

West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2008/2009
February 6, 2009, Full Assembly Minutes

Members Present: *designated by an X*

Alessandria, Tina	X	Hutton, Jane	X
Azorlosa, Jay	Proxy, E. Brown	Kara, Orhan	Proxy, X. Zhu
Bean, Nadine	Proxy, E. DeHope	Li, Huimin (Amy)	Proxy, X. Zhu
Bedford, Robert	X	McVey, Randy	X
Bill, Debra	X	Means, Jennifer	X
Boyle, Michael	X	Metz, Stacie	X
Brown, Eleanor	X	Morgan, Tanya	Proxy, S. Metz
Chilcote, Kathryn	Proxy, J. Onderdonk	Norris, Bruce	X
Cooke, Lynne	X	Onderdonk, Julian	X
Cressler, Walter	X	Polk, Denise	X
Dannessa, Karen	Proxy, J. Hutton	Sandhu, Bhim	X
DeHope, Eli	X	Shivde, Geeta	X
Friedman, Jonathan	<i>Absent</i>	Smith, Paul K.	Proxy, S. Metz
Garthwait, Clayton	X	Staruch, Liz	Proxy, M.B. Gilboy
Gilboy, Mary Beth	X	Stiefel, Van	Proxy, J. Onderdonk
Haggard, Cynthia	X	Thompson, Brent	X
Halko, Gabrielle	X	Wandry, Donna	X
Hashimoto-Sinclair, Yoko	<i>Absent</i>	Winterton, Sally	Proxy, J. Means

Faculty Senate Meeting, 2/6/2009

Following an initial period of socializing, Eli DeHope, President, convened the meeting at 2:15 p.m., welcoming guests Dick Swain and Lisa Yannick from the Student Rating of Instruction Committee (SRIC). Dick and Lisa described the work of the committee thus far and responded to questions. The committee's purpose is to review the current QUIC rating system and create a new recommended instrument for student evaluation of faculty teaching. The committee collected input on QUICs and considered the collective bargaining agreement in creating the 19 rating items for SRIP, Student Rating of Instruction Program. Dick and Lisa handed out a document with the 19 questions as of January 2009. Questions were designed to address a single issue (e.g. not "are you red-haired and blue-eyed") and a Likert rating scale is used. An area is provided on the questionnaire for comments.

The SRIP was tested for validity during summer 2008 and it came out better than the existing QUIC. A modified Angoff procedure was used to set criteria using a "group of experts" chosen from a pool of 50 faculty. Roger Barth, Chair of SRIC, has the member list and questions can be directed to him. The preference is to measure against a standard, not against the faculty who are being assessed in a given semester. Final results will have 3 categories: Exceeds, Meets, Falls Below. Instructors receive a report with exact numbers; the evaluation committee report will be a summary. This is still a **test of student satisfaction**.

Next steps are: testing again in Spring 2009; review of standards after testing; SRIC makes recommendation to University administration (must also have APSCUF approval). The target rollout date is September 2009. Questions still under consideration are:

- Will QUIC and SRIP be given concurrently for a specified time?
(If not, how does that impact faculty going up for tenure?)
- What “standard” will the committee recommend? Is “Meets” good enough?

Lisa and Dick answered questions but there was limited time for discussion due to other guests. They affirmed that SRIC would be glad to respond to further specific questions – contact Roger Barth, committee chair. Senate members voiced their appreciation for the informative session and the second set of guests took center stage about 2:50 p.m.

