

West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2007/2008
April 25, 2008, Full Assembly Minutes

Members Present: *designated by an X*

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

Minutes:

- Tim Brown, of the Multicultural Faculty Commission, reported on the problems WCU and other universities in the PASSHE system are having with retention of minority faculty members. Apparently, minority faculty members score lower on the QUICS than the university average, and fewer students enroll in classes taught by minority faculty members. It is hoped that the African American Studies minor (an interdisciplinary minor housed in Liberal Studies) will help enrollments, though many of that minor's offerings are upper-level courses. The commission expressed its hope that committees within departments will be formed to help alleviate these issues not only by improving the recruitment of minority faculty members but also by expanded its course offerings to include minority and ethnic topics. Tim's presentation spurred much discussion, as senators asked questions about the impact of the Diverse Communities (J) Committee and the Department of Social Equity on these issues. Tim's response was that these entities had so far not proved as effective in remediating the situation as might be hoped.

- Dee Giardina, Executive Director of WCU Facilities Design and Construction, gave a presentation about the university's Housing Renewal Initiative—an ambitious plan to demolish six existing student dormitories and replace them with six others (yielding a total of an additional 160 beds) by Fall 2013. (Two of the buildings are to be finished by Fall 2009, two more by Fall 2011, and the last two by Fall 2013.) Because the State of Pennsylvania has decided to contribute funding only to those buildings set aside for educational use, WCU has turned to a private contractor to construct the new dorms. The Faculty Senate is concerned that this lack of State regulation (and financial pressures generally) may result in an insufficient focus on issues of environmental

sustainability in the dorms' construction. Such issues are of the moment for a number of reasons. The recent revision of the WCU Plan for Excellence includes a provision for environmental sustainability. Moreover, in December 2007, the West Chester Borough Council, advised by the Business Leaders United for Emissions Reduction (BLUER) agency, passed an ordinance requiring any new structures between 45 and 75 feet high to earn the U.S. Government's Energy Star rating.

Dee's presentation specifically addressed these concerns by pointing to environmental measures currently planned for these new buildings—provisions for green and white roofs, solar panels, recycled carpets, low-flow showerheads, stormwater management, and the widespread use of geothermal wells across campus. These environmental measures, in her view, either meet or closely approach what would be needed for an Energy Star rating. She further pointed out that the university took on these environmental measures voluntarily since there is no State mandate for sustainability, and the zoning for the buildings was legally settled before the West Chester Borough ordinance was passed. When asked why the new dorms will not meet the same standards as the LEED-certified SOMPAC building, completed in 2007 (LEED-certification is even more stringent than Energy Star), she responded that certain "green" features of SOMPAC, like the use of bamboo and recycled linoleum, are not appropriate for dormitory use.

Dee's presentation was met with general satisfaction, though some senators expressed disappointment that there is no provision for updating or improving sustainability plans as the Housing Renewal Initiative proceeds since the current plan is that the later dormitories will be built on the very same plan as the first dorms. Some senators expressed a desire to remain in touch with Dee as the process unfolds, and she graciously agreed. Many also hope that the WCU Facilities website, which currently lacks any information about the university's sustainability efforts, will begin to do so soon. Drawing high-profile attention the WCU's sustainability efforts would be beneficial to the public image of the university, and maintain its standing in the community as a leader in social awareness.

Dee also answered questions about the Undergraduate Business Center, which is planned to go in next to SOMPAC and take up some of the current parking area. Concluding her presentation, she welcomed any and all members of the university community to contact her with questions about any of the matters she discussed. Specific questions addressed to the new housing project can also be submitted by email to NewUniversityHousing@wcupa.edu.

- Following Dee Giardina's presentation, Cynthia Haggard, President of the Senate, reported on her meeting with President Adler this past week:
 - Dr. Adler was granted President Emeritus status, only the fourth time the title has been bestowed on a retiring university president in the history of PASSHE.
 - The presidential search is gearing up for a second round after the abandonment of the 2007-2008 search. Currently, the search committee is looking to hire a different outside search firm.
 - There is a new state-wide APSCUF president (Steve Hicks, from Lock Haven University's English Department)—a choice that Dr. Adler said pleased both her and Cliff Johnston, WCU APSCUF president.
 - Dr. Adler is most appreciative of the Simon Pearce glass bowl that the senate gave her as a parting gift at the March meeting of the senate.
 - The WCU baseball and lacrosse teams have enjoyed much success on the field this year. (Later in the semester, Men's Baseball lost in the regional championship game to Shippensburg, while Women's Lacrosse won the NCAA Division II championship with a victory over C.W. Post in Houston, TX.)
 - The renovation of Old Swope (to be called 25 University Avenue) continues on schedule and will open by the Fall semester 2008.
 - Dr. Adler expressed her great appreciation for the Simon Pearce glass bowl that the senate gave her as a parting gift at the March meeting of the senate.

