

West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2010-2011
December 3, 2010 Full Assembly Minutes

Members Present: designated by an X

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

Faculty Senate Meeting, Friday, 12/3/2010

Welcome and Introduction of Proxies

- Senate President Julian Onderdonk welcomed all in attendance and introduced proxies.

Update on PASSHE Board of Governors Policy 1990-06-A: Academic Programs

- Senate President Julian Onderdonk reported on the letter dated 11/17/10 which was written to Dr. James Moran, Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, from Drs. Timothy Brown (Chair, WCU Council of Chairs), Carolyn Jimenez (Vice Chair, WCU Council of Chairs), and Julian Onderdonk (President, WCU Faculty Senate), on behalf of the WCU Council of Chairs and Faculty Senate.

- The letter explained a resolution passed unanimously at respective meetings of the Council of Chairs and Senate objecting to the Board of Governors enforcement of Policy 1990-06-A, which requires the revision of the Bachelor of Arts programs not to exceed 40 credits and the Bachelor of Sciences programs to have at least 40 and no more than 60 major credit requirements including cognates, and listed reasons for the objection. Senators had been given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on a draft of this letter previously.

Visit from Provost Linda Lamwers

- Dr. Lamwers answered questions about the PASSHE Board of Governors Policy 1990-06-A, and provided information including the following:
 - Dr. Lamwers recently presented the letter to Dr. Moran at a meeting of PASSHE Chief Academic Officers and discussion ensued.
 - The Board of Governors is aware of the issues presented by the policy.
 - The original policy is from 1990, and the recent change was made in an attempt to standardize what comprises a BA and what comprises a BS.
 - In part, this is to clarify what community colleges might contribute toward helping students meet degree requirements for the BA or BS, and to make sure that students who start at community colleges are not taking an exorbitant number of credits in order to earn a 4-year degree. This is of particular interest to the State, because the State subsidizes both community and 4-year colleges.
 - At WCU, approximately half of our students transfer here, and of these, half come from community colleges.
 - Transfer students typically exceed our GPA criteria for admission and must meet criteria for their particular majors.
 - We graduate 50% transfer students, which means that their retention rate is better than that of non-transfer students.
 - Many other PASSHE campuses are also struggling with the policy.
 - Some academic programs may be considered exempt from the policy, such as those that are externally accredited.
 - Some programs may consider changing from offering BA to BS degrees or adding BS degrees if that fits with their academic needs. At this time it is not clear how easy or difficult it may be to make such changes.
- Dr. Lamwers discussed budget issues, including the following:
 - Governor-elect Tom Corbett's campaign platform included pledges that he would not increase taxes or costs to students, and that he would reduce appropriations to all State agencies. We may not know anything more about his plans yet.
 - We do know that we will no longer have Stimulus money available.
 - We can be cautiously optimistic that we'll maintain our proportion of PASSHE dollars, but it is possible that a greater proportion will go to schools with less.
 - There are three campuses that have announced retrenchment: Mansfield, East Stroudsburg, and Kutztown.
 - There have also been questions with Cheney about whether the State has lived up to its obligation to support this as an Historically Black College (HBC).
 - We have approved 42 faculty searches here, which is a high number in comparison to other PASSHE schools.
 - Partly this is because Dr. Lamwers approached the Administrative Budget Committee and said that we had positions being funded

year-to-year that should be converted to tenure-track positions and become part of various University divisions. The University then had to come up w/permanent \$ for hiring pool.

