

**Faculty Senate Minutes, Penn State Worthington Scranton
October 3, 2011
Dawson 10**

Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm by Dr. Gail Keating, Faculty Senate Chair

Approval of Minutes

The September 2011 minutes were approved.

Administrative Reports

1) Chancellor:

Chancellor Dr. Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen reported the following:

- Christopher Lewis has been hired as a new Enrollment Management Specialist. Sandy Feather briefly introduced him and explained that he will work with adult, transfer, and other special student populations.
- One candidate for the Instructional Designer position has been interviewed and given a presentation on campus. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen encouraged faculty to attend presentations by job candidates.
- The Advising Manager search committee has forwarded to Dr. Krogh-Jespersen a candidate recommendation.
- An internal search has been opened for the new position of Director of Enrollment Management, a position that has been separated out from the former Director of Student Enrollment and Services position. A second position, the Director of Student Affairs, will also be created.
- There are faculty searches in mathematics and nursing this semester.
- A job responsibilities worksheet has been submitted for the creation of a new position in the Business Office to replace the position that has become vacant upon Sherley Romanovich's retirement.
- Currently two task forces are working on data collection: one is working on enrollment management, the other on researching three new possible majors for the Worthington Scranton campus. The task forces will use various databases in working on their goals.
- Since there is no Director of Student and Enrollment Services, Dr. Krogh-Jespersen is currently filling in for this position by overseeing the creation of a co-curricular transcript.
- Dr. Krogh-Jespersen will meet with the science faculty about the presentation to be prepared for the summer 2012 visit of the University Board of Trustees to the campus.

2) Interim Director of Academic Affairs:

Dr. Molly Wertheimer reported the following:

- The promotion and tenure dossiers are almost ready to be forwarded to the campus promotion and tenure committees. It is likely that dossiers will be given to the committees by Wednesday.
- Dr. Wertheimer congratulated Dr. Nicola Edwards on her recent research presentation at a meeting sponsored by Dr. Grace Hampton, held at University Park. Dr. Wertheimer asked if any of the faculty present had given presentations within the past six weeks. Dr. Asif Ud-Doula and Dr. Éva Tettenborn self-identified and briefly discussed their presentations.
- Dr. Wertheimer announced that the campus has available Development Grants funds for

the honors and international program planning as well as other faculty initiatives. The chairs of honors and international studies should report their activities and plans to the faculty senate.

- Regarding the awarding of Research and Teaching Development Grants, Dr. Wertheimer explained that the campus had the discretion to decide on the eligibility of applicants as well as how the money would be distributed among funding categories. All full-time faculty members are eligible to apply, provided they are working towards an actual promotion or another advancement in their professional development (i.e., senior instructors are eligible as well). In the future, the potential eligibility of adjunct instructors may be discussed as well since supporting adjuncts and engaging them more actively in the life of the campus is part of the WS Strategic Plan. RDG's and TDG's would be given out with a preference for the support of certain areas such as online learning or blended learning.
- Professional DG's can be used for diversity development or other initiatives and are also open to all full-time faculty. One-page proposals are due by November 14, and grants will be announced by November 24.
- Dr. Wertheimer also encouraged faculty to speak to Associate Director of Academic Affairs Dr. Durell Johnson about grant ideas, as the ADAA coordinates grant activity.

Dr. Meg Hatch asked if there would be an email with details regarding the DG's. Dr. Wertheimer stated she would send out an email shortly.

University Faculty Senate Report:

No report at this time.

University Faculty Council Report:

No report at this time.

Committee Reports:

Advising Committee:

Chair Dr. Russell Casey reported the following:

- On October 10, 2011, at noon the Advising Committee will present the results of its recent focus group study in BB 201. Dr. Casey reported some surprising findings such as student reluctance to approach advisers. A Polycom session in February would involve all University College campuses to discuss the focus group findings.
- Dr. Janet Melnick has joined the Advising Committee.
- Information on Advising on the Fly will be sent out via email soon. This year's evening session will be advertised more actively.
- Due to Advising on the Fly, the next Faculty Senate meeting has been moved from November 10 to November 3.

New Business:

Athletics:

Jeff Mallas reminded faculty that a list with names of student athletes had been emailed to everyone. Faculty who noticed problems with the academic performance of student athletes should please contact him.

Nominations for the Election of Faculty Senate Chair and Chair Elect:

Dr. Keating opened the floor for nominations for Faculty Senate Chair and Chair Elect candidates. She explained that new elections had to take place at this time because current Chair Elect Joseph Fennewald was leaving for University Park at the end of the semester and was thus unable to become Chair in January. The term for the new Chair would start in January and continue for three semesters.

The current Secretary was already serving a third term, and the Secretary Elect, Suzanne Harper, would also serve for three terms. This way, the Executive Board of the Worthington Scranton Faculty Senate could transition to terms that will follow the academic year rather than the calendar year.