- Cynthia followed the report of her meeting with Dr. Adler with other business and faculty concerns:
 - There appears to be some frustration among students about Financial Aid at WCU. Cynthia suggested that Dana Parker, WCU Director of Financial Aid, be invited to the senate in Fall 2008 to talk about financial aid.
 - Faculty Senate presidents throughout the PASSHE system, including Cynthia, as well as selected faculty leaders will help interview the top three candidates for the PASSHE chancellorship sometime this late spring. At this point, the collected senators undertook a brainstorming session to create a list of faculty concerns that might be posed as questions to the candidates. These included concerns about 1) the business model by which PASSHE seems increasingly to be run; 2) the balance between concepts of a unified/federated university system versus individual campus rights; 3) how low enrollment campuses will be treated; 4) whether faculty will be consulted in the future about university decisions; 5) whether the current PASSHE Performance Funding program will be retained or revised; 6) "dual enrollment" whereby high school students can get college credit for courses taught by high school teachers; 7) tuition costs for students; 8) distance education; 9) class sizes; 10) issues of privatization generally.

- Van Stiefel, chair of the membership and elections committee, reported on the recent campus-wide senate election. New members, elected for the 2008-2011 term, given here under their constituencies are:
 - Non-Classroom Faculty: Clayton Garthwait (Library Services)
 - College of Arts and Science: Geeta Shivde (Psychology)
 - At Large: Lynne Cooke (English), Mary Beth Gilboy (Health), Gabrielle Halko (English), Bruce Norris (Educational Development), Liz Staruch (Theater and Dance)

Old members, newly re-elected for the 2008-2011, term are:

- Non-Classroom Faculty: Jane Hutton (Library Services)
- Business and Public Affairs: Orhan Kara (Economics)
- At Large: Eli DeHope (Social Work); Julian Onderdonk (Music History); Paul Smith (Kinesiology)

The election for Faculty Senate Executive Committee was held. The new officers for 2008-2009 are:

- President: Eli DeHope
- Vice-President: Julian Onderdonk
- Recording Secretary: Jane Hutton
- Correspondence Secretary: Dee Bill
- At-Large members: Nadine Bean, Tanya Morgan

- The chairs of the various standing committees submitted the following year-end reports to the recording secretary:
 - Student Welfare -- Ellie Brown, chair, submitted a detailed report on the committee's findings and recommendations about issues of student behavior and mental health. The committee has researched best practices for handling these issues, discussed ways to improve West Chester University's preparedness to deal with these issues, and begun working with other groups on campus, such as the Threat Assessment Team (TAT), to improve the WCU campus' ability to respond successfully to these issues. During the next academic year, we hope to continue work to improve our campus' ability to respond successfully to these issues. For the full text of the committee's report, go to:
http://www.wcupa.edu/_facstaff/facultySenate/comm_docs.asp
 - Communications – Karen Dannessa, chair, reported on the new faculty senate webpage that was created during the 2007-2008 academic year. It was moved

from the provost's web page to its own location and now contains separate links for senate meeting minutes and committee reports, which will continue to be updated. In an effort to increase the campus visibility of faculty senate, meeting announcements are now included in the THIS WEEK AT WCU mass emails.

- Curriculum and Research – Jonathan Friedman, chair, submitted a very detailed report addressing ways of incorporating multiculturalism and diversity into the classroom. For the full text of the committee's report, go to:
http://www.wcupa.edu/_facstaff/facultySenate/comm_docs.asp
- Membership and Elections – Van Stiefel, chair, reported on the successful spring 2008 election (see above), which once again resulted in creating a full roster for the 2008-2009 academic year. After the balloting for the executive committee, he announced the results (see above).
- Faculty Welfare – no report submitted.
- Ethics – no report submitted.

Meeting was adjourned by President Haggard.

Respectfully submitted by:

Julian Onderdonk
Recording Secretary
AY 2007/2008