- There will be some changes in measures for performance funding—some will be consistent for all campuses and others will be decided campus-by-campus.
 - This year we received the most overall dollars, but when this amount is divided by FTE students, we rank third.
 - There will now be a different model for distribution. Overall funding has not been cut, but there used to be a winner-take-all model and now things will be divided more proportionally.
 - We still should do well, but one place where we do not perform well in comparison to our peers is with regard to the average number of credits per faculty member. On this measure, we've been stable in recent years whereas our peer institutions have been increasing.
- Dr. Lamwers reported on the Middle States accreditation process.
 - We are moving ahead with the process.
 - Dr. Lamwers suggests that we read the report which can be found at:
<http://www.wcupa.edu/sharedvision/middlestates/>
 - Feedback on the report was due 12/01/10 and the report is now being finalized before being sent to external consultants.
 - Dr. Lamwers provided a brief update on the Academic Year Model (AYM) Task Force.
 - The Task Force, which was charged with looking at the AYM and considering alternatives, has now completed its report.
 - The Task Force did not suggest major changes to the model but did make some minor recommendations about process for the following:
 - Linking resources to student demand.
 - Proposing and considering changes to recommended class sizes.
 - Dr. Lamwers addressed veterans issues including:
 - Rick Voss' 11/8 conference: "Reporting for Duty: Community Responses to Our Returning Military Personnel and Their Families"
 - Oral history project, Soldiers to Scholars, overseen by Robert Kodosky (History) and WCU student and military veteran Lawrence Davidson
 - The opening of the Veterans Center at 624 S. High Street
 - Dana Parker, Director of Financial Aid, serves as the Veterans Affairs Liaison for WCU, and he has been very helpful assisting Vets with the maze of paperwork and policies related to Financial Aid and GI benefits.
 - Dana is working with a group of Veterans who are interested in bringing the Veterans Student Association (VSA) to WCU. The VSA exists on 300 campuses across the US. Matt Benko is helping and six vets came to a meeting this week to talk about the group formation process.
 - Dr. Lamwers has pledged some financial assistance to help staff the Center with a graduate student. If you know of potential candidates looking for work, please contact Dana Parker (dpark@wcupa.edu).
 - The first task of the Veterans Center will be making sure vets connect with appropriate resources.

- Dr. Lamwers answered questions regarding the recent news that President Weisenstein had applied for another position. She stressed that regardless of who is in the President's seat, we are a strong institution and will need to work together to remain such.
- Dr. Lamwers thanked us for the work we do as the Faculty Senate.

Report on Senate President Julian Onderdonk's Meeting with WCU President Weisenstein

- Senate President Julian Onderdonk reported that much of his recent meeting with President Weisenstein centered on the President's application for a position at Hawaii Pacific University.
 - President Weisenstein was motivated to apply for the position because his in-laws, who have significant health challenges, reside in Hawaii.
 - He is one of three finalists for the position.

Senate Minutes

- The minutes for the 10/21/2010 meeting were approved with minor changes.
- The Senate passed a motion to distribute minutes electronically rather than in print, beginning with the minutes from this (12/03/10) meeting. This will further sustainability efforts.

Campus Climate Issues

- Senate Liaisons to University Committees:
 - Liaisons to these administrative search committees made brief reports:
 - Strategic Planning Steering Committee (Eli DeHope)
 - Executive Director of Distance Education (Jen Means, Larysa Nadolny, Liz Staruch, Jane Hutton)
 - Associate Vice President for Academic Administration (Bruce Norris)
 - Director of Social Equity (Ellie Brown)
 - Liaisons to other campus climate committees made brief reports, including:
 - Campus Climate Intervention Team (CCIT; Eli DeHope)
 - Immediate Past Senate President Eli DeHope reported on the fliers recently posted announcing a meeting for a white student union.
 - There is no University-sanctioned group by this name.
 - The fliers may have been a reaction to results of the Campus Climate Survey which identified issues for minority students. It is reported that some students became concerned that majority voices would be disenfranchised.
 - Multicultural groups on campus would prefer dialog to a shutdown of the issue.
 - Mental Health Awareness Committee (MHAC; Ellie Brown)
 - The MHAC continues its efforts to raise awareness of mental health issues on campus by helping to sponsor and advertise mental health awareness events and facilitating coordination among campus bodies taking steps to increase mental health awareness.

- Thanks to the MHAC, there is now a WCU website through Social Equity that is dedicated to mental health awareness. The website includes a calendar of mental health awareness activities. Check out the site at:
http://www.wcupa.edu/_admin/social.equity/mentalHealth.asp
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http://www.wcupa.edu/_admin/social.equity/mentalHealth.asp
 - If you know of an activity that might be added to the calendar, please contact the Chair of the MHAC, Kate Palowski (kpawloski@wcupa.edu).
- Enrollment Summit
 - Senator Robin Leonard (Health) reported on the recent Enrollment Summit
 - One source of income we can control relates to the size of the student body. Growth brings increased revenue but also associated costs.
 - Those at the summit discussed three scenarios which involved, respectively, increasing the size of the study body by 200, 400, and 600.
 - It seemed that 200 students would be most manageable.
 - Questions that were discussed related to issues such as:
 - Classroom utilization
 - Housing capacity
 - Faculty size
 - Quality of applications
- Dr. Craig Stevens (Kinesiology) reported on WCU Student Athletes and the Classroom. A handout with detailed information was provided to Senators. Some highlights include:
 - Dr. Stevens is the WCU Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) to the NCAA.
 - He is the liaison between the institution and the athletics department
 - One of his roles is to ensure that the institution establishes and maintains the appropriate balance between academics and intercollegiate athletics
 - WCU is part of NCAA Division II.
 - Division II has an “academic first” philosophy and commitment to preparing student athletes to become professionals in something other than sports.
 - There is a partial-scholarship model to administer athletics-based financial aid, which helps to increase diversity in the student body.
 - There is a current initiative called “Life in the Balance” which aims to streamline seasons and reduce contests.
 - WCU is a member of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).
 - PSAC is competitive on a regional and national level.
 - PSAC is tied for the largest conference in the NCAA.

