

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Penn State Worthington Scranton  
April 23, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 P.M. by Faculty Senate Chair, Beatriz Rivera-Barnes. A motion to approve the March meeting minutes was made by Verna Saleski and seconded by Alan Peslak.

Administrative Reports

Chancellor

No report.

Chief Academic Officer

1. Dr. Patrick thanked everyone for helping to make his first year on campus a good one.
2. Dr. Patrick distributed a brochure titled "Research, Creative Works, Grants by Faculty," which highlights the accomplishments of faculty during 2012. The data was obtained from what faculty reported on Digital Measures for the FAR form. He said it was somewhat difficult to mine the information as there is little consistency in the way in which the information is reported. For instance, one person might have just input "Conference presentation" while another would have the name of the conference, where it was located, and the title of the presentation given. For this reason, conference presentations were not included in the current report, but the goal is to include them in future reports, which will be annual. The data in the report may also be moved into other reports during the year. Copies of the report will be distributed at the upcoming Advisory Board meeting, and copies will be available at the Awards Banquet to be held on Sunday, April 28.
3. Dr. Patrick announced that on May 13 Mike Evans will assume the position of Assistant Chief Academic Officer, replacing Durrell Johnson, who has held the position of Assistant Director of Academic Affairs for many years, and who will be returning to full time teaching in the HDFS department. Mike will maintain a partial role in the nursing department in addition to his new administrative duties.

## Committee Reports

### Curricular Affairs

Dave Byman, chair, reported on two major issues.

1. During the year the committee was called on to evaluate the Core Council report “recommendation” that the campus drop the American Studies major. The committee studied a report prepared by Eva Tettenborn, co-ordinator of the American Studies, supporting the campus’ maintaining the major. However, Dave said that it was a moot point in that the Core Council had pretty much directed the campus to drop the program. The Curricular Affairs committee, hence, voted to drop the major even though the structure for the program will still be in place and no faculty will be affected, according to Eva Tettenborn.

Dr. Patrick elaborated by saying that the Core Council really proposed that the campus discontinue the English and LAS (Liberal Arts and Sciences) major in addition to the American Studies major. Dr. Krogh-Jespersen was able to save the English and LAS degrees but the American Studies degree had to be sacrificed. Dr. Charles said the campus will continue to fight to keep the English and LAS majors, though the campus needs to continue to build enrollment in these programs.

John Dolis said he had heard that only twenty students are needed in a major for the program to be viable and the campus currently has forty English majors. Dr. Patrick said he hadn’t heard that number but he said that programs are evaluated not just by the number of students who declare the major but by graduation rates. Sandy Feather said the old budget model called for a ratio of twenty-five students to one faculty for a campus to maintain a major. Sandy said one way we can promote our majors is to let potential students know what they can do with the degree. She said that Paul Perrone and Eva Tettenborn have made valuable presentations along those lines at the Program Nights held in November and May.

2. The second issue that Dave presented on behalf of the Curricular Affairs committee was the possibility of the campus offering courses in Spanish and Sexuality and Gender Studies that would satisfy requirements for a minor in those areas. Dave emphasized that the minor would only be offered at University Park, and that the campus would only be offering courses that would apply to the minor. Beatriz said that Spanish 100 will be offered on campus in the fall. In answer to a question, Dale Holen said that English 245 and HDFS 250 are currently in the process of being put online through the World

Campus. He distributed a survey that the committee wants to circulate to campus students to see what kind of interest there might be in these courses. He noted that Eva Tettenborn and Dale Holen had made some suggestions for changes in the survey and they would be taken into account before the final copy is distributed. The question was then posed: How can we best get the survey to students, especially considering how close we are to the end of the semester. Ideas presented were in classes, through the listserv or in Learning Center. Dr. Patrick said he could also have copies available in his office for faculty to pick up to use in their classes. It was noted that additional surveys could be circulated in September. A suggestion was made to put a line on the bottom asking whether the person had filled out the form in another class to eliminate duplication. When Sandy Feather asked whether a needs assessment from area guidance counselors would need to be done, Dr. Patrick said no since we are not actually offering the minor on campus.

Dave Byman then said he had two other issues, unrelated to Curricular Affairs, that he wanted to talk about.

He said that as an ex University College Faculty Council representative, he was dismayed that the campus had not received word in time for people to apply for opportunities for service in University College as members of the Sabbatical Leave Committee and the Promotion and Tenure Committee. Mike Michalisin said that he had responded to an e-mail earlier in the semester and offered to be on the P and T committee but then never heard anything. Alan Peslak, as current University College Faculty Council representative, clarified the issue. He said that the call for applicants that Dave was talking about had not been prepared before the spring break and the message came out over spring break at which time he had not seen it and hence had not forwarded it. The issue affected other campuses as well. He said that the Council had had a meeting to prevent this from happening again. The solution discussed was to have information such as this communicated in a variety of ways.

Alan announced that at this meeting we need to choose a Councilor-elect to the University College Faculty Council, a position the person will hold for one year before beginning a two-year term as a Councilor. The University College Faculty Council serves as an advisory body to the Vice-President for Commonwealth Campuses "on any matter that may affect the achievement of the educational objectives of University College."

The second issue Dave Byman brought to the attention of the Senate was the sad news that one of our adult students, Jeff Kochis, died over the weekend. He said he felt

something should be done to remember him as well as any students we lose on campus. Dr. Patrick agreed. He said it is a terrible tragedy to lose any student and he is open to suggestions as to how we can memorialize Mr. Kochis. Some ideas are a memorial garden, the planting of a tree in the person's honor, or a plaque somewhere on campus. Dr. Patrick said, once approval has been received, the campus can collect donations. Dr. Patrick said that he had received some questions as to whether class materials could be sent to the family of Mr. Kochis. Dr. Patrick said this is not a good idea in light of FERPA regulations.

#### Additional Business

1. Alan Peslak called for nominations for Councilor-Elect to the University College Faculty Council. Renee Bishop was nominated by Dave Byman and seconded by Dale Holen. Beatriz Rivera-Barnes nominated herself. Her nomination was seconded by John Dolis. Beatriz said an online ballot will be sent in the near future.
2. Dr. Patrick presented Beatriz with a statue of the Nittany Lion for her work for the past three semesters as Faculty Senate Chair.
3. Dr. Patrick noted that last Thursday a lovely affair was held on campus for Gail Keating and Marlene Soulsby, who have each served the campus for 43 years. He saluted them again for how much they have meant to the campus.
4. Nominations were called for for Faculty Senate secretary. Mike Evans nominated Justina Ferguson, seconded by Linda Mc Andrew. Dave Byman was nominated by Renee Bishop, seconded by Dale Holen. Beatriz said that an online ballot for the position will be sent out soon.

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:45 by Renee Bishop, seconded by Dave Byman.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Harper  
Faculty Senate Secretary