Dr. Shirley Grace, Marion McKinney, Alexandra Nakkache, and Matt Snyder gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Student Retention at WCU: Priorities and Initiatives.” Student Success/Retention Committee members are contacting students individually to gather information on their reasons for leaving. Among these are:

- Lack of academic preparedness (prioritize, how to take tests, how to study)
- Unmet need for financial aid (new WCU housing is very expensive)
- Incompatibility with the campus climate (diversity; either accepting it or living with limitations)
- Lack of commitment to educational goals & the institution
- Lack of social and academic integration

Latino students at WCU have the lowest retention rate. A major initiative by the committee is the Early Alert Program to make repeated contact with first-year students who are failing core courses (writing, math) as well as students identified as frequently not attending or sleeping through classes. The aim is to be “intrusive but productive,” stressing the importance of **engagement**. To contact this program, use email > makethegrade.wcupa.edu, which is available as name=Student Success Project in the Global email directory. Senate members thanked the Committee for sharing information about WCU retention issues and responses.

The Senate business meeting commenced at 3:15.

- Minutes of the November 21, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.
- Cynthia Haggard reported as a member of the University Budget Committee. There is concern about the upcoming state budget and potential cuts.
 - Are there other ways for the University to increase revenue? Is increasing summer school a possibility?
 - Brandywine and Allegheny new dormitories are scheduled to open in Fall 2009; other campus building projects are on hold.
- Eli DeHope will be meeting with Dr. Lamwers and with APSCUF in the upcoming week so she will report on these at the March meeting.
- Jane Hutton will post SRIP handout and list of SRIC committee members on the Senate Blackboard site.
- March meeting guests: Dr. Darla Spence-Coffey on Middle States; Frank Hoffman on Ethnic Studies
- April meeting guest: new University president, Dr. Greg R. Weisenstein

Committee Work & Reports

- Communications: No report
- Curriculum and Research: No report
- Ethics

The Ethics committee has researched the development of the current “Faculty Responsibilities to Colleagues” document, which was approved in 1999. Since it

was based on the 1966 version of the AAUP Statement of Professional Ethics, and not the more recent 1987 version, this committee would like Senate input on whether the current document should be updated and hopes to have time on the agenda during either the March or April Senate meeting to discuss and gauge Senate preference.

- Faculty Welfare
 - The Faculty Survey was delayed due to confusion over the necessity for Human Subjects review. Those issues were resolved and the survey was sent to all faculty. Results will be collected after the closing date of March 13, 2009. Committee members will analyze the results and report their findings to the Senate at the April meeting.
- Membership & Elections: No report.
- Rules & By-Laws: No report.
- Student Welfare
 - The Student Welfare Committee continued work on issues of student emotional well being. Committee members reported on recent meetings with other members of the Campus Community who share interest in these issues. The Committee continued planning several possible programs to promote awareness of these issues on our campus. Committee members will arrange for further discussions with other interested parties between now and the next Senate meeting.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities & Sustainability
 - The Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability is primarily concerned with information sharing across campus—seeing to it that requests and inquiries about sustainability issues reach the right departments and individuals as they arise, keeping “green” issues in the forefront of administration discussion and planning, and generally encouraging the promotion of these issues across campus. In his capacity as a member of the university’s Environmental Council, Walt Cressler recently met with Dee Giardina, Executive Director, Facilities Design & Construction, about the university’s green building initiative and passed that information along to other members of the committee. Walt also serves as a member of the Strategic Planning and Resource Council, where he helps monitor the Responsiveness Transformation sub-goal on environmental sustainability. Lynne Cooke is a member of the Interim Provost's Sustainability Committee, which is currently applying for grants that would help fund a faculty-held position as a Sustainability Coordinator. Lynne also works with Facilities Director Royston Gathings and Recycling Coordinator Sandi Brown on student service learning projects. Last semester, Lynne’s students conducted research aimed at identifying barriers to student participation in WCU's recycling program; this semester, her students are developing a WCU recycling program awareness campaign. Most recently, Julian Onderdonk and Walt Cressler had meetings with Dr. Mitchell Thomashow, President of Unity College, during his recent visit to WCU as a part of the Integrating Environmental Sustainability across the Curriculum workshop, and they are active in passing along information gleaned from these meetings to WCU administrators.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Hutton
Recording Secretary
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