- From an academic standpoint, PSAC is one of the finest conferences.
- Historically, WCU has been one of the most successful athletics programs in PSAC and the NCAA, and we are the largest program in the NCAA Division II.
- WCU student athletes boast a graduation rate of 73% versus 59% for the general student body, and retention rates consistently above 85%.
- Academic-Athletic issues at WCU include the following:
 - Although University policy is that students who must miss class for a University-sanctioned event should not face penalties, sometimes faculty members impose penalties on students who miss class for competitions.
 - Because of “academic creep” an increasing number of classes are held between 3:30 and 6pm, which used to be reserved for co-curricular activities. Students must forsake practice for classes held during this time.
- Faculty members are encouraged to contact Dr. Stevens with any problems related to student-athletes: cstevens@wcupa.edu, 610-436-2386.

Senate Committees

- Senate President Julian Onderdonk raised the issue of Senate committee meetings. This issue was pertinent, in part, because there was not enough time for committees to meet.
 - In order to be productive, committees must meet outside of Senate meetings
 - It was suggested that committees have a brief check-in at Senate meetings
 - It was suggested that committees make brief reports at Senate meetings

List of Senate Committees 2010/2011

- **COMMUNICATION**
Chair: Lynne Cooke
Members: Jane Hutton, Huimin Li, Larysa Nadolny, Liz Staruch
- **FACILITIES & SUSTAINABILITY (Ad Hoc)**
Chair: Heather Sharpe
Members: Julian Onderdonk, Walt Cressler, Clayton Garthwait
- **FACULTY WELFARE & ETHICS**
Co-Chairs: Gabrielle Halko, Robin Leonard
Members: Debra Bill, JC Dobrzelowski, Cynthia Haggard, Orhan Kara, Leonard Kelly, Bessie Lawton, Jennifer Means, Stacie Metz, Tanya Morgan, Matt Pierlott, Israel Sanz-Sanchez, Paul K. Smith, Sally Winterton, Corinne Murphy
- **MEMBERSHIP & BY-LAWS**
Chair: Van Steifel
Members: Viorel Nitica, Julian Onderdonk
- **STUDENT WELFARE**
Chair: Ellie Brown
Members: Tina Alessandria, Dora Ghetie, Mary Beth Gilboy, Scott Heinerichs, Claire Verden, Geeta Shivde, Eli DeHope, Bruce Norris, Mark Cerofeci

List of Proxy Volunteers for Faculty Senate 2010/2011

Listed below are faculty members who have volunteered to serve as proxies for Senate Meetings as of 12/03/10. These people may be contacted to be a proxy if a Senator cannot attend a given meeting. It is preferable if the proxy is from the same college or department as the absent Senator to maintain some diversity in our representation of the Campus Community.

Dept of Health:

Jim Brenner
Tammy James
Christine Williams

Dept of Special Education

Tara Guerriero (Spring 2011 proxy for Tina Alessandria)

Dept of Geography and Planning

Kristen B. Crossney

Dept of Literacy

Heather Shugar

Dept of Professional and Secondary Education:

David Bolton

Dept. of Educational Development:

Thomas Seifried
Francis Atuahene

Dept of Languages and Cultures:

Cate Crosby

Dept. of Communication Studies:

Mary Braz

Dept of Economics and Finance:

Simon Condliffe
Bahar Ulupinar

College of Visual and Performing Arts:

Karen Dannessa
Virginia DaCosta
Emily Rogge

Dept. of Political Science:

Duane Milne

Dept of History:

Eric Fournier

Dept. of Philosophy

Dan Forbes

Dept of Physics:

Carolyn Sealfon

Dept of Counseling & Psychological Services:

Danielle Trucksess

Dept of Criminal Justice

Mary Brewster

Thanks for a productive meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie

Eleanor Brown
Recording Secretary
AY 2010/2011