

**West Chester University of PA  
Faculty Senate  
2010-2011  
Friday, April 15, 2011 Full Assembly Minutes**

**Members Present: *designated by an X***

|                     |                                     |                      |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alessandria, Tina   | <i>Proxy, Tara Guerriero</i>        | Li, Huimin (Amy)     | <i>Proxy, Simon Condliffe</i> |
| Bill, Debra         | <i>Absent</i>                       | Means, Jennifer      | <i>Absent</i>                 |
| Brown, Eleanor      | <i>Proxy, Carolyn Sealfon</i>       | Metz, Stacie         | <i>X</i>                      |
| Cooke, Lynne        | <i>X</i>                            | Morgan, Tanya        | <i>X</i>                      |
| Cressler, Walter    | <i>X</i>                            | Murphy, Corinne      | <i>X</i>                      |
| DeHope, Eli         | <i>X</i>                            | Nadolny, Larysa      |                               |
| Dobrzelewski, J. C. | <i>X</i>                            | Nitica, Viorel       | <i>X</i>                      |
| Garthwait, Clayton  | <i>Proxy, Walt Cressler</i>         | Norris, Bruce        | <i>Proxy, Tom Seifried</i>    |
| Ghetie, Dora        | <i>Absent</i>                       | Onderdonk, Julian    | <i>X</i>                      |
| Gilboy, Mary Beth   | <i>Absent</i>                       | Pierlott, Matthew    | <i>Proxy, Cassie Striblen</i> |
| Haggard, Cynthia    | <i>X</i>                            | Sanz-Sanchez, Israel | <i>Proxy, Cate Crosby</i>     |
| Halko, Gabrielle    |                                     | Sharpe, Heather      | <i>X</i>                      |
| Heinerichs, Scott   | <i>X</i>                            | Shivde, Geeta        | <i>X</i>                      |
| Hutton, Jane        | <i>X</i>                            | Smith, Paul K.       | <i>Proxy, Stacie Metz</i>     |
| Kara, Orhan         | <i>Absent</i>                       | Staruch, Liz         | <i>X</i>                      |
| Kelly, Leonard      | <i>X</i>                            | Stiefel, Van         | <i>X</i>                      |
| Lawton, Bessie Lee  | <i>Proxy, Walt Cressler</i>         | Verden, Claire       | <i>X</i>                      |
| Leonard, Robin      |                                     | Winterton, Sally     | <i>X</i>                      |
|                     | <b>Mark Cerofeci, Student Gov't</b> |                      | <i>Absent</i>                 |

## Welcome and Introduction of Proxies

- Senate President Julian Onderdonk welcomed all in attendance and introduced proxies. Also in attendance was Kurt Kolasinski (Chemistry), a newly elected member whose tenure begins in Fall 2011, and Francis Atuahene (Education).

## Remarks by: Greg R. Weisenstein, President, West Chester University

### *Budget*

- Assumptions have been made because of the 1 ½ - 2 months of unknowns

- Letter written to the *Quad* to correct misinformation regarding the Governor's proposal
- Participation expected to reduce deficit, but didn't realize the magnitude
- Amount received from the Commonwealth has been decreasing over the past 20 years
- This year, 29% of our budget came from the Commonwealth
- Worst case scenario (15 million dollars which would be 50% of the 29% received from the Commonwealth)
- President Weisenstein spent four days in Harrisburg and participated in Advocacy Day for PASSHE with students. Students told the story of the public universities and the return on investment. They received good talking points and embellished with their own personal experiences.
- Everyone in Harrisburg thought the reduction figure would be lower, not 50%, but for the purpose of planning identified as 25% cut with 9% tuition increase. If cuts are reduced, the tuition increase would be more of what it has been in the past (4 or 5%)

### **Planning**

- Established some principles around the things we need to protect (Mission, Core Values, and people to the extent that it can be done)
- Some criteria have been established. First set of criteria reaches across campus; second set aligns with the first that each of the divisions are establishing because their contributions are very different
- Academic Affairs cuts are too high because the cuts as is will reduce opportunity to educate. Because of this, divisions have been asked to contribute 25%.
- Financial Stabilization fund – has taken rollovers back into a central fund that can be drawn upon. The cuts have been flat lined for the next 4 yrs, so can't draw upon all of these now. WCU is in good shape because of very good management in the past. Using part of the Stabilization fund this year will allow maintenance of what is being done and minimal reduction in faculty. Even though we know we are not going to be at that level in Academic Affairs, it's important for other divisions to know what they are buying back.
- Although WCU is in pretty decent shape, it will be a real adjustment. It's important not only to work on the cost side but also on the revenue side. Talking about entrepreneurial opportunities, distance ed., extending programs to other locations, using additional capacity in back office services and charging for them (i.e., accounting), in addition to increasing grant and contact activities to offset state funding.
- Possibly looking at other types of staffing configurations and working with union (they are in-line with this). Collective bargaining is up for renewal including APSCUF.

