

**West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2008/2009
November 21, 2008, Full Assembly Minutes**

Members Present: *designated by an X*

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Alessandria, Tina | X | Hutton, Jane | X |
| Azorlosa, Jay | <i>Absent</i> | Kara, Orhan | Proxy, H. Li |
| Bean, Nadine | X | Li, Huimin (Amy) | Proxy, O. Kara |
| Bedford, Robert | <i>Absent</i> | McVey, Randy | Proxy, B. Sandhu |
| Bill, Debra | X | Means, Jennifer | <i>Absent</i> |
| Boyle, Michael | X | Metz, Stacie | X |
| Brown, Eleanor | Proxy, N. Bean | Morgan, Tanya | X |
| Chilcote, Kathryn | X | Norris, Bruce | <i>Absent</i> |
| Cooke, Lynne | X | Onderdonk, Julian | X |
| Cressler, Walter | X | Polk, Denise | <i>Absent</i> |
| Dannessa, Karen | X | Sandhu, Bhim | X |
| DeHope, Eli | <i>On leave, fall 2008</i> | Shivde, Geeta | X |
| Friedman, Jonathan | Proxy, J. Onderdonk | Smith, Paul K. | Proxy, D. Bill |
| Garthwait, Clayton | X | Staruch, Liz | X |
| Gilboy, Mary Beth | X | Stiefel, Van | X |
| Haggard, Cynthia | X | Thompson, Brent | X |
| Halko, Gabrielle | X | Wandry, Donna | X |
| Hashimoto-Sinclair, Yoko | <i>Absent</i> | Winterton, Sally | X |

Faculty Senate Meeting, 11/21/08

Following an initial period of socializing, Julian Onderdonk, Vice-President, convened the meeting at 2:15 p.m., welcoming Dr. Linda Lamwers, Acting University President. Dr. Lamwers spoke about current University issues and responded to questions until approximately 3:00 p.m. Discussion points included:

- PASSHE has asked each University to set aside 4.25% of appropriations
 - Will be taken out of end-of-year funds sent to WCU by PASSHE
 - Action plan:
 - fall enrollment is up so tuition is up
 - ½ of the 4.25% will come from increased tuition (If spring stays same as fall) plus some reserves;
 - The other ½ (\$1.2 million) out of departmental budgets, proportionate to their budgets
 - No freezing of positions at this point, but...
- Chancellor, as of 11/21, is requesting university plans to cut another 3%
- Meanwhile there is less philanthropy due to the economic downturn. Additionally major donors are less likely to give when there is a transition in the University presidency.

- WCU has a tradition of being able to meet challenges and Lamwers is confident that will continue.
- There is a “pin” in the housing renewal project. The two under construction will open but Phase 2 is on hold. May be able to proceed with Student Rec Center (knock down Ramsey) but likely to delay other renovations.
- What can faculty do?
 - Be conservative with spending funds
 - Student retention helps. (University budget has \$2 in tuition for every \$1 in state aid)
 - Pursue external funding opportunities
- Lamwers continues to be impressed with the Chancellor, who conveys interest in the universities improving themselves; he is not a micromanager. Performance funding model may change; may be able to measure individual University performance against prior performance.
- WCU Presidential Search timeline: Last candidate on Dec. 2; committee recommends 3; then goes forward from the WCU Council of Trustees. The PASSHE Board of Governors meets on Dec. 10th & will interview. Their committee makes final choice.
- Kiplinger’s Finance magazine: WCU moved up 40 places, from 93 to 53th and won the “Most Improved” award. Rating improvement was due to increased graduation rates & increased financial aid for high-need students. Rating is also partially based on giving rates of alumni –faculty may be able to help with this – even if an alumnus gives a little it counts.
- Tanglewood is undergoing renovation with funds from the Board of Governors. Roof replaced, electric upgraded, 1st floor kitchen expanded to accommodate catering, small 2nd floor kitchen for the resident family, painting, wireless service; will add geothermal heating/cooling w/zoning (had one thermostat).
- Question re: solar panels. Experience with geothermal on South campus has paid back in less than 8 yrs. Governor has funds for alternative energy & plan is to have entire campus connected with geothermal & take down the power plant. (Currently burn a lot of coal w/oil backup.)
- Question: Will we get more applications due to economic downturn? Yes, we expect so... points out the admissions process is not a science (this year we had an unexpected 5% increase in transfer students). Retention has gone down slightly this fall – why? (financial?)
- Question: How are PHEAA problems affecting availability of financial aid? Less money available because PHEAA made some bad investment choices; doesn’t seem to have had a strong effect on this fall’s students.
- Question: If student enrollment is increasing, how do we reconcile this with the recognized importance of reasonable class size? We normally admit 450-500 transfer slots for spring semester but have decreased slots for them due to higher fall enrollment. There IS a University enrollment plan but there will be some pressures if the economic downturn continues – either class sizes or availability of alternate schedules. May need to look closer at what we do – will be a joint process (e.g. a couple of years ago, met with Deans to find out how to do it. Doesn’t intend to cut classes just because they are small.)
- Question: How can the University help parents & students continue financial aid? Financial aid office does well. But there always seems to be tension for students re: financial payment schedule.