The following faculty members were nominated or nominated themselves:

Chair: Dr. Beatriz Rivera-Barnes

Chair Elect: Dr. Majid Chatsaz

Elections will be held via online ballot.

Proposed Revisions to the Worthington Scranton Faculty Senate Constitution:

Dr. Keating handed out copies of the proposed changes to the Penn State Worthington Scranton Faculty Senate Constitution and asked all faculty members to review the document prior a special meeting on the issue. A forum for faculty to discuss the proposed changes will be held on October 25, 2011, at noon in Dawson 10. Details regarding the changes to the document will be discussed at that time. Any questions or suggestions about the document should be directed to Mr. Fennewald, Dr. Keating, or Dr. Tettenborn in the meantime.

Presentation on English Language Learners:

Learning Center Coordinator Eileen Giovagnoli provided an overview of current research on English Language Learners. The presentation covered the following topics: definitions and terminology; the differences between the concepts “English as a Second Language” and “English Language Learners”; international students and resident immigrants; characteristics of these student groups; growth rates of ELL students; academic and cultural challenges faced by ESL and ELL students.

Ms. Giovagnoli pointed out that the next steps to be taken on campus to address the enrollment of ESL and ELL students included the current offering of an ENGL 4 ESL section. An ENGL 15 ESL section was investigated as a possibility for the spring semester.

Ms. Giovagnoli also pointed out that there are significant differences between traditional college English courses and instruction (i. e., in composition and literature courses) and the mission of teaching ESL and ELL classes. The latter courses require instructors with pedagogical backgrounds and training very different from the background and training of English department faculty members.

A discussion about English proficiency on campus ensued:

Sandy Feather pointed out that last week’s guidance counselor workshop revealed that there were widespread problems with English proficiency among high school students in general due to changes in high school instruction in the wake of the No Child Left Behind Act and the

PSSA's. As a result, many students were "pushed through the system" without gaining true skills while earning sufficient test scores.

Fred Aebli asked if Eileen Giovagnoli could provide an example of conflicts in expectations for students who are also members of ELL families. Ms. Giovagnoli explained that some ELL students are required to translate for their families and are expected to be available for family members' appointment regardless of their own class schedules.

Mr. Aebli asked how to handle writing issues among ELL students and if faculty members should have a clause on their syllabi about correctness and proficiency.

Dr. Tettenborn cautioned that problems with writing were not exclusive to ELL students and that in her experience, large numbers of students for whom English was the first (or only) language likewise struggled with correctness in written communication. An extra clause on a syllabus may risk singling out ELL learners while not addressing the writing problems of American-born students for whom English is their first language.

Ms. Giovagnoli explained that in the semesters to come, she would like to employ English majors who would work as tutors in the Learning Center.

Sandy Feather suggested that available online tutorials should be put on syllabi, but that as a campus, we must not lower our expectations. She stated she would send out an email with the tutorials.

Dr. Dave Byman asked if ENGL 4 could be offered in the summer. Ms. Feather explained that the issue has been discussed.

Dr. Rivera-Barnes added that she noticed large parts of the Hispanic student population taking Spanish as a foreign language, expecting to have easy classes. This was not necessarily the case, however, as many of the students were not sufficiently educated in formal Spanish either. The question remains, however, if students for whom Spanish may be a first language should be able to take Spanish to satisfy the foreign-language requirement.

Mark Banaszek asked if there had been a recommendation from the Core Council to discontinue offering remedial classes like ENGL 4 or MATH 4.

Ms. Giovagnoli clarified that the charge was not to eliminate these courses but to search for potential alternatives, if viable, to help students develop their skills. Each campus is to assess its own effectiveness of delivery and to make its decisions.

Dr. Ud-Doula asked if there was a writing test students needed to pass before enrolling at or graduating from Penn State and wanted to know if such a test could be given by our campus. Ms. Feather explained that admission decisions are centralized and not up to individual campuses; all decisions are made by University Park. The current assessment of writing skills for admission is the writing portion of the SAT's. There is also an admission requirement of a minimum combined SAT score of 1000 (raised from previous requirements), which accounts for the

current drop in enrollment numbers.

John Drake explained he had spoken to Paul Perrone about electronic resources for help with writing. If a consensus is reached, a software package might be used in the future for instant feedback on writing.

Dr. Alan Peslak wanted to know if the committee chairs had seen the document on committees distributed by Dr. Keating. Dr. Keating explained that Joe Fennewald had contacted all chairs prior to finalizing the document. Details and questions about the distributed documents should be discussed at the upcoming special meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Next Meeting

The next Faculty Senate Meeting will take place at noon on November 3, 2011. The place will be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Éva Tettenborn
Faculty Senate Secretary