## ***Strategic Investments***

- Two positions – Vice Assistant Provost for International Affairs and Vice President for Distance Education. Distance Education plays into distribution of PASSHE monies (4.5 million from Distance Ed last year).
- International programs have the same kind of benefit and help students become global citizens
- Weekend programs have been discussed. Students could commute every other Sat and Sun to earn a degree
- CBA drives a lot of incentives and APSCUF has been engaged in conversations
- Also working on statute and regulatory relief. A lot of rules and regulations are artifacts that were passed years ago, for different reasons. There are things that should be changed and work is being done with the state delegation. Fifteen barriers and solutions have been identified and shared broadly. State delegation is working up resolutions to address this.
- For more information on the budget, please visit <http://wcupa.edu/president/messages/>

## ***Middle States***

- Final report was received and it was extremely positive
- Undergraduate Social Work received a wonderful accreditation review at the same time
- WCU should be very proud
- Moving forward with strategic planning which was placed on hold in the past because of the Middle States review
- Also, looking at another Institutional Finance Committee that will be very similar to the one established in the past

## **Remarks by: Mr. Eli Silberman, Council of Trustees and Senate Liaison**

- Mr. Silberman's background:
  - Spent 14 years with one of the largest advertising firms in NY and owned a company in Philadelphia for 20 yrs.
  - Became a WCU Board of Trustee about 3 years ago
- Participated on many boards, both for profit and not-for-profit
- WCU Council of Trustees is comprised of very well established individuals (10 members plus a student representative). Council predates PASSHE, so there is a lot of history
- Council does many things:
  - Presidential hire is subject to their approval
  - Approves the budget
  - Approves all capital expenditures
  - Sets naming policy of buildings which can become complex at times
  - Approves strategic plan
  - Approves student fees

- Approves curricula and new academic programs but doesn't have rule on day-to-day decisions, more at a policy level
- No involvement in collective bargaining
- Does not depart from mission of the school
- One meeting a month, very strict agenda, very harmonious board, everyone courteous to everyone else
- Faculty was asked what they were proud of and not so proud of and reported:
  - Pro:
    - Students, what they do and who they are
    - Students are wonderful and their careers can be followed in relatively small classes
    - People that we work with; collegiality of our colleagues
    - Client based projects allow professors to produce reports that are taken seriously and provide information that is used
    - Relationship with the town of West Chester and surrounding area is good. President Weisenstein is the first president to attend a town council meeting.
  - Con:
    - Workload – tough to do research because of it

## Discussion of Senate Communications to Outside Parties

- CBA protest to Wisconsin and Ohio legislators (report)
  - A letter from the WCU Senate was sent to 35 House and Senate leaders in the Ohio and Wisconsin legislatures expressing the Senate's solidarity with public service employees in those states, where State administration is pushing to revoke collective bargaining rights. The Senate approved the drafting of the letter, which was undertaken by Julian Onderdonk (Senate President) and Bessie Lawton (Communications), at the March 3, 2010 meeting and later voted electronically on the finished document during Spring Break. The vote was unanimous, though not all Senators replied to the email request to vote.
- PA budget protest
  - President Weisenstein mentioned that the State legislature in Harrisburg is viewing PASSHE more favorable because of PASSHE's efforts to make its case to legislators.
  - Nonetheless, the Senate agrees that a letter is in order. Julian spoke to local APSCUF, who suggested a two-pronged attack: 1) an open letter to WCU and the local community and 2) a letter to PA legislators, possible from all PASHHE Senates.
  - All Senators present agreed to the two-pronged approach.
  - Logistics:
    - The letter might be published in the student newspaper (Geeta Shivde, Psychology, will look into the student paper deadline). **It** might also be entered into the SGA minutes (Mark Cerofeci, SGA

representative to the Senate, will be contacted about it). WCU parents might also be sent the letter.

