

West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2007/2008
March 20, 2008, Full Assembly Minutes

Members Present: *designated by an X*

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

Minutes:

- Dr. Adler was our guest for the last time, since she will be retiring at the end of the semester after 16 years as president of the university. Her final report to the Senate covered a wide range of issues that testify to her active leadership in every aspect of university life:
 - The Report on the PASSHE budget has not yet been released. The 3.5% increase of recent years will probably be maintained, but only if the national economy does not decline precipitously (which it probably will). The problem, of course, is that a poor economy translates into lower income tax; and while more people normally go to college during a recession, incomes may be so low as to prevent even that. It doesn't help that the current chancellor, Judy Hemple, is retiring and that there is currently a power vacuum in Harrisburg.
 - Concerning the chancellor search, Dr. Adler reports that it is on schedule and should be concluded by May. The rumor that PASSHE is turning away from academic priorities by seeking candidates with experience exclusively in business is false: all current candidates have PhDs and university experience.
 - The fate of the controversial state-wide computing system (SAP) was discussed at a recent meeting of the presidents of all the PASSHE campuses. Among its many problems is the fact that SAP costs three times more than some current programs and does not have the capacity to carry out e-billing. Dr. Adler proposed at the PASSHE meeting that the more "robust" campuses might help out those with weaker budgets, and that campuses in the south-east quadrant of the state might share PeopleSoft.

- The failed WCU presidential search is regrouping, and will start up in May with a different outside search firm. Dr. Adler encouraged faculty actively to support Dr. Lamwers, the current Provost who will be serving as Interim President.
- Dr. Adler discussed many aspects of Town/Gown relations. 1) She is pushing for a parking garage to be attached to the new Lawrence Hall—the borough owes the university \$300,000 concerning this—and she hopes the deal will come to closure by May. 2) She is considering the recommendations of the task force charged to find ways to improve borough life, though she refuses to send campus security to police the borough. 3) She supports State Senator Andrew Dinniman’s plan of a 10% tax on alcoholic drinks to raise finances for the borough. 4) She would like to resurrect the “weekend” shuttle on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights in order to improve student security. 5) Penndot is not interested in erecting either a skywalk over or a passenger tunnel under the High/Rosedale intersection. The cost is prohibitive and there have been no fatalities there to demonstrate its need. 6) Finally, Dr. Adler would like to empower the current Town/Gown committee further by placing some university vice presidents on it; however, she feels strongly that the university president, who should be turned to only as a last resort in order to resolve disputes, should not be on this committee.
- After her report, Dr. Adler reminisced about the changes that have occurred at WCU in the 16 years of her presidency. She thanked the faculty for its unstinting support over the years and discussed retirement plans. She and Fred will move to Cape Cod, where Fred will work on finishing a book and she will serve as a consultant for public (not private) higher education. They will remain in touch with WCU, not least because of their active interest in the Jay Peters Adler scholarship, a program they set up some years ago in memory of their son.
- Afterwards, Senate President Cynthia Haggard presented Dr. Adler with a thank you gift from the Senate—a glass bowl from Simon Pearce along with a card signed by current senators wishing Dr. Adler the best for the future. Senators expressed their appreciation for Dr. Adler’s years at WCU with a standing ovation.
- Following Dr. Adler’s presentation, Cynthia Haggard, President of the Senate, and various senators discussed these issues of concern to the Senate:
 - Cynthia reported that questions were raised at a meeting of non- tenured faculty members about the promotion process in the wake of Dr. Adler’s retirement.
 - The Threat Assessment Team informed Cynthia that if a faculty member calls Public Safety to register a concern, that same faculty member may need to provide his/her faculty ID number. This is the 6 digit code found on WCU IDs.
 - Some senators expressed concern that the email safety alerts sent by Public Safety—a regular feature of campus life since Fall 2007—are counterproductive since their frequency results in inattention and ultimately indifference. Some senators agreed, others disagreed.
 - Lauri Hyers encouraged senators to support the Faculty Mentoring Committee. Consider volunteering to be a mentor or to be on the advisory board – please contact Lauri
 - The minutes for the February 8, 2008 meeting of the Senate were approved with minor revisions.
 - Senators broke into committees to work on their various projects. Cynthia encouraged committees to prepare for their year-end reports to be delivered at the April meeting. Individual reports from committees for the March 20 meeting include:
 - Student Welfare – Outside of Senate Meetings, members of the Student Welfare and Ethics Subcommittee have reviewed published reports of national data on issues of student mental health and safety on college campuses, have discussed these reports and their application to the WCU campus, and have brainstormed a list of possible mechanisms for

promoting student welfare on the WCU campus. At this Senate Meeting, subcommittee members refined and prioritized items on the list. Several members of the committee will do research to guide a decision about which items to pursue.

- Curriculum and Research – continues to work on 1) Report on multiculturalism in the classroom; 2) Report on information literacy; 3) Report on undergraduate committee on research.
- Membership and Elections – continued preparations for the Spring 2008 election.

Meeting was adjourned by President Haggard.

Respectfully submitted by:

Julian Onderdonk
Recording Secretary
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