

West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2007/2008
September 21, 2007, Full Assembly Minutes

Members Present: *designated by an X*

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

Minutes:

- After a year meeting in the basement of Philips Hall, the senate is grateful to be meeting again in the 6th floor of the FHG Library.
- The Minutes from the April 20, 2007 faculty senate meeting were approved with minor revisions.
- Cynthia Haggard provided the "President's Report." She met with President Adler this week.
 - The physical plant of the University's older buildings continues to be a concern.
 - "Officer Piper," a drug-sniffing black Labrador retriever, has been employed on campus with positive results.
 - The plan for constructing new dorms on campus proceeds slower than desired. The proposed new parking garage on the corner of Nields and New Street is being fiercely resisted by neighboring home owners.
 - WCU sports teams continue to do well. The Women's Rugby team recently won the NCAA Women's Rugby championship.
 - The presidential Search committee has been announced. (Dr. Adler is retiring effective the end of the 2007-8 academic year.) Haggard read out the full membership of the committee. The faculty senate executive committee will be meeting on October 2 with R.H. Perry and Associates to express any concerns. Perry and Associates is the firm hired to craft the position description/announcement, headhunt and screen possible presidential candidates.
 - The opportunities for international study abroad directly sponsored by WCU programs continue to grow.

- A number of WCU academic departments are undergoing accreditation reviews this year—Computer Science, Theater and the School of Music. The ever-growing requirements of Middle States Accreditation is making the collection of data an almost full-time occupation.
 - The WCU community continues to have close contact and communication with the area's legislators, specifically Barbara McIlvaine Smith and Duane Milne.
- Eli DeHope, faculty representative to the Emergency Communications Committee, formed in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings of last April, reported on strategies the University is considering to prevent a similar incident on this campus.
 - One possibility is the reactivation of a campus speaker system for urgent announcements. Another is a text-messaging mechanism to convey urgent information to university members. A third is emergency boxes with a flash signal.
 - Eli expressed concern about the effectiveness of WCU's counseling services to meet student needs, either in helping to prevent such an incident or in treating students in the wake of one. A paradoxical concern, raised by a number of Senators, is how to counter student anxiety that such preparedness might trigger. Tina Alessandria suggested that these concerns be referred to the Student Welfare Committee of the Senate. Brent Thompson reminded the group that individual faculty members with strategic ideas for public safety might consider the president's Initiative Grants in realizing their ideas.
- Senators broke into brainstorming groups to compile a list of ideas and concerns that might be used in advertising and interviewing for the presidential search. The faculty senate executive committee has compiled a list taken from the brainstorming session that they will present in their meeting with the Perry Company on 2 October. Concerns, tabulated by President Haggard, and presented to the Perry Company include:
 - Diversity issues: women's studies/women faculty, LBTG faculty, recruit and retain both faculty and students (race, ethnicity, gender, Sexual identity, spirituality, political persuasion) underrepresented and marginalized groups
 - Inclusivity: building a culture of inclusivity
 - Facilities: ex. South campus, space for faculty, maintenance
 - Resource Management: Fund raiser/fiscal manager
 - Academic year model: meeting quotas/maintaining quality (workloads increase – nothing has been reduced)
 - Distributed leadership – continue?
 - Teacher/Scholar Model?
 - Advocate for faculty- responsive to faculty
 - The need to address the rising severity of student mental health issues
 - Support student affairs in general
 - Equitable decisions regarding new faculty lines and expedited process
 - Fostering and maintaining community relations
 - Understanding of how a university functions under a Collective Bargaining Agreement
 - Experience in leadership in a similar academic setting
 - Experience with a statewide political system
 - Demonstrated commitment to Public Higher Education
 - Support the Arts
 - Academic classroom teaching
 - Support faculty scholarship
 - More emphasis on international opportunities for students, faculty, administrators
 - Alternative learning opportunities: mobile classrooms
 - Support for existing programs, such as Holocaust Studies, Conflict Studies, new accreditations, new buildings
 - More transparency in communications: eg. PEL grants, programs, initiatives, crime alerts
 - Knowledge of technology
 - Role in tenure and promotion - ability to override TEP recommendation – what is the criteria?

- Faculty Development Funds –
 - Entrepreneurial Effort – Faculty driven? How will funds be generated? Will faculty have to demonstrate their “asset” to the university?
 - Summer school reconstruction
- The final part of the meeting was devoted to committee work. Cynthia described the work of each committee for the benefit of new members, and senators sorted themselves into the committees that interested them. At the end of the session, each committee chair reported briefly on its AY2007-8 goals.
 - Faculty Welfare (Brent Thompson chair; Sally Winterton, Jennifer Means, Bhim Sandhu, Dee Bill, Cynthia Haggard) – issues of facilities and campus physical plant; first step is to collect data about existing problems by contacting faculty
 - Student Welfare (Ellie Brown chair, Eli DeHope, Denise Polk, Tina Alessandria, Nadine Bean, Dean Williams, Stephen Marvin) – issues of campus security, student outreach and counseling services.
 - Communications (Karen Danessa, chair, Jane Hutton, Huimin Li, Randy McVey, Tonya Thames Taylor) – improvements in campus communication, specifically how to alert the rest of the campus to faculty senate issues.
 - Curriculum and Research (Jonathan Friedman chair, Peter Zimmer, Lauri Hyers, Stacie Metz, Mike Boyle, Walt Cressler) – continued examination of the Teacher/Scholar model and its various applications.
 - Ethics (chair?, Robert Bedford, Kathryn Chilcote, Donna Wandry, Tanya Morgan) – examination of faculty senate policies and their ethical implications.
 - Membership and Elections (Van Stiefel chair, Julian Onderdonk) – running of membership and executive committee elections; revision of faculty senate bylaws

Meeting was adjourned by President Haggard.

Respectfully submitted by:

Julian Onderdonk
Recording Secretary
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