

**West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2009/2010
October 15, 2009 Full Assembly Minutes**

Members Present: *designated by an X*

Alessandria, Tina	<i>Proxy, Ellie Brown</i>	Kelly, Leonard	<i>X</i>
Bean, Nadine	<i>X</i>	Leonard, Robin	<i>Proxy, S. Heinerichs</i>
Bill, Debra	<i>Proxy, J. Hutton</i>	Li, Amy	<i>Proxy, O. Kara</i>
Boyle, Michael	<i>X</i>	Means, Jennifer	<i>Proxy, S. Heinerichs</i>
Brown, Eleanor	<i>X</i>	Metz, Stacie	<i>Absent</i>
Chilcote, Kathryn	<i>Proxy, J. Onderdonk</i>	Morgan, Tanya	<i>Absent</i>
Cooke, Lynne	<i>X</i>	Murphy, Corinne	<i>Proxy, C. Verden</i>
Cressler, Walter	<i>Proxy, J. Hutton</i>	Norris, Bruce	<i>Proxy, S. Heinerichs</i>
DeHope, Eli	<i>X</i>	Onderdonk, Julian	<i>X</i>
Dobrzelewski, J. C.	<i>X</i>	Polk, Denise	<i>X</i>
Garthwait, Clayton	<i>Proxy, J. Hutton</i>	Sharpe, Heather	<i>X</i>
Ghetie, Dora	<i>X</i>	Shivde, Geeta	<i>X</i>
Gilboy, Mary Beth	<i>Proxy, S. Heinerichs</i>	Smith, Paul K.	<i>Absent</i>
Haggard, Cynthia	<i>X</i>	Staruch, Liz	<i>X</i>
Halko, Gabrielle	<i>X</i>	Stiefel, Van	<i>Absent</i>
Heinerichs, Scott	<i>X</i>	Verden, Claire	<i>X</i>
Hutton, Jane	<i>X</i>	Wandry, Donna	<i>X</i>
Kara, Orhan	<i>X</i>	Winterton, Sally	<i>Absent</i>
	Richardson, Shayna, Student Gov't		<i>Absent</i>

Faculty Senate Meeting, Thursday 10/15/2009

Dr. Linda Lamwers, Provost, was our guest, presenting an informal update on current activities in the University, particularly related to academic affairs.

- University-wide task forces have been formed, basically in response to the President's Idea Box. These are:
 1. Internationalization
 2. Differential graduate tuition
 3. Winter Session Option (travel, courses, intensive courses: impact on faculty pay & financial aid)
 4. Grandparent University (non-credit; potential use of new dorms in the summer, with classroom on the ground levels)
 5. Distance Education
 6. Academic Year Model
 7. Facilities (how to engage faculty in identifying space issues; may use an open forum; where are we now & where do we think our needs will be in a 10-year plan)

The work of these groups will be integrated with the Middle States review process to help inform a new University strategic plan.

- Budget. The delayed passing of the State Budget created difficulties for the University in determining available funding. As of October 14, additional information on state appropriation had been received and it appears that the lower appropriation will be filled by Federal Stimulus funds (directed by the State). These stimulus dollars will be given over 2 years, with 2010-2011 funds to be used only for one-time purchases. Potentially there will be a “cliff” in July 2012 of significant funding shortfalls.
 1. WCU planned to admit 200 students in fall 2009 for a \$600-650,000 increase but we actually admitted 600 students more than last year. Additional credit \$ will be apportioned to the academic departments as one-time funds. “Maximum” no. of students admitted is also limited by dorm rooms, parking, classroom space. Dorm room and classroom space could be eliminated by providing more distance education courses; graduate programs.
 2. About 1/3 of students receive PHEAA grants; WCU dispersed aid to these students based on expected PHEAA payments & will recoup now that the state budget has passed.
 3. Tenure-track positions: about 20 that had been “held back” have been released.
 4. Retrenchment of faculty positions across PASSHE may happen. As programs are cut at other universities, those faculty may have “first rights” for new positions at sister institutions.
- Distance education: In Dr. Lamwers’ view it should be done programmatically rather than on a course-by-course basis to assure equal quality (it’s not for all students & not for all instructors). Need to ensure that infrastructure is in place as well as appropriate faculty evaluation.
- Tenure & promotion policy is up for review. Cliff Johnston of APSCUF & Dr. Lamwers work on this; then it goes to delegates, local, state before approval is finalized. They are considering how to collect input. One issue: the statement of expectations and teacher/scholar models are valuable to Provost but other people don’t like these & would like to rely on the CBA.
- A PASSHE group is looking at possible PhD. programs system-wide (currently only IUP is legislatively authorized to award doctorates). Many types of analyses would also have to be done at this institution: financially feasible; academic dept. support; etc. Dr. Lamwers stated that we would not want to sacrifice our quality reputation.

