housing that is 60% empty; if we add more beds we can fill them. We have 5100 beds, and need more. The municipality is an issue; the borough and West Goshen township we are negotiating with for some special zoning; this is taking more time than expected. Dining hall will be built in the new building, with a little bit more space. Dr. Davenport: We tripled some rooms because we did not want to turn students away. We are looking at furnishing those rooms, and letting students know that they will be tripled so that they have a choice. Some students in triples are getting along, and some like it. We are going to introduce that as an option. We do not require first-year student to live on campus; if we did our problems would be worse. Dr. Osgood: There are financial issues for the students too. President Fiorentino: In Goshen and Tyson the square footage of the building will allow about 150 more residents, though the structure isn't conducive to that. If students have tripling as an option and it is less expensive, that helps some.</p> <p>Q: Where does the situation stand with Church St. becoming a mall? President Fiorentino: The</p>	

borough proposed that, which was exciting. We've been in conversations; there are utilities underneath the street, as well as parking meters which would lose them revenue if they were removed. There was some pushback relating to the results of a traffic study, which said there would not be a significant impact. We are optimistic and think it will come to fruition, but we are waiting. The bus (SEPTA) has a stop there, and we proposed a change (down in front of Swope), which they piloted and has worked very well. We are hoping for a walkway that would admit emergency vehicles, but with more grass.

Q: Bessie: Students have been added to class lists after add/drop, for example students added to music courses without sufficient instruments. Could you tell us about enrollment goals/plans/pressures? We exceeded the 'target', yet it seems there was a lot of stress from administration about getting students registered. Moving forward, what will next year's target be? Dr. Osgood: Only in two years have we had enrollment declines. We stabilized undergraduate enrollment, increase of 141 students from last year. That's stable enrollment. We have one of the highest utilization of space in the system. Other places are demolishing buildings. We are looking at flat enrollment, slow climb to 18,000 in August 2021. Graduate enrollment growth is large, a lot online; steady enrollment at the Philly campus. So nothing like the enrollment growth in the past, but that enabled us to be financially successful. We are looking at a 1.5% increase in tuition, and the cost of doing business is going to increase at a higher rate than that. We have the most AWAs in the state system. Graduate coordinators and chairs deserve a lot of credit for their work. Our retention rate increased by 1%, which is huge. If we can improve the retention rate we can reduce the pressure to increase recruitment.

Q: Bessie: Some universities in our system are very vocal about their upcoming conversion into research universities (R2 category). Since that is also a likely occurrence for WCU based on the criteria for R2, 1) what are our university's plans to adapt to what that classification entails (specifically talk about plans to maintain the quality of our doctoral programs, faculty workload, and faculty research support) and 2) where do these reclassifications fit (or don't fit) in the system reorganization conversation? Dr. Osgood: We've been fortunate that we are automatically qualifying as R2. Our first doctorates when approved were coded by the system, and we had to show them that two of them were approved as research doctorates and two as professional doctorates. They are looking at more inclusive ways of evaluating this. Our 150th anniversary in 2021 is a goal date. We are continuing to add faculty in the new doctoral programs. We have more faculty doing graduate-only; we have to do more, though balanced with fiscal realities. Q: Will this play a role in the system realignment? Dr. Osgood: I'm concerned with system redesign. The Chancellor wants to use a single information system. Our competitors are not the other state system schools, but the schools in this region. We should be allowed to be successful. IUP gets \$2-3 million appropriation because they are the only school allowed to have a graduate program, and their enrollment is declining. President Fiorentino: We are working hard to convince the Chancellor that we are being efficient. Other schools ask for our appropriations, but they are less efficient; we're already getting less money per student than they are. Our bigness does not save us a lot of money. Other schools while losing students are reducing their faculty/student ratio, not reducing faculty numbers. We don't want to have layoffs here on the notion that it will save money. Board meeting will be next week. I'm cautiously optimistic that we will convince them to help other schools.

Q: What is this unified system—what is the perceived advantage? President Fiorentino: They hired a consultant, but there aren't any clear results about how the changes would lead to savings. Latest projections were that it would be revenue neutral. If they consolidate HR and other departments, they should be reducing personnel, and there should be savings. We aren't getting a lot of answers to our questions. At some point the Chancellor will have to convince the board that there are savings. There was a proposal that the system could be saved around \$100 million dollars. That's 1000 positions eliminated. The claim is that services would be improved. But what are the efficiency models? And this was made before they even looked at us. When questioned, they admitted that the universities are leaner than they realized.

Q: Bessie: currently, it is very difficult to write an advising sheet for first year students that actually contains a list of course suggestions that they could complete in 4 years. For example, there are only 6 S courses and 12 E courses, some of which are major-specific only. Could you talk about plans to ensure there are adequate courses to meet requirements, and plans to help departments advise students through their degree trajectory?

Dr. Osgood: We've invested a lot of resources into professional development, including FYE faculty. We used to have the Curriculum Integration Seminar focused on diverse communities. We've revived that for Ethics (e-designation). We want to create a rotation; next we might do s-designation next year, so there's a constant cycle of investment. We're monitoring availability

	<p>of e- and s-courses, and we are ready to make waivers while the availability is still limited.</p> <p>Q: Bessie: Faculty feel burned out; we need more hands on deck. How might system reorganization affect hiring goals? Dr. Osgood: We've been hiring at a fast pace. We have an automatic limiter in the 25% cap. We have been in conversation with the deans in reducing overloads. To my knowledge all overload is voluntary. We've got phased retirements coming in; it was settled on so late last year. Cynthia: Day-to-day workload as increased. Dr. Osgood: This is a difficult time—Middle States review, College of Education accreditation, etc. A lot of work in an 18-month period. APSCUF has continuously kept this on the agenda.</p> <p>Q: Bessie: Can you update us on building projects? Sturzbecker is moving forward but without much faculty input. President Fiorentino: The garage will open simultaneously with the new building, because it will be done quickly. We are working to have the building open next fall. They've discovered unexpected stuff under the ground, and it took several weeks to knock down the boiler plant; the winning bid didn't know what they were doing. We are on track now. Sturzebecker— Dr. Davenport: Scott Heinrichs was involved. We sought information on programmatic needs, and developed something based on that information. Q: Old Library was supposed to be offline, and IT can't help with tech there for that reason. A: That issue with the room without a projector is being worked on.</p> <p>Q: Bessie: Ombudsperson? Dr. Osgood: Meet and discuss team met on this, we'd like to make sure local APSCUF feedback is incorporated. Hoping to get this going soon.</p> <p>Bessie: Thank you so much!</p>	
Senate Exec Committee	<p>President: Bessie Lee Lawton Vice President: Julie Wiest Recording Secretary: Dan Forbes Corresponding Secretary: Kurt Kolasinski At-Large Members: Erin Hill and Israel Sanz-Sanchez Immediate Past President: Heather Schugar</p>	
	4 pm adjournment	
NEXT MEETING		
Day and Time:	Friday, October 25, 2019, 3-5 pm (FHG Library 613)	
Topics/ Presenters:	Deans from WCU Colleges, topic: AWAs	