- Question: Can the bus schedule between South & Main Campus be improved? Students are often late to class with reliance on bus. Could street be widened to facilitate turns & traffic flow?
- Question: Senate Student Welfare Committee is looking at increase of students with mental health issues. Does Lamwers wish to be kept informed? Lamwers: Please bring to Cabinet/Provost.
- Question: No Smoking on campus: is it official? Is it enforced? President's Cabinet will be discussing WCU response on Monday.

There was discussion of course registration and how students are prioritized to register for classes.

Announcements

- Council of Chairs (Mark Gagner) will convene a meeting on Dec. 1, 3:15 p.m. in Boucher 113 to discuss University Presidential candidates.
- Report from Cynthia Haggard as member of University Budget committee
 - She shared report of facts & figures from summer school. Summer school funds come back to the departments.
 - Facilities plans are changing in response to economic conditions.
 - A major announcement of a big donor may be forthcoming by the end of the year.
 - Campaign for Excellence has been extended– didn't get target funds for undergraduate business center so it is probably on hold for a while.
 - Will be looking at University graphics & printing operations; University website.
 - Exploring idea of leasing land @ Cheyney for faculty apartments.
 - One person in every College is working with Development.
- SRIPs – The Student Rating of Instruction Committee (SRIC) is looking for volunteers to pilot this new assessment in place of QUICs. A few faculty who have reviewed them think the revision is not much different; concern with whether they test appropriate measures. Shayna Richardson, the Faculty Relations Senator from Student Government, reminded us that students may not know what the purpose is or take them seriously. Perhaps someone from SRIC should be invited to Senate.

Minutes of the October Faculty Senate meeting were approved as submitted.

Committee Work & Reports

- Communications
 - We would send a request to Provost Office to send emails to all faculty a brief summary of minutes from the Nov. 21 meeting, also including committees, members list, and website.
 - We are also looking at the possibility to conduct a survey to investigate the role of Faculty Senates at different PASSHE system schools. One purpose of this survey is to investigate senators' perception of Faculty Senate's role and its relationship with other entities such as APSCUF. We also want to find out how other faculty senates communicate with their faculty. From this survey, we hope to improve Faculty Senate's role in policy making.
- Curriculum and Research: No report

- Ethics
 - The committee met between the October and November meeting. We are examining the university civility statement, determining whether it might be beneficial to seek a formal system of noting incidents among faculty and/or students, and if so, whether such a system would fall under the purview of the Faculty Senate in collaboration with the Social Equity office or not.
- Faculty Welfare
 1. Faculty Welfare approved the Faculty Survey. We will send it on to Rebecca Hook for distribution to All Faculty the first week of December. Survey will close the last week of January 2009.
 2. We will seek a report to the Senate from Institutional Research on the new faculty evaluation tool. We would like to know how to address issues for faculty who will have old and new tool data in their promotion and tenure packages. We also seek information about how group data may change with the new tool.
 3. We have questions about the Highmark Health U program. How is the data being used by Highmark? What are the consequences of failure to achieve goals? We will seek someone to address these concerns.
- Membership & Elections: No report.
- Rules & By-Laws: No report.
- Student Welfare
 - The Student Welfare Committee continues its efforts to address issues of student behavior and mental health. In particular, the Committee is focusing its present efforts on developing trainings for members of the campus community regarding issues of student behavior and mental health. Since the last Senate Meeting, Committee Chair, Ellie Brown, has continued the collaboration with the Threat Assessment Team Training Committee, and has met with representatives from the Health Center, Counseling Center, OSSD, and Ad Hoc Mental Health Awareness Committee to promote communication among groups seeking to address similar issues. The Committee will meet by conference call in December and in person at the end of January to continue developing a plan for mental health trainings.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities & Sustainability:
 - Lynne Cooke updated the committee on the student project in her Business and Organizational Writing class.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jane Hutton
 Recording Secretary
 AY 2008/2009