

**West Chester University of PA
Faculty Senate
2008/2009
March 12, 2009, Full Assembly Minutes**

Members Present: *designated by an X*

Alessandria, Tina	X	Hutton, Jane	X
Azorlosa, Jay	X	Kara, Orhan	Proxy, H. Li
Bean, Nadine	Proxy, G. O'Neal	Li, Huimin (Amy)	X
Bedford, Robert	<i>Absent</i>	McVey, Randy	X
Bill, Debra	Proxy, M. Gilboy	Means, Jennifer	Proxy, W. Cressler
Boyle, Michael	X	Metz, Stacie	X
Brown, Eleanor	X	Morgan, Tanya	Proxy, S. Metz
Chilcote, Kathryn	Proxy, J. Onderdonk	Norris, Bruce	X
Cooke, Lynne	X	Onderdonk, Julian	X
Cressler, Walter	X	Polk, Denise	X
Dannessa, Karen	Proxy, J. Hutton	Sandhu, Bhim	Proxy, R. McVey
DeHope, Eli	X	Shivde, Geeta	X
Friedman, Jonathan	X	Smith, Paul K.	X
Garthwait, Clayton	X	Staruch, Liz	X
Gilboy, Mary Beth	X	Stiefel, Van	X
Haggard, Cynthia	X	Thompson, Brent	Proxy, P. K. Smith
Halko, Gabrielle	X	Wandry, Donna	X
Hashimoto-Sinclair, Yoko	<i>Absent</i>	Winterton, Sally	<i>Absent</i>
	Richardson, Shayna, Student Gov't		X

Faculty Senate Meeting, Thursday 3/12/2009

Following an initial period of socializing, Eli DeHope, President, convened the meeting at 3:15 p.m., welcoming the Senate's first guest, Dr. Frank Hoffman, Associate Director, WCU Ethnic Studies Institute. Frank gave information about the Institute's support for the Ethnic Studies minor (currently 12 students in a variety of concentrations) and their Seminar series. The Institute, which began in 1970, runs at a very low-cost to the University due to funding from grants.

The second guest speaker was Dr. Kevin Dean, Chair of the Curriculum and Academic Policies Council (CAPC). Kevin explained CAPC's origin (approx. 30 years ago, when the faculty union came on campus), 5-committee structure, and process for curriculum proposal approvals. His description for the boundaries of CAPC jurisdiction: "If it goes in the WCU catalog, it's a CAPC issue; if it doesn't, it's not." All proposals go to one of the standing committees where most of the discussion occurs and then to the monthly CAPC assembly which forwards recommendations to the Provost. If necessary, proposals go back and forth until all agree. Kevin noted that CAPC is *reactive*, not *proactive* – they don't brainstorm, they review the proposals of others. Information about

CAPC and its ongoing activities are available on their website, http://www.wcupa.edu/_admin/associateprovost/capc.html and their SharePoint site (enter with your WCU log-on through the "CAPC Portal" link on the web site).

The third guest was Dr. Darla Spence Coffey, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, who spoke about the upcoming Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) accreditation review and the WCU budget situation. She handed out the WCU MSCHE timetable and a list of University MSCHE Steering Committee workgroups and chairpersons. The Self Study Design will be developed by August; the schedule extends until spring 2011 when the MSCHE accreditation team visit occurs. Darla encouraged anyone interested in being a part of the self-study working groups to get in touch with her. Regarding the budget, Darla noted that WCU met the original 4.5% cut in fall 2008 without cutting into academic department budgets, but when PASSHE asked for an additional 3% to be set aside, academic departments had to participate. Governor Rendell's proposed budget includes only level funding for the state universities. Expenses will be rising, due in large part to negotiated raises and higher utility costs, so how will WCU plan to meet expenses? How can we balance the budget while protecting the core mission of the university? Darla emphasized that we don't have much time to plan for 2009-2010 budget shortfalls: for this and future years, we need brainstorming. She encouraged the faculty to contribute creative ideas.

Senate Business Meeting:

- Minutes of the February 6, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.
- Eli DeHope reported on her meeting with Dr. Lamwers and asked members for input on significant issues for her meeting with the new University President, Dr. Greg Weisenstein.
- Eli and Julian Onderdonk reported on their attendance at the Faculty Leaders meeting, noting the importance of communication about faculty issues across all faculty organizations. Departmental representatives should be sure to attend APSCUF meetings and Chairs need to keep current with University issues by attending Chairs Council.
- Cliff Johnston, WCU Chapter President of APSCUF, took the floor to reinforce the communication issue, reminding Senate of the need to coordinate activities so that Senate doesn't pursue the same issue as APSCUF without informing them. For example, surveying the faculty about work conditions could impact ongoing discussions between APSCUF and University administration. Cliff also reiterated the University fiscal concerns, saying it could be "pretty dire." APSCUF is involved in discussions about cutting AWAs (Alternative Work Assignments) and increasing class size. One contributing factor to the class size dilemma is the 25% cap on temporary faculty that takes effect in October 2010. Currently the WCU temporary faculty percentage is about 32%. Another significant issue is the College of Education re-organization to meet Act 49 requirements.
- Announcements
 - Jonathan Friedman called members' attention to the exhibit on Darfur in the F.H.G. Library 2nd floor elevator lobby.
 - Van Stiefel announced upcoming elections for Faculty Senate positions.

Committee Work & Reports

- Communications
The committee discussed a survey and developed sample questions to examine the perception of the Faculty Senate's role at PASSHE system universities and how each Senate communicates with their faculty.
- Curriculum and Research
The committee is working on a list of "Duties of the Curriculum and Research Committee" to be presented at the April meeting.
- Ethics: No report.
- Faculty Welfare: No report.
- Membership & Elections: No report.
- Rules & By-Laws: No report.
- Student Welfare
The committee continues work on addressing issues of student behavior and emotions. Committee members have participated in meetings with others involved in issues related to student behavior and emotions, including individuals representing the Counseling Center, Wellness Center, OSSD, TAT, MHAC, PIP, and Active Minds, to make sure our efforts are supportive of and not redundant with good existing programming around issues of student behavior and emotions. Based on feedback from these meetings, as well as our own continued research, we continue to explore the idea of a program to raise awareness around these issues. The program might focus on education related to issues of student emotions, training in how to have conversations with students about these issues and make appropriate referrals, and information about resources on and around campus related to these issues. Student liaison Shayna Richardson raised the topic of such a program in a recent SGA meeting. She reports that students gave positive feedback about the idea, and that a number of students signed a sheet indicating their interest in receiving such training if it becomes available. Committee members will draft an outline of a potential program and will have further conversations before deciding whether to move forward with this idea.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities & Sustainability: No report.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Hutton
Recording Secretary
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