

**West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2009/2010
November 20, 2009 Full Assembly Minutes**

Members Present: *designated by an X*

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

Faculty Senate Meeting, Friday 11/20/2009

Dr. Jim Trotman, founder and director of The Frederick Douglass Institute (FDI), and Dr. Tim Brown were our guests. Dr. Trotman gave a short talk on the significance of Frederick Douglass and the activities of the FDI.

Frederick Douglass reflects the American experience through:

- o His work as an orator
- o His work as a writer ("My bondage & my freedom"; "The life and times of Frederick Douglass"); how he illustrates 19th century life
- o His defense of women's rights (presence at Seneca Falls)
- o His work as a journalist (1847, he began newspaper "The North Star" which gave him a voice from the viewpoint of an ex-slave & his commentary on various reform movements)
- o His service as Ambassador to Haiti & the Dominican Republic

What is Frederick Douglass' relationship with WCU?

- o He gave his last public lecture here, 19 days before he died, at the insistence of George Morris Philips
- o He appeared here repeatedly during his life because the abolitionist community was supportive (see campus Pennsylvania Historical Marker)

Frederick Douglass also had relationships with famous contemporaries: Abraham Lincoln, abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison (whom Douglass split with because he saw his view as too limiting), and in Europe (Scotch, Irish) and West Indian countries where there were struggles for equality.

Activities of the FDI:

- Faculty involvement: “interdisciplinary, interactive, interagency, interracial”
 - Annual Scholarship Dinner
 - Douglass Scholars: summer and fall
 - PASSHE-wide: “The Frederick Douglass Institutes of PASSHE” as of August 1999
 - Work with Women’s Studies for Seneca Falls program

The year 2010 is the 165th anniversary of the *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave* and the 140th anniversary of his newspaper the *New National Era*. The FDI will be spearheading celebrations, among them:

- February 18: Panel Discussion in Sykes on “Journalism & Race” – “New National Era”
- March 30: Annual Scholarship Dinner, in conjunction with Teacher Education Day

Dr. Trotman answered questions from the floor and following an expression of appreciation to Dr. Trotman for his fine presentation, the Senate commenced its business meeting.

- Minutes of the October 15, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting were approved as amended.
- General Announcements: members announced upcoming events in music and dance, and revisions forthcoming from the Evaluation Promotion and Tenure Committee.
- Update on meeting with President Weisenstein: Eli DeHope, Julian Onderdonk
 - The idea of campus leaders meeting (including Senate officer) regularly with President Weisenstein is being discussed.
 - They are also exploring opportunities for Senate representation on University task forces and committees.
 - From the floor, these ideas were proposed as focal points for participation:
 - i. “quality of life” at WCU
 - ii. University strategic planning
- Eli DeHope had sent a post-meeting email following our October meeting to all-faculty regarding Senate activities. Responses were positive; Senate agreed that these emails should be continued.
- Revision of the Senate mission statement
The revised statement includes some language, such as “proper academic climate,” taken directly from the APSCUF Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article 4, Section B. After intensive discussion on optimal wording, the mission statement below was approved.

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 fostering a proper academic climate for the benefit, growth, and development of faculty and students.

- Discussion of standing groups and organizations on campus and potential participation by Senators.
A list of committees and organizations was distributed and reviewed.
- What purposes would official involvement of Senators serve?
 - communication between these groups & Senate (more often than once/year reports by guests to Senate meetings)
 - combined faculty support to address issues of concern
- Which organizations should we participate in?
 - Campus Climate Intervention Team
 - American with Disabilities Act Committee
 - Employee Health and Wellness
 - Faculty Development Committee
 - Faculty Mentoring Committee
 - Global Development Collaborative
 - LBGTQ Advocacy Committee
 - Mental Health Awareness Committee
 - Multicultural Faculty Commission
 - New Faculty Orientation Committee
 - Social Equity Advisory Board – *does it still exist? Eli will check.*
 - Any new university-wide task forces
 - Future University strategic planning groups

The meeting was adjourned following these extensive discussions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Hutton
Recording Secretary
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