The Minutes of the September meeting were approved with corrections.

President of Faculty Senate Report: Eli DeHope reported on her meeting with President Weisenstein

- Board of Trustees link with Faculty Senate – still unknown.
- Senate President has been invited to attend monthly meetings with Weisenstein and also (separately) with Dr. Lamwers. May also invite other executive committee members.

Further discussion:

- What does Senate do that’s solely communication vs. collecting input/advocate for faculty concerns?
- Feedback from informal questions via email to faculty (600 permanent tenured/tenure-track) in September re: role of Faculty Senate
 - “This is great; thanks for asking”
 - “Be a stronger advocate on campus”
 - “Get involved in the Academic Year Model discussion”

- “Create a way to gain routine input between Senate & President”
- “Can non-Senators attend meetings?”
- Other ideas
 - Do something for adjuncts. Faculty mentoring program is also talking about this.
 - APSCUF-Senate: some areas very CBA-driven; some areas overlap; some areas are not-CBA & thus Senate could take them.
 - Example: Senate faculty survey from last year.
 - Example: class size debates (though this is already APSCUF material)
 - Example: campus safety (not covered by CBA, for example)
 - Example: Mental Health issues
 - “quality of life” (general blanket agenda)
 - Make sure that Senate info gets circulated to faculty at large (via Communications Committee).
 - Make sure that any shorthand used in Senate meetings be explained- e.g. What IS “Brent’s survey”? (Since Senate is to be the liaison with the rest of the faculty, we should make sure that the new senators understand the discussion.)
 - Senators could ask their constituency what Senate can do for them (this might be more effective than sending out blanket emails from Eli.)
- Discussion of revised mission statement:

The mission of the Faculty Senate at West Chester University is to ensure classroom and non-classroom faculty involvement in the shared governance of the institution. A forum for advocating and evaluating institutional policy and related matters affecting the welfare of the University, the Faculty Senate is committed to preserving a proper academic climate for the benefit, growth, and development of faculty and students.

- Suggestion of ideas missing in mission statement
 - Something about diversity (Nadine Bean)
 - “advocating institutional policy” – what does that mean? Making recommendations? (Donna Wandry) Maybe change to “evaluating and influencing”? (more direct)
 - Omit “related”
 - Omit “proper”
 - Turn the second sentence into two sentences.
 - Maybe incorporate some of the language from Faculty Mentoring Program mission:

The Mission of the West Chester University FMC: To foster mentoring relationships among faculty in order to enhance lifelong professional development in teaching, scholarship, and service. The mentoring relationships will support collegiality, effective communication, self-evaluation, and cultural competence, all of which enhance a stimulating and supportive university environment that is responsive to our increasingly diverse, global, and technological society.

- There is more to do on this. Please send to Eli and she’ll work on it for next time.
- Next meeting:
 - Approve mission statement
 - Review list of committees/groups that senators are currently on (already compiled and submitted today) and how that would work towards our new goals.
 - Jim Trotman will attend to discuss the Frederick Douglass Institute.

- Committee Reports
 - Communications Committee: compiled descriptions of mission statements and Senate constitutions from nine other PASSHE universities. These have been forwarded to Eli.
 - Student Welfare Committee: will be piloting a training program.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Hutton
Recording Secretary
AY 2009/2010