

West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2007/2008
February 8, 2008, Full Assembly Minutes

Members Present: *designated by an X*

Alessandria, Tina	Proxy S. Winterton	Li, Huimin (Amy)	X
Azorlosa, Jay	X	Marvin, Stephen	Proxy J. Hutton
Bean, Nadine	X	McVey, Randy	X
Bedford, Robert	X	Means, Jennifer	Proxy S. Winterton
Bill, Debra	X	Metz, Stacie	X
Boyle, Michael	X	Morgan, Tanya	X
Brown, Eleanor	X	Nolan, Karen	Proxy C. Haggard
Cai, Wei Wei	Proxy H. Leaman	Onderdonk, Julian	X
Chilcote, Kathryn	X	Polk, Denise	
Cressler, Walter	X	Sandhu, Bhim	X
Dannessa, Karen	X	Smith, Paul	Proxy T. Morgan
DeHope, Eli	X	Stiefel, Van	X
Friedman, Jonathan	X	Thames Taylor, LaTonya	Proxy K. Dannessa
Haggard, Cynthia	X	Thompson, Brent	X
Hasimoto-Sinclair, Yoko	X	Wandry, Donna	X
Hutton, Jane	X	Williams, Dian	
Hyers, Lauri	Proxy E. Brown	Winterton, Sally	X
Kara, Orhan	Proxy H. Li	Zimmer, Peter	X

Minutes:

- Michael Bicking and Michael Vining, of WCU's Public Safety, and Mary Ann Hammond, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the WCU Student Health Center, gave a power point presentation on behalf of the WCU Threat Assessment Team. This is a campus-wide committee recently organized in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings of April 2007 to assist in addressing situations where students, faculty, or staff are displaying disruptive or threatening behaviors that potentially impede their own or others ability to function successfully or safely. The process is designed to help identify persons whose behaviors potentially endanger their own or others' health and safety. The team's presentation laid out clearly just how sensitive and difficult such detective work can be and encouraged faculty to contact them when in doubt about any student. Afterwards, many questions were posed by senators. The team also wanted to remind the campus community about other recent initiatives including the campus-wide emergency alert system and the E2campus text messaging system. (Information about these and other emergency preparations are available on the WCU Public Safety website, under "Emergency Management" and "Threat Assessment.")
- The Minutes from the October 18, 2007 and November 11, 2007 faculty senate meetings were approved with minor revisions.
- Cynthia Haggard, President of the Senate, reported on her meeting with President Adler this past week:
 - Governor Rendell's budget increase request of 3% for the 2008-2009 academic year is good news for WCU and the PASSHE system generally. Even so, it does not fully cover the projected 3.5% increase in overall expenses. This amount will likely be covered by tuition increases.

- Other good news is that PASSHE was last among state systems of higher education in its rate of tuition increases for the 2007-2008 academic year.
- There is much disgruntlement about the mandated state-wide computing system (SAP), slated to unify all fourteen universities with a single software program. (It would replace the PeopleSoft program locally employed by WCU.) The general opinion seems to be that the services being offered will be very poor given the amount of money the new system costs. Indeed, many PASSHE universities are asking for extra funding help to cover the expenses, even though they are already supposed to be sending in money to develop the software program.
- The WCU presidential search has been put on hold for this year and Dr. Linda Lamwers, currently Provost of WCU, has been asked to serve as Interim President for the 2008-2009 academic year. The search will continue next year using the same on-campus committee and a different outside search firm.
- WCU student athletes currently have a collective GPA of 3.0.
- Tanya Morgan was the WCU Faculty Senate's representative in Harrisburg at a state-wide PASSHE meeting about the new Chancellor's search. Faculty Senators from throughout the PASSHE system were asked to contribute ideas towards the writing of a job description "wishlist" for the search process. Many ideas were floated, and faculty discussed common goals and complaints. Tanya reported that the search committee hopes to limit the applicants to 3 or 4 by April or May and to pursue at that time detailed assessments of the candidates' performance in their current academic posts.
- Walt Cressler and Julian Onderdonk reported on the Sustainability Workshop that was run by Dr. Debra Rowe, of Oakland Community College (MI.) in January. This was a two-day workshop in which faculty members from across campus—especially in the sciences—considered ways better to integrate environmental issues and awareness into their curricula. Julian was the Faculty Senate's representative at the administrator's breakfast on the first day, in which Dr. Rowe clearly laid out the trend towards greenness on college campuses across the nation—in building plans/construction, food service, recycling initiatives no less than in curricular concerns.
- Eli DeHope announced plans to purchase a gift from the Faculty Senate to mark President Adler's retirement that will be given her when she visits at the March 20 meeting. Senators agreed to contribute up to \$7 each towards its purchase.
- Van Stiefel, the new chair of the elections committee, announced election plans for the Spring—a dual nomination period during which faculty should nominate themselves for At-Large and, where appropriate, College seats, followed by a two-part process in which the At-Large election will precede the College election. All nominations and elections will be done via electronic ballot, provided by APSCUF and administered by Robert Gallop of the Math-Statistics Department.
- Civility Day is scheduled for February 20. The keynote speaker will be Richard Lowe, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*.
- Senators broke into committees to work on their various projects. Individual progress reports, submitted to the recording secretary via email, include the following:
 - Student Welfare – Tanya Morgan presented to the Student Welfare and Ethics Subcommittee regarding the issue of police arresting students during WCU classes. Eli DeHope will follow up with Mike Bicking of Public Safety to determine the regulations and procedures related to such arrests. Members of the Student Welfare and Ethics Subcommittee were congratulated for their role in the development of a presentation to train members of the WCU campus community about the Threat Assistance Team. Subcommittee members decided to schedule meetings additional to those of the full Faculty Senate to continue work on other issues of responsiveness to student behavior and mental health.
 - Curriculum and Research – working on reports on multiculturalism and diversity in the classroom. Tim Brown and Tonya Thames-Taylor will speak on the multicultural faculty commission during the April session.
 - Membership and Elections – continued preparations for the Spring 2008 election (see above)

- Communications – continues to update the Faculty Senate webpage by listing all senators' committee assignments, building addresses, phones, etc. (A form requesting such information will be circulated at the March meeting.) This year's minutes will be acquired from the recording secretary and placed on line. In order to draw more attention to the senate and its activities, notification of meetings will be posted on "WCU Weekly Events" email. The notice must be sent to Pat Sheridan 1 week prior to the email.
- Faculty Welfare – no report submitted
- Ethics – no report submitted.

Meeting was adjourned by President Haggard.

Respectfully submitted by:

Julian Onderdonk
Recording Secretary
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