- There were some concerns that carrying out these logistics as well as sending drafts of the document via WCU email might compromise specific faculty members because, as public employees, our emails might be available to public scrutiny. Julian spoke to local APSCUF who felt the Senate would be protected because Senate is an official WCU body.
- Letter content:
  - A draft was presented and discussed. Most felt that the general thrust of letter was even handed, and in general everyone liked what was there. Julian asked for that specific suggestions or edits to be forwarded to him through email.

## **Additional Business**

- Subcommittees were asked to forward their reports to Tanya Morgan for recording in the absence of Ellie Brown, the current Recording Secretary.
- Reports on Administrative Search Committees:
  - The search for Associate VP for Academic Administration was cancelled by the Provost because of budgetary constraints
  - The search for the Executive Director of Distance Education has gone forward—recommendations to the President are being delivered today.
  - The search for Director of Social Equity has received many applications. We began reviewing applications in January and used the results of an approved rating system to narrow the pool available at that time to four candidates to interview by telephone and then three to bring to campus for in person interviews. We interviewed two of these three candidates and the third candidate withdrew from the search at the last minute for personal reasons. Angela Howard, who is the acting Director of Social Equity for this search (because interim Director Barbara Schneller is a candidate), expressed concern with the lack of diversity in the interview pool and did not approve the committee to move forward with a recommendation to President Weisenstein based on the two candidates who completed on campus interviews. Thus, the committee is now reviewing applications that have been submitted since our initial review to determine if further candidates from this pool should be invited to campus for interviews. Depending on the outcome of the current review, we will either bring further candidates to campus as soon as possible, re-advertise for the position, or declare a failed search, with the assumption that a new committee and process will be convened next year.
- Strategic Planning Committee Report (Eli DeHope):
  - The Strategic Planning Committee has formed and began in earnest immediately after the Middle States visit in March. We are currently in the midst of collecting data on what is and what is projected into the future

both nationally and specific to WCU. The Committee has broken into sub-committees, each devoted to tackling different issues pertaining to the whole. (Eli, for example, belongs to the Social Cultural sub-committee, which is examining items that impact student learning, relationships on campus and campus culture in general—i.e. mental health, art, sports, diversity, etc. The subcommittees are working through the summer in hopes to complete their work by the fall semester.

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- March Minutes:
  - Motion to approve and seconded.
  - Minutes approved.
- Elections:
  - Newly-elected and Re-elected Senators commencing a three-year term are:
    - CAS: Geeta Shivde (Psychology)
    - CBPA: Orhan Kara (Economics and Finance)
    - Non-Classroom Faculty: Gerardina L. Kenney (Learning Assistance and Resource Center)
    - At-Large: Julian Onderdonk (Music History and Literature), Lynne Cooke (English), Eli DeHope (Undergraduate Social Work), Kurt Kolasinski (Chemistry), Heather Schugar (Literacy), Elizabeth Staruch (Theatre and Dance), Mary Beth Gilboy (Health), Paul Smith (Kinesiology)
  - Senators leaving the assembly after their three-year term are: Clayton Garthwait (Library), Gabrielle Halko (English), Jane Hutton (Library), and Bruce Norris (Prof. Studies).
  - Executive Committee Election:
    - The winners of the Executive Committee election are: Julian Onderdonk (President), Ellie Brown (Vice-President), Tanya Morgan (Recording Secretary), Van Stiefel (Corresponding Secretary), Geeta Shivde (At-Large member) and Tina Alessandria (At-Large member).
    - Jane Hutton (current Vice-President) is stepping down and her contributions to Faculty Senate will be missed.

## **Committee Work & Reports**

- End-of-year reports are attached and are posted under “Documents” on the Senate website. They include:
  - Communications Committee: “2010-2011 Report,” submitted by Lynne Cooke (English), Chair
  - Membership & By-Laws Committee, “2010-2011Report,” submitted by Van Stiefel (Music Theory and Composition), Chair
  - Student Welfare Committee: “2010-2011Report,” submitted by Ellie Brown (Psychology), Chair

- Faculty Welfare & Ethics Committee: “2010-2011Report,” submitted by Robin Leonard (Health) and Gabrielle Halko (English), Co-Chairs
- Facilities and Sustainability (Ad Hoc): “2010-2011Report,” submitted by Heather Sharpe (Art), Chair
- “Campus Climate Reports,” submitted by 10 Senator Liaisons to various campus committees

Respectfully submitted,  
Tanya Morgan,  
Corresponding Secretary, Executive Committee  
AY 2010/2011